

Women in Comedy

Are women in comedy stigmatised? LS1 finds out.

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McLovin' it

LS2 interviews the 'Superbad' star.

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LS Sport

Does the January transfer window work?

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Gavin search intensifies

• Facebook campaign reaches **24,000** members

• **Fury** as a rival group 'makes fun of Gav'

by

Laura Mackenzie and Chris Stevenson

The search for missing student Gavin Terry has intensified as his friends embark on a huge Facebook campaign to drum up support and spread information regarding his disappearance.

The Facebook group entitled: 'Help us find Gavin Terry! He's missing!', has been joined by 23,988 members and received 1,083 wall posts since it was set up by Gavin's friends on January 14, two days after he first went missing. It has received mass support from students across Leeds, and proved vital in helping Yorkshire police with their investigations.

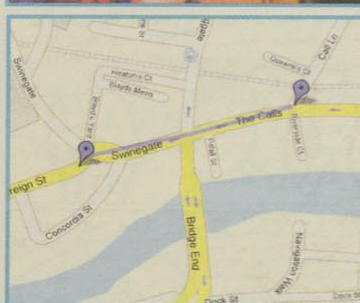
Gavin, a 19 year old Quantity Surveying student at Leeds Metropolitan University, was last seen in the Revolution nightclub in Call Lane between the hours of 12 am and 1 am on January 12, and has been missing ever since. This last sighting was first brought to the attention of the police through Facebook when a girl came forward with a photo of Gavin, taken when he walked past her and a group of friends. Since then there have been other possible sightings mentioned by members of the group, and all information has been passed onto the police by the group's creators. Andrew Moynihan, a close friend of Gavin has been an active member of the Facebook appeal and campaign. He said: "The Facebook group has helped amazingly with reaching people who may know something but would have otherwise been unaware of Gavin's disappearance."

It has been suggested in wall posts that another group, 'Missin Paul Quinn', was set up, or included comments that made fun of the Gavin Terry appeal. This group has since been deleted, but received many negative comments from supporters of the Gavin campaign, with some members encouraging others to report

the group and have it shut down. One comment read: "This group and its creators are sick. I think everyone that comes across this group should report it and hopefully get it deleted!" Andrew Moynihan dismissed the group and emphasised that it was not distracting Gavin's friends from their aim: "Our main and only concern is with spreading the awareness of Gavin's disappearance in order to reach anyone with vital information."

The online appeal to raise awareness about Gavin's disappearance has remained positive and Andrew Moynihan refuses to speak of his best friend in the past tense. On the group's Wall, members frequently speak of Gavin returning home. One member said: "It's been really heartwarming reading all these messages of support you know... keep them coming... Going to be loads for Gav to read when he gets back ...!" The Wall also remains positive and shows friends congratulating each other on their efforts and making jokes. One Wall post read: "Was a funny old day yeah... Em whacked me over the head with that cardboard poster thing she made... a few times in fact hehe... I went for a well needed beer after I left you all..." Some of the group's members have used the phrase 'United We Stand!' and this has become an informal slogan for the campaign.

The group has been joined by students from both of the Leeds Universities, as well as by Gavin's friends from his hometown Basildon in Essex, and by students from universities across the country. One Newcastle student wrote: "I'm at Newcastle and we had posters in our halls put up today! Good luck with the search!" The group has also been joined by many people who have not met Gavin before but have heard of the appeal through Facebook. A teacher currently working from Gavin's old primary school also wrote on the group's Wall: "I am currently teaching at Gavins old primary school. I just wanted to let everyone know that he's in our thoughts and prayers."



Story continued on page 2

Leeds fails poorer students

By Laura Mackenzie

It has been revealed that Leeds University has failed to allocate £631,000 worth of bursary funds which should have been distributed to hardship students last year.

A total of £3 million worth of bursaries, which were set aside to help fund poorer students through university, went unspent last year between eight of the country's top universities.

Each of the eight failed to allocate between £190,000 and £855,000 of their bursary funds, with Leeds failing to allocate £631,000, the third highest amount of any university.

The revelation comes as opposition MPs say that universities are not doing enough to open up admissions to poorer students and research conducted on behalf of the Sutton Trust educational charity reveals that poorer students are being put off from applying to university for fear of getting into debt. The research also found that very few students understand the bursary scheme and are unclear about whether they qualify for funding.

Each of the 16 Russell Group institutions, of which the University of Leeds is a member, was asked to reveal their bursary expenditure for the year 2006-07. The research also included findings from the surveys of nearly 2,000 students and is due to be published next month.

Ceri Nursaw, Head of Access at the University of Leeds, said of the under-spending: "We want to ensure that any student with the potential to study at the University of Leeds can and does so. We are working hard to widen access and have a whole programme of activities including bursaries and scholarships to support students from less well-off backgrounds."

She continued: "A very small proportion of the £8.3m which was set aside for bursaries in 2006/7 was unspent. This happened for one

Story continued on page 2.



Sketch

By James Haddon

Monday marks the start of Healthy Week, the Union's attempt to prevent the student body from descending into a vegetative state. It's a good idea, too, because the negatively-stereotyped "student lifestyle" feels strangely vindicated if it's labeled as a detox. Yes, I might be gaining an uncanny resemblance to the fat guy out of Se7en, but I ate my five-a-day for that week at the beginning of term so it's not that bad. Yes.

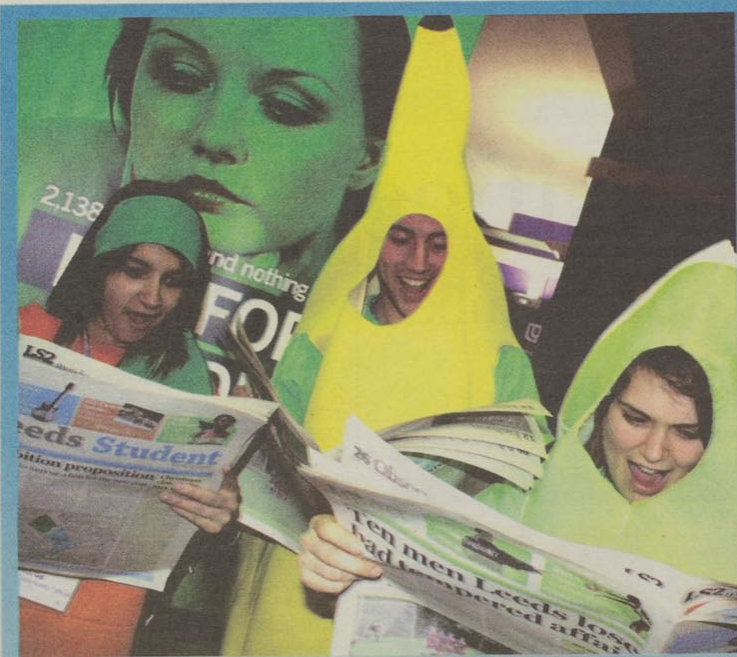
A quick glance over the programme of "fun and active events" is all that's needed to see that the usual suspects are all present and correct, but among the (yawn) gym sessions and campus-walks lies the

enticingly named Aerocombat and Aeroblast sessions. Sounding vaguely like the staple of science-fiction dreams, these misleadingly named activities apparently have more in common with aerobics than aerodynamics. Disappointing. Dreams of mid-air Kung Fu, being taught to pilot planes while engaged in arm-wrestling or learning to throw yourself off buildings in a particularly aggressive manner are shattered. Far more appealing, the "Sleep Taster Sessions" sound like the kind of Healthy I can really embrace - the sort that doesn't involve me leaving my seat.

Hidden away in all the talk about exercise and "Deep Listening" classes is a brief warning that the Union will stop

selling cigarettes for the week. "Give it a try," the programme suggests, "See if your week will be healthier..." Well, yes, it will - now if I want cigarettes I'll have to walk to the newsagents opposite the Parkinson Building for my fix. That's a big step to improving my lifestyle. It must be all of a two minute walk. I was originally going to review every cigarette retailer around campus and award points for friendliness of service, ease of access, proximity and cost, but decided it would be far too much effort. Luckily, the Gist article on the ban takes this into account, and recommends its readers to "buy your cigarettes in advance." So much for the healthy attitude.

Illustration: Mark Mackay



Readers of the week



JON HORNER 2008

Missing student

(cont'd from front page)

Gavin's friends have been grateful towards the positive approach of the group's members, and are insistent that light-hearted comments and jokes have not been detrimental to the appeal. Speaking to the Leeds Student, Andrew said: "There are a group of people, outside of Gavin's circle of close friends, who are doing their best to raise morale. This is appreciated more than they know. Everybody is being

positive and this has given strength to all those close to Gavin."

Anyone with any information regarding Gavin's whereabouts are asked to contact police on 0845 6060606.

Bursary underspend

(cont'd from front page)

reason; an overestimation of the number of students who would claim a bursary. The £600,000 which went unspent last year has been set aside and will go towards access initiatives in the future.

Josh MacAlister, chair of the Aldwych Group, which represents student unions at the Russell Group of institutions said: "The system is far too complicated. Students that are in need of the most significant support are being deterred because of the complexity of different schemes. A national bursary scheme would put the money where it's needed."

On average, the eight institutions who failed to allocate all of their budgets underspend by 19 per cent. Cambridge University underspend by the most, failing to allocate £855,000 bursaries, 15 per cent of their budget. However, while the University of Leeds failed to allocate 7.5 per cent of their budget, Warwick University underspend by £750,000, almost half of their overall fund to reward work experience bursaries.

Four institutions - Oxford, Sheffield, Imperial College and the London School of Economics - reported hitting their targets or exceeding them. Several universities complained that when students had applied for loans, they had not given consent for the Student Loans Company to share their data with their university, which meant they were automatically disqualified from bursaries.

Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, has said that for some institutions there has also been challenges in estimating student numbers and dealing with data protection

issues. She said: "We are deeply committed to ensuring that talented students from every background receive all the support, financial or otherwise, necessary to benefit from a course at a Russell group university."

In review of the Trust's findings, the University is promising to increase its bursary fund for next year. Ceri Nursaw added: "We now have a better idea about the number of students who could qualify for a bursary in 2008/9 and we will increase our bursary funding so that those who are the most in need will receive more money to support them in their time here."

As the Leeds Student went to press, the Office for Fair Access, the watchdog overseeing universities' work to widen participation to students from poorer backgrounds, was due to publish a report setting out which universities are falling short of their duties to allocate bursaries and to attract pupils from lower-performing state schools. The report is expected to identify wider problems with bursaries.

The University has advised students that one in four starting in 2008 will qualify for a Leeds bursary and those who the University believe may qualify will be written to and encouraged to apply. Students need to ensure that they give consent for income data to be shared with the University when they are applying for their student loans and grants.

More information about the bursaries and scholarships available at Leeds is online at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/fees/bursarie.s.htm>

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From (no) RAGs to riches

by Natasha Evans and Chris Stevenson

Having been financially cut off by LUU, RAG has teamed up with eleven sports squads to raise money with a naked calendar for 2008.

The idea is part of RAG's drive to raise finances after their funding from LUU ceased. Funds are needed for a coordinator so that the society can function to its full potential, in terms of the amount of projects it can take on.

In 2006/7, RAG raised £130,000 for charity but this year they are struggling to raise the same amount without initial funding from the Union. Chloe Lyons, the Administrator for RAG, said of the project: "We are using the calendar as part of our 'Save RAG Campaign' which is launching Friday February 8. The basis of the campaign is the fact that our grant has been cut to zero, so we need to raise £15,000. We need a coordinator to help us run events like the hitches and the fashion show, so it is important."

The teams involved in the project vary from women's rugby to water-polo, jujitsu, trampolining, cheerleading and horse riding.

The idea of the calendar itself has proved to be a popular concept at other universities. Chloe said: "Manchester RAG did one, and we liked the look of it. The calendar is supposed to be cheeky, funny and tongue in cheek rather than sexy."

The calendars go on sale in the Union from Monday January 28 until Friday February 3. They are available from the RAG office in the ARC as well as in the Union foyer for £3. They are also available from CATS in the Union priced at £3.50.



NAKED AMBITION: The calendar forms part of the 'Save RAG' campaign
Photo: John Puddlephatt

Students save pensioner from Cliff Mount blaze

by Natasha Evans

Students have rescued a 93 year old woman after she became trapped in a fire at her Woodhouse home.

On January 9, students rang the Fire Service after discovering flames coming from the downstairs room of their next door neighbour's property. The students, who are residents of Cliff Mount, first became aware of the smell of smoke at 6.40pm and, after realising it was not their own house in danger, began checking neighbouring homes. The house was installed with a functioning smoke alarm, but the elderly woman was in a confused state and unable to alert the emergency services.

Once the students had raised the alarm, fire crews from the Leeds and Gipton stations were able to attend the emergency. Watch Manager Mick Wood said: "After arriving on the scene we went to the back of the house, and on looking through the window saw the occupant staggering around the kitchen which was on fire. She was in a confused state. The lady had to be carried out. We gave her first aid. She had burns to her hands and forehead and suffered smoke inhalation.

He continued: "She had a heart problem as well. We gave her first aid until the ambulance arrived, and she was then taken to Leeds General Infirmary to be treated for smoke inhalation and her burns."

The rescue was successful with a fire team removing the woman to a safe area as other fire-fighters set about tackling the blaze.

Mr Wood praised the students for their efforts and added: "Had it not been for the students she could have been in a much worse state."

Elizabeth Mason, a second year Zoology student, said: "I think it is great that people are looking after each other; sometimes it may seem there is a lack of community spirit in a student area, but this just shows how important it is to look out for others. I hope the woman is alright."

The Fire Service recommends that all homes have a working smoke alarm, and an escape plan. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service offers free home fire safety checks to all homes, which usually involves the installation of free smoke alarms.

To book a home fire safety check, call the freephone number on 0800 587 4536. For more information, visit the West Yorkshire Fire Service website at: www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

Graduate weds African chief and becomes a tribal queen

by Natasha Evans

A Leeds University graduate has married an African tribal chief after romance blossomed on holiday.

Sonia Dunston, 38, recently graduated as a mental health nurse from the University and is currently working in neuro-rehabilitation in the city.

Two years ago, whilst on holiday in Cameroon with a friend, she travelled to the village of Missellele in Tiko, a province in the south-west of the state. It was there that she met Jacques Ebule-Lobe, who was chief of the Missellele village and assistant mayor. The romance lasted despite the distance because they kept in contact through phone calls, letters and emails.

The pair have recently married in the chief's home village, before moving back to Leeds together. Speaking of the wedding day Sonia said: "It was wonderful. We had so much food, chicken and lots of different meat, yam and rice. A lot of people who know me still don't know about it, so it will be a surprise for them. We both wore white and it was a huge celebration for the whole village."

Regarding Jacques move to the UK, Sonia said: "It is a real culture shock for him as it is so different here in Leeds, compared to his African

village. It is freezing here and he saw snow for the first time in his life last week. It is also difficult to get hold of the fresh food he is used to, but we are managing alright."

When talking of the marriage, Jacques spoke of compromises: "Although I miss my family and friends, I am settling in. We had a Christmas tree here and seeing the snow recently was amazing. I have never seen it before."

There are also difficult things for Jacques to adjust to: "The heating is on full all the time while I get used to the temperature. I am wearing a woolly hat to keep warm and keep it on. I am here because my wife is here. It is the first time I left my country...it is a shock to be here and so cold. I am used to higher temperatures."

Jacques' chiefly title was passed down to him by his father and he was a well known public figure at home. Sonia said: "Over there I am the equivalent of the Queen and everyone makes a fuss of us. It's great."





Wash your hands of extremism

by Laura Mackenzie

Universities with large numbers of Muslim students have been told to consider rejecting demands for separate prayer and washing facilities for fear that this could cause religious segregation on campus and risk a climate where illegal extremist views can flourish.

A new government report has suggested that students should recognise that universities cannot be expected to provide separate washing and prayer facilities in the same way as a religious institution. It states: "Universities should balance any requests for separate facilities from religious and cultural groups with the need to ensure an integrated campus community."

The University of Leeds has recently spent £50,000 on the Islamic Centre, more commonly known as the Green Room, a place where Muslims can go to pray, and which has washing facilities. Hind Hassan, LUU Diversity Officer, said: "It is very unlikely that the University would enforce joint facilities on campus, especially when it has only recently improved facilities in the Green Room."

In the report, the government also advises institutions to consider sharing information on violent Islamist speakers who should be banned from addressing students on campuses, and describe a 'recruitment and grooming process', where lonely new students away from home for the first time could be vulnerable and extreme groups can spread their messages by taking control of Friday prayers and meetings using charismatic leaders.



**TAPPING INTO PUBLIC OPINION:
Should segregation be rejected?**

Photo: John Puddephatt

Bill Rammell, the Higher Education Minister, has called on universities to foster academic freedom, tolerance and debate, and has said that students should be allowed to debate and research extremism as long as they do not cross a line into

encouraging or inciting violence.

He said: "It is legitimate and permissible for people to research the origins of violent extremism, even in some circumstances to say that actually we can understand how that leads people to certain courses of action, but I think it is very clear when you look at ... the views that they articulate, there is a line at which you move from analysis and understanding towards outright advocacy of violent extremism. It is that which we are concerned about."

This new advice follows a parliamentary debate on how to reconcile academic freedom whilst combating the threat of terrorism. The report also repeats previous advice that universities should work with police where they suspect extremist behaviour, and includes the suggestion that police should help academic institutions to train their staff to recognise violent extremism.

Faisal Hanjra, spokesman for the Federation of Student Islamic Societies, welcomed some of the advice but challenged the idea that university campuses encourage extremism. He said: "We welcome elements of this report - it's important that universities use academic freedom to challenge unacceptable views. But there is a lack of real evidence that universities are important breeding grounds for extremists or radicalisation."

In response to the report, the main lecturers' union has reiterated its fears that if this advice is taken, universities may expect staff to spy on their students. Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the University and College Union, said: "Staff are not trained to, and should not be expected to, police their students ... No student should think they are being spied on."

Female students face five years more debt

by Pauline Bache

Britain's pay gap is burdening female students with debt for five years longer than their male counterparts, new research has found.

The government British Household Panel Survey and the Labour Force Survey predict that 2006's female freshers will take sixteen years on average to repay their student loans, while their male peers will only take an average of eleven years to clear the same debt.

Bill Rammell, the Higher Education Minister, said: "The calculations take account of earnings growth due to career progression, gender, age and periods spent unemployed for other reasons such as having children."

Kat Stark, Women's Officer for the National Union of Students, disputes self-imposed career breaks as the problem. She said: "Women are taking longer than men to pay off their student loans because they are paid less, not because they are taking time off to have children... In the run-up to the 2009 review of higher education funding, the government should consider whether they wish to perpetuate this injustice."

The average student will now graduate with £15,000 worth of debt before they even enter employment and the post-graduation interest rate is currently at 4.8 per cent. Although repayments to the Student Loan Company will not start until a graduate is earning over £15,000, students will be charged interest on their loan from nine months after graduation. After the earning threshold is reached, the graduate's pay will automatically be docked of nine per cent of their earnings over £15,000 until the loan is cleared. Subsequently, with the lower wages of female graduates, the repayment period is extended accordingly.

Abi Frankish, who graduated with a Geography degree in 2006, is currently employed under Knight Frank's graduate-training scheme and sees £26 come off her wage towards student loan payments. She said: "This barely covers the interest accrued each month". However, Abi believes that no such gender pay-gap exists at her company, and added: "Your wage is determined by your abilities here. So if you happened to be a man who was very good at his job you'd get paid more but this wouldn't be because you're a man but because you do the job well. I don't believe myself to be paid unfairly in comparison to male colleagues".

A job boost for graduates

by Pauline Bache

Opportunities for graduates are set to increase this year, a new report has revealed, despite government warnings of a recession and rising unemployment levels.

The Graduate Market in 2008 report has confirmed a continuation of the year-on-year rise in the number of graduate schemes from nationally and internationally renowned companies, with an increase of nearly twelve per cent over last year's figures in the number of places available to new graduates.

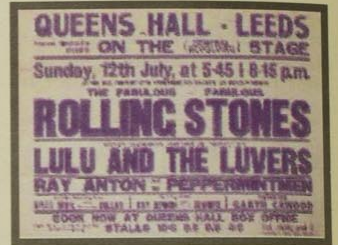
The report shows that the number of entry-level positions with Britain's top graduate employers has increased by over 50 per cent since 2004, with accounting and professional firms, continuing to offer the most vacancies with around 4,500 roles.

Successful applications to graduate level positions remain difficult however and with such fierce competition employers are increasingly seeking work experience as well as a degree.

Having graduated with a Leeds University Biomedical Sciences degree in 2006, Lizzie Nayman says it took her a year to acquire a satisfactory position. She said: "They wouldn't even look at you if you didn't have a year's experience in the industry".

News in Brief

Rolling Stones poster sold



A poster advertising a Rolling Stones concert at the famous Leeds Queens Hall has sold for £7,800, almost three times as much as predicted by Bonhams the auctioneers.

The concert advertised took place in July 1964 at the now demolished Queens Hall in Leeds where bands such as U2, Thin Lizzy, The Jam and Roxy Music have also played.

The band were scheduled to play two shows on the day in question, one at 5.45 p.m., and another at 8.15 p.m., and the poster promised fans that The Stones would perform on the venue's revolving stage. Supporting artists included Lulu and the Luvers as well as Ray Anton and the Peppermintmen.

Simon Warner, a senior teaching fellow in popular music at the University of Leeds, was unsurprised that the poster had sold for such a large sum. He said: "Pop and rock memorabilia is becoming increasingly collectible."

Childline Help needed

ChildLine are to hold a special Volunteer Information Meeting on January 30 for any students interested in becoming a volunteer at the 24-hour charity helpline.

The meeting will take place in Room LG02 of the Careers Centre Building between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and will be a chance for students to find out what it takes to become a ChildLine volunteer and to help vulnerable and abused children, and those in distress. Volunteers are essential in ensuring that the helpline can remain free and 24-hour, and ChildLine are in desperate need of more volunteers. Jacinta Kent, volunteer co-ordinator for ChildLine said: "Due to a lack of volunteers ChildLine can only answer about 50% of calls it receives, which can make a child feel even more alone if they can't get through."

The meeting is simply to provide further information and students are not committing themselves to anything by just going along, all training will be provided".

Guantanamo detainee speaks out

Moazzam Begg, a former detainee of Guantanamo Bay attends an event hosted by LUU Amnesty International Society this week.

Originally from Birmingham, the British citizen was seized in Islamabad, in February 2002. His detention, originally by the CIA spanned three years in total. Initially he was held at Bagram airbase in Afghanistan for a year, being transferred to the Guantanamo Bay prison camp, based on Cuba. During his three years of imprisonment he was never formally charged with a crime. His father and Amnesty International were amongst those that called for his release. The visit takes place January 29, at 6.30pm in the Conference Auditorium.

This event is run by an organisation outside the University of Leeds, and is not endorsed by the University in any way.



University staff member 'beat and strangled' wife in brutal attack

by Chris Stevenson

A mentally-ill man who worked as a technician in the School of Healthcare strangled and beat his wife to death just hours after he had visited his GP to talk about concerns regarding his mental health, with a judge deciding that he must be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

Nicholas Duffy was contacted by a nurse shortly after his visit on May 11 2007, in order to arrange for examination of his condition. Mr Duffy, 45, told nurse Carol Griffin: "This morning, what a disaster. Wife is dead, big fight. I killed my wife, I can't believe it. I strangled her, I

don't want my kids to see her... there has been a fight between good and evil, she was trying to kill me." It was then that the police moved quickly to the house at Canal Lane at Stanley, Wakefield, which Duffy shared with Jacqueline, 43, mother to the couple's two children. Upon arrival, Duffy walked towards them in the garden covered in blood, saying: "I've killed her."

During the case, Leeds Crown Court heard that there had been a violent struggle in the kitchen of their home and Duffy had used a broken China plant pot to beat his wife over the head, causing 31 separate injuries.

Nigel Wray, the prosecutor, said in a police interview that Duffy was "agitated and delusional and began to saying things like there was a

'spaceship on the ceiling', 'where is the radiation coming from?' and 'I want to fight you.'" He added: "He said there was a conflict in his head and the voice said 'kill it' and he started to strangle his wife."

The court heard that Duffy had appeared at his father-in-law Eric Walker's house on the morning of May 11. Mr Walker called his daughter who agreed to return home after hearing her husband was acting strangely and had "wide staring eyes." The court also heard Duffy has a history of mental health problems dating back to 1996 but that they had appeared to have been in remission and the prosecution accepted Duffy's guilty plea to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.



Cigarette sales stopped for a smoke-free start to 2008

by Eva Bearrymen

The Union have warned smokers to buy their cigarettes in advance in preparation for a ban on sale of cigarettes on campus.

As part of a Healthy Week initiative the temporary 'no-sale' will last for just one week but if proved popular could lead to a permanent sale embargo which would lose the Union shops thousands of pounds.

The move to stop selling cigarettes for the week was put forward by the Union Council and is not a University initiative. Union Council voted for the motion to be put into place after a debate between smokers and non-smokers. Andrew Greer, the Union's Activities Officer who has helped to organise the LUU'S contribution to Healthy Week, said: "LUU is not about alienating any members, smokers or not, but as an advocate of Student Health it is trying to help students to see that it is possible to quit and to help them make that step. Although a permanent ban is a possibility it can only be implemented if supported by an across campus vote."

Healthy Week has been organised by both the Union and the University in the aim to encourage students to live more healthily. During the week sessions are being run to help students and staff discover new ways of improving and maintaining a healthier lifestyle. The ban will be accompanied by smoking cessation classes during the week and the chance for students to get their carbon monoxide levels tested for free. However students and visitors will still be allowed to smoke in the Union's smoking areas.

The response from students has so far been mixed. Gimena De Sarriera, a French and Politics student and a regular smoker, supports the idea of the ban. She said: "It will help people who are trying to give up for their new years resolution." Anthony Mape, a second year History and Sociology student and non-smoker said: "The ban is another step harming our civil liberties and takes away even more personal choice".

Those behind the initiative are keen to receive feedback on whether it is a good idea. You can visit 8 and fill out the electronic form, or otherwise feedback postcards will also be available in the Union next week.



WE MEAN BUSINESS: Exec resort to tobacco smuggling to supplement meagre wages.
Photo: Ken Mason

Healthy Week hits back at Christmas fat

by Natasha Evans

Healthy Week hits the Union on January 28 running until Sunday February 3 and is set to be 'bigger than ever before' with over 100 different activities on offer.

The activities range from gym challenges to classes in Chinese massage and are available throughout the week. There is also an opportunity to get help with issues surrounding general health, with the chance to have a 'body MOT' as well as students being able to receive advice on coping with stress. Other events and services will include such diverse options as Pilates and Aerocombat, with there also being access to STD testing.

For students with little activity experience there are tens of 'Give-it-a-go' sessions, where beginners have the opportunity to test out everything from climbing to Korfball. There is also a chance to attend a physiotherapy triage. Dietary advice will be available throughout the week with the opportunity to meet and talk with a nutritional consultant, or to attend cookery demonstrations and download healthy recipe ideas.

In addition, there are several initiatives targeted at improving the mind. Students and Staff can make the most of Sleep Taster sessions, where there is information about how to get the most out of a nights sleep. There are also chances to partake in Guided, or Buddhist Meditation. Lessons in life skills can also be gained through workshops encouraging participants to be assertive and proactive, as well as guidance on time management.

The week's social events in the Union will also be orientated around Healthy Week, with several events to attend. The Old Bar quiz is running as usual, but with a chance to win Healthy prizes. GI Jonny will be in attendance at Fruity on Friday, armed with sexual health materials with the mission 'To inform and protect'. Saturday afternoon will then see the Students' Union taken over by the 'LUU Assassins', who will host a range of different games such as Capture the Flag and VIP. The University's Sports Development Manager, Patrick Craig said: "This is the third year that we have run Healthy Week. It was established in 2006, targeted to take advantage of

New Year resolutions and the desire to get back in to a healthy way of life. For us there are two benefits, we get to help people see the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and treating your body well, and we also get the chance to promote what the University can do for both staff and students."

Alice Salter, a second year English Literature student said: "I think it's a good idea because it gets more people involved, it's easier and more encouraging when its fun and other people are doing it." Patrick Craig echoes this sentiment, saying: "It is an opportunity to make the most of, there are massive health benefits but there are social benefits as well. Involvement in this is a great way to meet new, like minded people. Sport is a great way to get involved and share some camaraderie with peers. You can make the most of the social plusses of working towards a common goal."



CHECKING OUT THE OPTIONS: Perusing the Union's healthy options
Photo: Ken Mason



300 seconds with: Patrick Craig

Patrick Craig

Acting Sports Development Manager & Organiser of 'Healthy Week'

LS: Hi Patrick, to get things started what exactly does the Acting Sports Development Manager do?

PC: I'm responsible for the organisation of projects, such as Healthy Week. I also oversee sports scholarships, intramural sports and other developments within the centre.

LS: So, what do you enjoy about your job?

PC: It sounds clichéd, but everyday in this job is different. I love sport and in this job I get exposure to loads of different aspects of it. I get close contact with elite athletes and I also have a great time working with people who do recreational sport. I get to meet the big organisations like the National Governing bodies, and Sport England.

LS: Is there anything you don't like about the job?

PC: I suppose not being able to do everything we want to do is a downside. Obviously there are limits to what we can do and provide, our facilities are stretched to capacity and we can't help everyone to

“ I have always enjoyed sport, but I knew I was never going to get to a very high level.

do what they would like.

LS: You're obviously really enthusiastic about sport - what is it you love about it?

PC: I have always enjoyed playing sport, but I knew I was never going to get to a very high level. I did a degree in Sports Science and I was going to teach, but I went into Sports Development instead - you don't just have to be a professional in sport to enjoy it!

LS: So, being into health and fitness, what do you make about the student lifestyle, and the impact on our health?

PC: Well the first thing to point out is that everybody is different and has different interests. The majority I think do tend to do stuff in moderation. As a whole the University has a really high percentage of people engaging in sport - that's a good sign! Leeds Students have one of the

highest participant rates in the National Active Student Survey - suggesting that they are keen to be involved and are health aware.

LS: So what is the general idea behind this year's Healthy Week?

PC: Well, this year we are targeting a specific group, those who are less likely to get involved. All of our marketing is targeting these people who may have not done this kind of thing before, encouraging them to give it a try. For us the scheme has a long term goal as well. We will be sending questionnaires to those who get involved and the data we get back will be important for the next step of scientific work and development.

LS: What for you is the key factor for Healthy Week?

PC: The key thing is sustainability. The event runs for a week but everything that you get involved in can be continued. It's not just a one off.

LS: So finally, did you make any New Year's resolutions and, most importantly, have you stuck to them?

PC: Yes and yes. I've given up drinking for January and I've given up red meat. Giving up the red meat is fine, but I admit giving up the alcohol is more difficult - I can't even enjoy a beer after work! I went to a rugby event the other week and that was a real test as well!



LS: Any last minute tips for readers who are trying to stick to their resolutions?

PC: Yeah, try and do it with someone else, that's a massive encouragement. And mainly avoid unnecessary pressure, if you go somewhere that you know there is going to be added problems, like peer pressure, then avoid it.

LS: Well thanks for the sound advice Patrick. All the best for Healthy Week!

“ The majority I think do tend to do stuff in moderation.

Russell Group blacklists 'soft' A-level entrants

by Adam Richardson

Top universities have created blacklists of 'soft' A-level subjects that could lead to students being refused entry.

Students who take more than one of the blacklisted subjects are at risk of being discriminated against, in favour of applicants who have taken more traditional A-levels.

Subjects including Dance, Leisure Studies and Accountancy are considered to lack the academic rigour necessary to prepare students for higher level study.

Institutions, including those from the Russell Group, of which the University of Leeds is a member, have said that they are 'alarmed' by the increasing number of pupils who are taking these options to boost their on-paper academic performance.

Some universities, such as the London School of Economics and Cambridge, have already published lists of up to twenty-five blacklisted subjects on their websites.

Wendy Piatt, director-general of the Russell Group of twenty leading universities, said: "Most top institutions will follow suit in providing a steer on preferred combinations of A-levels."

New analysis carried out by the Russell group suggests that a gulf is emerging between state and private schools, as

increasing numbers of comprehensive schools have opted for 'soft' A-level subjects, while independents and grammars continue to teach only traditional academic subjects such as History and English Literature.

The research indicates that independent and grammar schools are more likely to have pupils taking languages and scientific subjects, with one-third taking a science compared to one in ten at state schools. Conversely, 93 per cent of students taking media studies are from state schools.

The blacklist has re-opened the debate on whether selective school pupils have an advantage over candidates from state schools when it comes to applying to top universities, and has also raised concern amongst current university students over how their A-levels will now be perceived by future employers.

Second year Computing student, David Savage, said: "If top universities such as Leeds are becoming more openly selective it does make me worry that employers will pick up on this and become another obstacle when applying for jobs."

He added: "I think the lists runs the serious risk of making students feel devalued; there is already enough pressure to do well and to get into university without worrying that the A-level you've worked so hard for is worthless."

Financial disaster for second degree students

by Laura Mackenzie

Students who are taking second degrees or equivalent may have to pay international student fees of up to £11,000 a year as the government has cut tuition fee funding.

In 2007 the government decided to cover a £100m funding gap in the education budget by removing funding for those who studied equivalent or lower qualifications prior to their current study, without any consultation with universities or other institutions such as the National Union of Students.

As a result, universities will no longer receive subsidy funding for equivalent level qualifications, and it is likely universities will be forced to increase tuition fees for these students. While institutions such as Birbeck and Open University face the largest cuts to funding, universities such as Leeds will also be affected, although certain degree programmes such as Medicine and Dentistry are exempt from the cuts.

The reasoning behind the policy was that priority should be given to those who had not had the chance to attend university before. However, the funding cuts will disproportionately affect students over the age of 35 and part-time students, with cuts hitting 20 per cent of part-time students and with 68 per cent of all those affected being

over the age of 35. This means that for the first time ever, the NUS, the lecturers' unions, the Confederation of British Industries, and University UK are united against the government.

Susan Nash, the LUU Education Officer, said: "Both the University and myself agreed it was a flawed policy for the large part. The University has signed an open letter to the government opposing the policy, which is remarkable for Leeds, usually a placid institution."

The University and Union are currently lobbying local MPs to reserve the decision and the recent Union Council passed a motion to add LUU as a signature to a petition opposing the cuts. This is because the Union believes that: "This decision contradicts the government's plans to widen participation and boost the skills of the workforce as 70 per cent of the 2020 workforce have already left school and need access to flexible work-based courses".

Students can sign the petition, which has already collected over 14,000 names by visiting www.petition.pm.gov.uk/ELQFunding

Susan has asked students studying for a second time to come forward as volunteers, in order to be used as examples of the situation.

Any students who want to be involved or are affected by the funding cuts can contact Susan at s.nash@luu.leeds.ac.uk



Unipol Code of Standards Members - 2008/2009

Names in **bold** indicate somebody who is a Platinum Owner, which means they have been members of the Code of Standards for at least five consecutive years without a sustained Code of Standards complaint being made against them. Names in **bold with (G)** indicate somebody who is a Golden Owner, which means they have been members of the Code for at least three consecutive years without a sustained Code of Standards complaint being made against them. Names in **bold with (LC)** indicate that the provider is a member of the National Codes of Standards for Larger Developments. To see an updated list and find out more about the Code of Standards visit our website and click on the Code Rosette.



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Gurdip Dhaliwal - FLDR
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Colin Farrer - Farrer Properties
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- H**
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Martin Halliday - Homefinders
Neil Hardaker (G)
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Haro Investments - S Bradley
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Imdad Hussain (G)
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- I**
Infnitus Lettings - S&K Wright (G)
Kamran Iqbal
- J**
Chris Jackson
Jagtar Properties
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Graham Jarrett - Headingley Property Services (G)
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Anne Johnson - Ninety Degrees Ltd
- K**
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Yasin Khan
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- L**
La Sala - Chris Ross
Lakescene Associates Ltd - Janet Blythe
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Landmark Homes
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- Trevor Love (G)**
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Millennium House Enterprises - Mark Jenkinson
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Steve & Kay
Wright - Infnitus Lettings (G)
- X**
- Y**
- Z**





the big debate:

No more cigarettes?

From next monday the Union will stop selling cigarettes as part of *Healthy Week 2008*. If the trial is popular then the ban may become permanent. This week's debate asks: 'Should the union stop selling cigarettes?'

For cigarettes being sold...

Cally Walker email: jhm5cw@leeds.ac.uk

This week's Healthy Week at our university's Union is a good thing, but stopping selling cigarettes is nothing short of criminal. Rather than a necessary campaign to encourage people to become healthier, it's a token gesture that threatens our civil liberties.

As if not selling cigarettes in the Union is going to stop some people from taking up smoking: it's just a nuisance to those of us who do smoke. If I want to give up smoking I will and I'll do it with the proper help that Leeds' Medical Practice offers, and not as a result of the attempt of some jumped up, non-smoking, Union representative.

Smoking is bad for your health. Fact. Excessive alcohol intake is bad for your health. Fact. But that hasn't made the Union shut down the Terrace or ban alcohol sales for the week; in fact, they have a 'sale' on which to my mind only promotes this behaviour! Alcohol increases the chance of getting many diseases and conditions which affect mental and physical health, lifestyle and academic work. Surely this is as valid a target for a Union looking out for the welfare of its students.

Sexual promiscuity is also promoted within the university, and in many cases this is not healthy or appropriate - should we ban the images of skinny adolescent girls in bikinis used as promotion for our club nights? This affects the impression given to many young women on campus that their university experience should be centred around getting sloshed and engaging in sexual encounters but hey, that's just another culturally acceptable health risk, so it's okay.

Considering the number of students not interested in binge drinking, for religious or personal reasons, the amount of money, design-work and campaigning that goes into publicising alcohol is ludicrous. And where do we draw the line? Fizzy pop and calorie-laden confectionary has detrimental effects for our bodies, but the Union hasn't stopped the sale of these!

The anti-smoking bandwagon however is one hell of a lot easier to jump on. The ban on smoking in all public places certainly making a difference to the health and welfare of smokers and non smokers alike. However, it's not as if banning the sale of cigarettes in our Union will have any beneficial effects for non-smokers, or smokers for that matter. For example, it's not as if I would discover the inability to purchase cigarettes at the Union and finally decide to give up an 8 year habit.

People make informed decisions as to what they choose to do based on their own personal circumstances. I, for one, wish I had never started smoking, but the reasons for why people start smoking are found in a variety of reasons, none of which are the fact that they are sold. Heroin is sold, but that doesn't mean I buy it.

If the week of non-cigarette sales is 'successful' then it's being discussed whether the Union should ban their sale permanently. I think this would be a real shame for an

academic university which allegedly prides itself on freedom of speech and freedom of action. Just another 'Union decision' that I have not been involved with or asked about.

So this week I might go to the gym, but I certainly won't be putting out my cigarettes.

Against cigarettes being sold...

Jess Edwards email: cs06jce@leeds.ac.uk

I say "well done" to the Union on their stopping the sale of cigarettes. What is the point of the Union shops supplying cigarettes which cannot even be smoked on their premises? I'm sure that the smokers can get over it.

Even those who can't put out a cigarette without immediately lighting up another know that cigarettes are bad for you. No-one can, or will, dispute that fact. People who choose to smoke know about the risks that come with it.

The recent smoking ban restricting smoking in public places has brought issues surrounding freedom of choice into the forefront of debate. The Union at Leeds, however, has always been smoke-free but the arrival of Healthy Week 2008 has revealed another issue to take into consideration. We could, as we have before, set the trend and push for our right not to have to experience passive smoking.

By banning the sale of cigarettes for a whole week, the Union is taking a big risk; but, if the reaction isn't one of outrage and offence then I see no reason why it could not become a permanent rule. This, I believe, could be nothing but a good thing. We have supported combatting Nestle and other campaigns in the Union supermarket and I believe that banning cigarettes is another good cause.

Should the University be in affiliation with substances which are such a horrific health hazard? By banning the sale of cigarettes in the Union, the aim isn't to remove the choice to smoke, but just to act as a deterrent to students. As an institute of education, surely setting an example is in the University's handbook.

It's hardly a major inconvenience to purchase cigarettes from the shop on the way to and from University. Although there is no denying that the Union will lose money from the lack of sales, I don't think that the loss would be substantial enough to cause any long term problems.

Another argument against such a ban is the ignorant view that if cigarettes are no longer allowed to be purchased in the Union, then neither should other harmful substances, such as alcohol. The repercussive health issues that arise from excessive alcohol consumption are severe and certainly worrying. However, in my opinion this shouldn't mean that there should be one rule for all harmful substances as each would result in different impacts on our University community.

The repercussions surrounding a ban on sales of alcohol would be huge and far greater than those in result of a cigarette ban. The Union would lose huge sums of money and the publicity would surely have an effect on the decisions of potential students considering applying to the University. Who wants to go to a University which doesn't sell alcohol on campus? An alcohol-free nightclub is not what most students sign up for.

The ban is only for a week and may not prove popular with the students, but at the least it will have raised awareness about the importance of looking after your health.

If we can manage one week then why can't we manage for ever?



Last Term's Debate: 'Four weeks too long?'

Latest result from online polls:

For four weeks: 75%

Against four weeks: 25%

Top comments:

'I love the Christmas break, but I think I would prefer the exams to be before the holidays' - Barry Carlyon

Get involved:

Join the debate, visit the website:

<http://www.leedsstudent.org.uk>

or find us on Facebook at:

<http://apps.facebook.com/leedsstudent>

LS Extra



Are women funny? 10

Just why are there so few female stand-ups - what's the difference between a woman stand-up comic and a stand-up comic? LS investigates.



Comment 12

Is Facebook a threat to civilised society? Is the Union an Orwellian nightmare for banning cigarettes, or protecting the rights of others in its 'No Platform' policy? LS investigates.



Guantánamo Bay 14

As it reaches its sixth year, questions still remain over the legality, ethical status and necessity for Guantánamo. LS investigates...

Healthy Week at LUU

LUU's latest venture is Healthy Week, kicking off on the 28th January. Read on for more on what's going on.

This week you may have had a slightly disconcerting encounter with a group of promoters dressed as fruit and veg. Rather than being part of some militant-vegetable-promotion group, these guys have been out promoting the Union's Healthy Week.

From January 28 through to February 3 the Union will be holding the annual event, an attempt to encourage healthier lifestyles in its staff and students. This year, over 100 events are being held - almost 50 per cent more than last year's - ranging from sports session to lessons in cooking. While several charge a small amount to take part, the vast majority of these are offered for free, and are available to all students of the University.

Started by a Sport's Officer several years ago, the event is now organised in conjunction with the University, with the intention of offering staff and students an opportunity to experiment with sports and activities they may not otherwise have tried. While many of the activities are related to physical fitness and exercise, this is by no means the only area available - advice on quitting smoking, tests and information on STIs and full body "MOTs" are also offered, among a variety of events encouraging more general well being.

Lizzie Fellows, LUU's Welfare Officer, explains the ethos behind the week: "It's an easy way in for people who don't

normally get involved with sports and activities," she explains, "It's not just about activeness, but mental health, sexual health and healthy eating too." The impetus on mental health comes across clearly, and a variety of sessions informing students on the university's support for mental health are available, along with various types of meditation, relaxation technique sessions and advice on quitting smoking.

Sexual health is another big aspect the week seeks to promote, and various events promoting a fuller knowledge of the risks of STIs are taking place throughout. The GI Jonny campaign has a presence at Fruity on Friday, and throughout the week passing students will be encouraged to take part in STI quizzes and the ominously named "STI Roulette", with the hope of encouraging people to find out more about the risks and realities of unprotected sex.

A full programme of events can be found by the reception desk in the Union building, or at the Sport's Centre, and sessions that require booking in advance can be booked here. Those sessions available only to staff members are found in a blue programme that can be picked up from any University or Union staff room. LUU's Healthy Week website offers more information on what's available, at www.leeds.ac.uk/healthyweek, and offers a breakdown of what's on.



As a start for Healthy Week, the Union has decided to ban the sale of cigarettes between January 28 and February 3. The decision has been debated at Union Council, and a week trial has been agreed on. The Union has requested any feedback or response to this to be registered on their website www.luuonline.com/healthyweek08. All day Tuesday is 'Smoking Cessation' at the Info Point in LUU, run by the Leeds Stop Smoking Service. They'll be there all day to give information to help you stop smoking, and to give a free test to check your carbon monoxide levels.

The Union is also giving free sexual advice throughout the week. Chlamydia Testing will be available between 11am-3pm on



Monday and Wednesday in ARC rooms four and six, respectively. Simple 'pee in the pot' technique, quick and painless, results texted to you. You'll even get £1.00 in LUU vouchers for your effort - whoever thought STIs could be profitable? Fruity will be graced by the presence of GI Jonny, the sexual health awareness campaign, with a battalion of helpers ready to ambush you with information and safe-sex freebies.



Often neglected in favour of physical wellbeing, it's vital not to forget the importance of mental health as well. A variety of different relaxation and drop-in sessions are available, ranging from 'Healthy Minds' (all day Thursday at LUU Info Point, put on by the Student Counseling Centre) to Tai Chi intro sessions on Thursday, 1pm-2pm. The Welfare Officer drop-in session could also be well worth a look, as you get a chance to quiz Lizzie on any problems, no matter how big or small, relating to health & well being.

words/ alex "shook" shouksmith

Females in comedy: not ju

Is comedy a boy's game? Is the old adage that "women just are gender in comedy and questions whether female comedians are



I recently went to a stand-up comedy competition in the Student Union. It was a great night, and defied my low expectations of student comedy. Almost all of the contestants were excellent, and the two comperes handled the show very well. Yet one thing stood out more prominently than any gags about T.V. adverts or Freshers. All of the contestants were men.

Men filled the stage for the best part of two hours, save for a (silent) female 'helper' in one of the compere filler slots. The organisers cannot be blamed for this: I believe that they were actually very keen for women to get involved. But, alas, women were having none of it. Women were simply not interested.

If asked to take part in a stand-up comedy competition, most people, male and female, will laugh and promptly decline. This is, in my opinion, a completely natural reaction, as standing in front of a crowded room and trying to make them laugh might be on a list of people's Ten Least Favourite Things To Do. However, six men, in response to the question, hedged their bets and went for it.

Yet no women took the chance. This became particularly obvious when one of the contestants filled his seven minutes on stage with jokes about rape and dumping his

12-year old girlfriend. While the act itself was not particularly groundbreaking, what set it apart from others of its kind was the fact that no one was answering back to him.

“ Rachel Weisz has been quoted as saying, “People find out I'm an actress and I see that 'whore' look flicker across their eyes.”

He demonstrated this perfectly himself, picking on a "cross-legged" (and therefore obviously uptight) woman at the front of the audience. Not getting a reaction from her, he asked, "Are you gagged, love? Are you mute?" Ironically, most of the audience couldn't hear her reply, "No, I just don't have a microphone."

Looking at comedians like Victoria Wood and Dawn French, household names who have defined their own particular forms of comedy successfully and quite brilliantly, it remains obvious that these women are

permitted to be funny due to the fact that their comedy outweighs their feminine allure. This is not to say that either French or Wood are unattractive women, but rather if we were to imagine Sienna Miller chomping down a Terry's Chocolate Orange, or Keira Knightley exploring the plight of a dinner lady, the effect would hold little in the way of the comic.

While I could postulate that this is because men cannot concentrate on more than one thing at any given time, as has been argued before, this would be unfair and untrue. It would be the easy way out to blame men for this, but in reality the problem is largely one of society's perception of the on-stage female. One of the essential components for successful stand-up comedy is honesty, and women are not expected, or even allowed, to be honest.

Rachel Weisz has been quoted as saying, "People find out I'm an actress and I see that 'whore' look flicker across their eyes." Since women were first allowed on stage, onto a physical platform allowing them a voice, the idea of female performance, to an extent, has gone hand-in-hand with that of literally prostituting oneself to an audience. If we look at successful female comedians, their comedy is usually in the form of sketch shows in which they play a variety of different roles, and not themselves. In other

words, women may parody the generalisation, but not the individual. Gagged by the knowledge of their constant observers, women are judged by what they withhold rather than what they actually say. A woman may be intelligent if she is modest about it, confident as long as she does not give anything away. Any female performer, in this light, is an admission of the performance that reflects the reality of being a woman.

It is the female biological role, in terms of reproduction, to entice men, and women, in order to be deemed attractive must apparently remain behind a mystique of feminine allure. Yet is this a self-fulfilling prophecy? Do women perpetuate as well as conform to this almost subliminal understanding that they must retain a façade of mystery? A familiar complaint is that men do not understand women, but do women truly desire to be understood? Or do women wish to be perceived as how they would like to appear, rather than what they actually are? A great part of the heterosexual connection is based on the chase, which inevitably requires the metaphorical fleeing of one part. Hence, when a woman stands on a stage and attempts to enter an arena that the phrase "women just aren't funny" has (in its social acceptance) restricted to men, they must be judged in a sexual manner. Men

LS2

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HOLLYTRIES
KARIM INTERVIEWS...
CLUBS
ARTS
FASHION
OBSERVATIONS

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• Observations - Harriet Hernandez • Starsigns - Peter Newlands • Embargo - Barry Capon



The LOW DOWN with Martha and Karim



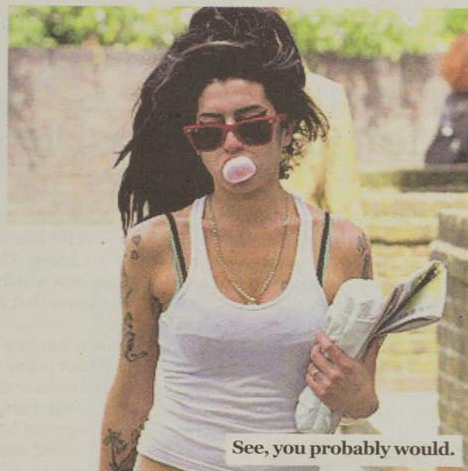
Yeah, so Happy New Year eh? What better way to mark two thousand and 'great' (I wish I had made that little gem up) than to talk to you about death. That's right. The Big Man. With The Scythe. He seems to want all of our cool people, leading them astray, lulling them over to his side with hard drugs and sleeping pills. Well I never made a New Year's resolution - so here goes: I'm going to take a stand on people that are too mashed. It's kinda embarrassing really, when it results in death. See the thing is, we all read stuff like 'Amy on crack' and think 'aww man, she's gonna get it soon' and if you think about it, maybe all this cheering for The Big Man is actually accelerating his arrival. Like when you're swimming the Channel and you've nearly reached Dover and everyone's shouting 'Karim! Karim!' and, you know, it makes you wanna go faster. I bet that's what Death feels like.

For those of us that are in fact, alive, it does pose a bit of a problem: where do you draw the line? How do you know when to stop having fun? How do you realise when your fingertips are turning that distinctive shade of black from the chronic overuse of your crack pipe? I don't know about you, but what's wrong with going ice-skating? Most of us just want a nice meal and a nice bottle of something as a definition of a good night, but, I mean, you must be thinking you're a little strange when you feel you need to run home for that next ket fix, or hit the glass pipe to relax after a show. That's the thing though: they do already know. If anyone's read Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* they'll understand that apathy in the face of self-recognition is kind of a big deal. And not just in Edinburgh (I was there for NY and didn't see any blatant crack fiends/heroin users though - nice one).

If anyone's read Irvine Welsh's 'Trainspotting' they'll understand that apathy is kind of a big deal.

But let's breathe a sigh of relief - here comes another fresh semester of work, economy and responsibilities to juggle. That might just about distract us enough to stop thinking about the crack. Come on, her man's in prison, her parents-in-law think she's a nutter and she's been forced to hang around with Mark Ronson. Who wouldn't be tempted to dabble with the devil's powder?

Speaking of Mark Ronson, his band are playing at Smokestack this week or next, and they sound grrrrreat. Well done to anyone who's managed to get tickets for The Kooks, Queens of the Stone Age or Duffy - if you, like me, have managed to rise five hundred quid over the NY 'revision period' you'll be able to make it back by selling your tickets. It's getting ridiculous out there - it's like we're animals and bands are *fillet mignon* anyone hear about the (literally) thousands of mugs waiting for a mere sight of Radiohead at Rough Trade Records in London? What a bunch of douches. I mean, they weren't handing out crack or anything.

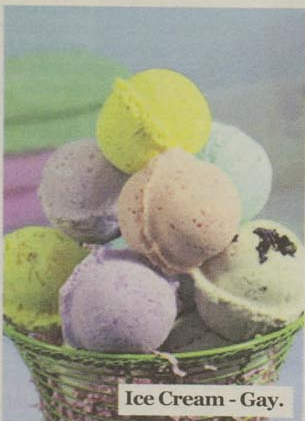


See, you probably would.

And in other Martha and Karim news....

There's never been a better time to go abroad. That's what reading week is for! (Next time you'll know. Unless this is your last term - ha!) Two nights in Paris for £99, a week in Barbados for £400 - does anyone know how expensive travel is anywhere else in the entire world? Plus, if you go to some particular Eastern-European countries, you'll spend more on the flight than the entire holiday spend. Believe. 'New Year, Real Tan'. How about that for a shocker, eh ladies?

Indeed with all this 'New Year, New You' business being banded around at the moment, you may have decided to go the whole hog and switch your sexuality. For all you gay-guys turned straight, get yourself down to the horrific - I mean fantastic - Oporto on any night of the week for a celebration of testosterone in its most primal form. There will be pint-throwing, dancing on the bar to the Pigeon Detectives and screams of 'LADSON TOUR!' on a loop. For anybody who's gone for a bit of homosexuality, head on down to cult club Ice Cream, Thursday nights at The Cockpit. Alongside the excellent DJs and frequent freebies, there is soon to be a string of exclusive live acts, including the curiously named Jesus and the Felch Monkeys.



Ice Cream - Gay.

ML + KK

Overheard this week. "This new mp3 player/electric taser gun also comes in leopard print." // "Where have all the fit boys gone?" // "The Kaisers at Elland Road? What do they wanna do? Disappoint 20,000 people? It'll be just like going there any other week." // "She's in a relationship? It just changed this second on Facebook!" // "Ooh Led Zeppelin are back. Yeah, more like back replacement."

TATTOOS:

With ever improving laser technology, now you can make stupid, impulsive decisions without the risk of being scarred for life. If only these lasers had been around in the nineties, half the male population wouldn't have to bare Chinese symbols for all eternity. Get your lover's name inscribed over a pocket design on your chest like Winehouse.

BACK IN THE NORTH:

Be it via car, train or on the National Express with all the nutters... Ah, home away from home. Where the wind pushes you over more frequently than your big brother when you were a kid, and the pastry-based delights wink at you from every street corner. What flood?

CHRISTMAS SPREAD:

To all those boys and girls whose Jack-Wills joggers no longer fit so well, hold tight before you let out your anguished screams. That bit of free-money you call a student loan will only last so long, then you'll be reduced to eating 8p noodles once a day, and you'll need that spare tire to live off... hey, aren't Uggs one-size fits all?

FRESHERS:

We took pity on you last term, offered you our pearls of wisdom, and how have you repaid us? By spewing all over Otley Road and driving up the cost of taxis because we all get mistaken for naive children with no local knowledge. Don't even start saying you're stressed. First year doesn't count!

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS TV:

Every new year, our channels are saturated with the likes of creepy Gillian McKeith encouraging folk to discuss their shit, and generally feel bad for every chocolate coin that passed their lips. Then nice old Jamie Oliver decides to literally stick the knife in, and cut fat people in half on live television. Fast-food? Poisonous. Cereal? Hidden fats. Mission accomplished: I know I'm not hungry.

FAULTY TIMETABLES:

You can kind of forgive the first mistake that caused you to force yourself out of bed for a lecture that doesn't exist - but four times in a week? What are the admin staff drinking these days? Russian Vodka disguised as Evian? The tempting thing to do is go on strike, and not attend anything for fear of being rejected.

HEATH LEDGER:

Sorry mate, you seemed like a Joker.

Going up

Going down

HOLLY TRIES... CONQUERING HER FEARS

Rested and refreshed from 2007's adventures, our most courageous correspondent has returned to the pages of *Leeds Student*. This week, she sets out to conquer her two greatest phobias; blood donation and the ice rink. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "There is nothing to fear but fear itself... and a determined **Holly Westwood**."

Blood, pain and the ever-present threat of danger. You could definitely say that I've had a terrifying return to the gripping world of Leeds Student reporting. This week I have been attempting to conquer my fears - a dramatic challenge that I soon began to regret. But let me take some time to explain what persuaded me to attempt such a feat.

New Year's resolutions for myself. As with my promises to lose weight and not squander away all of my hard-earned student loan, most of my resolutions disappear within 5 minutes of the January sales and cosy, chocolate-filled evenings in. Surprisingly, then, this week I settled upon one resolution which I was uncharacteristically determined to struggle through - I was going to defeat my fears,

promise to donate blood in the near future, something which I had mysteriously never got around to doing. Then I remembered another fear, one which I had no wish to conquer, but knew that I must - the fear of ice skating.

The reason for my hesitation over becoming a donor is due to a blood test that I was supposed to have three years ago. I'm not afraid of needles and have always been fine with the sight of blood. Yet once the nurse had tightened the chord around my upper arm, I began to feel a bit woozy - I was unconscious on the floor before she'd even stuck the needle in. So, there was reason for my apprehension. Although I still maintain that I am not phobic towards needles, I did feel a bit funny at the thought of giving blood - mainly, I think, due to being scared of passing out again (not a pleasant experience, mainly due to the weird dreams I had before I came round). Despite this, however, I knew that I wanted to overcome my fears - all those blood donor adverts had finally started to get to me.

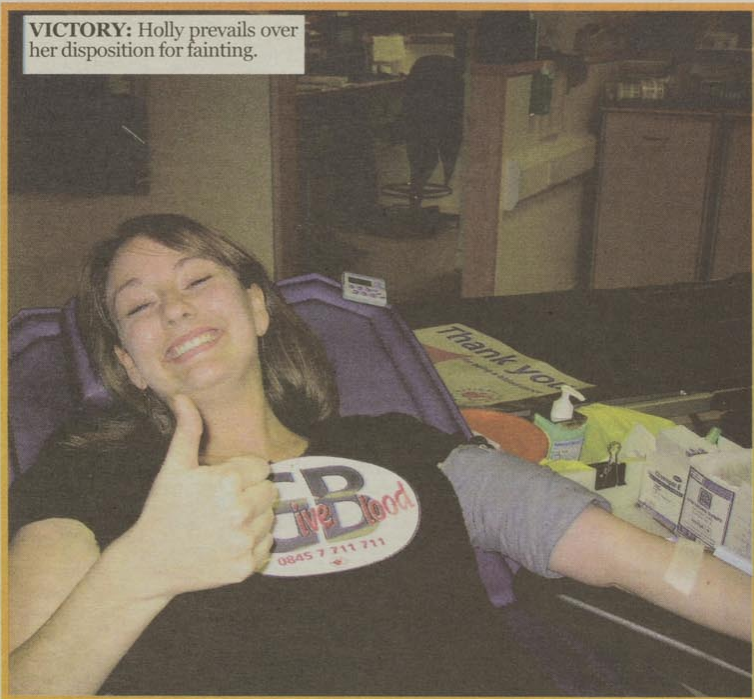
Tuesday night: I found myself and friend Sarah (a seasoned blood donor), heading down to the blood donor centre in the city. It's a permanent fixture of The Headrow (opposite The Light), so it's really easy to just pop in off the street and donate. After a short questionnaire, I was taken off to have a quick test to see if there was any iron in my blood (there was - thanks Guinness!) At this point, I found a huge sticker with 'Give Blood' emblazoned across it - perfect! I stuck it straight on to my jumper to get me into the donating mood. I was then led into another room where I lay down upon a bed and a nurse kitted me out for the donation. I didn't so much laugh in the face of danger, although I did manage a somewhat hysterical giggle when the needle went in. On the whole, though, it was quite a pleasant experience. I hardly felt the needle going in, and the 10 minutes went really fast. Plus, once it was over, I had some of the best crisps ever ('KP' Fresh n' Golden - amazing). For anybody who doesn't have a phobia of needles, I would certainly encourage blood donation. The only downside of the whole experience was the unfortunate double-chin situation that the raised bed gave me (as you can see from the photo, not a flattering angle).

Now on to my next adventure, I went off to conquer the ice rink. In order for you to understand my icy fear, let me take

you on a trip down memory lane - it's a child's 8th birthday, a party at the local ice rink, all of her friends are there...including one friend who is clinging on to the edge for dear life. This friend has never ice skated before and can't quite understand the attraction of moving really fast in a circle to the accompaniment of Shaggy's 'Boombastic'. I was that friend. Unable to even stand up on the ice, how the others mocked me.

But I'm over all that now. Or at least I thought I was, right up until I was in my first year at university. Picture the scene - it's a lovely winter evening, the lights glitter off the ice on Millennium Square. Unwilling to miss out on any Fresher antics, I went down to the rink with a crowd of mates - lulled into a sense of excitement and bonhomie, I even had visions of myself gliding over the frozen

VICTORY: Holly prevails over her disposition for fainting.

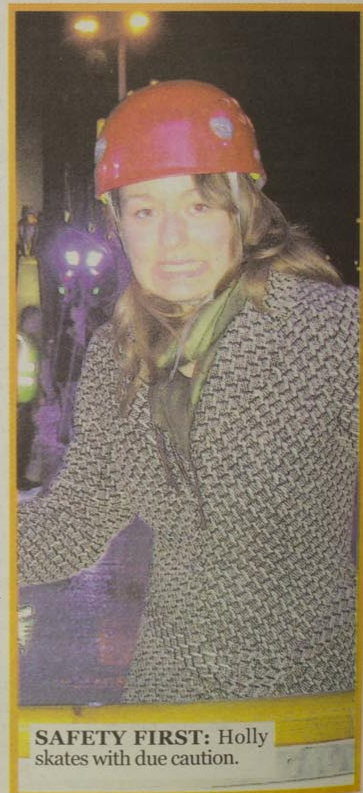


It all began with the beginning of the year. Am I the only person who still can't believe that it's 2008? Surely, at such a futuristic-sounding date we should all be sporting silver lycra and driving hover cars (possibly with a silver-haired side-kick who goes by the name of Doc)? If nothing else, I thought that by the time 2008 rolled around I would be so old that I'd surely have my life sorted. Huh, no such luck!

So, as it is a new year I thought it about time that I dusted away the cobwebs of 2007 and looked to a brighter, care-free future. This meant a return to the (always ill-advised) practice of thinking up a few

and laugh in the face of danger.

I have always liked Roosevelt's saying: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." (A noble saying, no doubt, although I doubt it would hold up if Mr Franklin was trapped in a very small room with a very hungry lion - the fear of being eaten alive might suddenly feel like a cruel reality). It's a saying that I thought very applicable to myself; I have no fears or phobias; I can hold a snake without so much as a twinge, I can lean over the top of tall buildings without my palms getting remotely clammy - I am, essentially, fearless...or so I thought. Then I was reminded of my



SAFETY FIRST: Holly skates with due caution.



COMPROMISE: Holly embraces the boots even if she can't embrace the sport.

“ Injury wasn't avoided entirely as I managed to whack my friend with my ice-skate when I took it off.

(although I've come to the conclusion that I'm definitely built for comfort, not for speed). The layers of winter clothing that I'd thought it necessary to wear also proved to be a schoolboy error – exercise coupled with fear meant that I was soon sweating most unattractively! I did succeed in not falling flat on my face, although injury wasn't avoided entirely as I managed to whack Sarah with my ice-skate when I took it off – apologies. It would appear that it's a dangerous sport all round – if God had intended such a crazy mode of transport, He would have given us colder winters and

pointier feet. Fact.

After we had gratefully taken off our skates, we headed over to the pub opposite the rink, the 'Cuthbert Broderick', which I was delighted to learn had become a Wetherspoons. Only £5 for two large glasses of wine – the perfect antidote for my white-knuckle experiences.

Overall, then, this has been a varied week. Thankfully it has opened up the door of blood donation to me, and I fully intend to go again. As for my other fear, I have decided that it will remain well and truly unconquered. Ice skating? Not even if Hell freezes over.

If you want to save a life by giving blood, check out www.blood.co.uk or the centre at 117 The Headrow; and if you're braver than me, the IceCube skate rink is in Millennium Square until 2nd March – Good Luck!

This week, special thanks go to the ever-fearless Miss Sarah Timothy for holding my hand as the blood drained away, and for preventing me from falling flat on my face. Thanks darlin'!

lake like something out of a Robbie Williams video. These images were quickly replaced with the grim reality of me, semi-conscious and sprawled on the ice like a piece of Arctic road-kill, whilst hordes of mocking 9-year-olds sped over my prone body. Grim. It was all down to a momentary lack of concentration whilst trying to sing along to one of the songs blasting out. To this day, I still blame Busted for the lump that formed on the back of my head.

My fear, then, is an unusual one. Yes, you may laugh - how I wish that I could be like everyone else, with socially-acceptable afflictions such as a fear of spiders or communal changing rooms. But no, instead I am unable to skate. Not only am I a big scaredy-cat when it comes to ice skating, but it combines two of my least favourite occupations – exercise and getting cold. Brrr!

This year, I watched with dread as the rink was constructed, knowing that it was about time I got rid of my ice-demons. So on Wednesday, Sarah and I went down to the Square – me noticeably dragging my feet. Disaster struck as they had no half sizes, although Sarah assured me that this was not a valid reason for not carrying on

from which I would recover, throw back my head and laugh, in a reckless, care-free manner. I would discover the joys of floating serenely across the ice. And did the pep talk give me a new-found determination and strength of will? In a word, no. I clung to the edge like Kate Winslet clinging to a life raft. My precautionary helmet did draw a few stares from my fellow skaters, although no doubt they were just jealous of my sensible-yet-chic safety clothing.

As with many things in life, my complete lack of ability was made all the more painful by all the people around me who were considerably better than I was, although I did find a kindred spirit in the form of a man in a trench coat, who was no doubt the epitome of cool when on dry land, but completely hopeless when on the slippery surface. Phew – I was not alone! Seriously, though, I can't see the point of this pastime because even for people who can make it round without hanging on, there's not much else to do. Isn't it even a bit, dare I say it, boring? Maybe I'm fortunate, then, as I at least experienced a more exhilarating emotion, although I think I'd take bored over terrorised any day.

I managed a few laps around the ice, for which I was immensely proud of myself

“ The precautionary helmet did draw a few stares from my fellow-skaters, although no doubt they were just jealous of my sensible-yet-chic safety clothing.

(well, you can't blame me for trying). As I stepped gingerly onto the rink, I was struck by just how ridiculous it all was. There I stood, a grown woman, scared by a bit of ice and some terrifyingly aerodynamic footwear. I was told that the worst thing that could happen would be a little fall,

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healthyweek2008

Leeds University Union.

Slanguage

With the arrival of the new year, it's time for some new words. *LS*'s resident linguists, **Jack Parrot**, **Victor Ken-Morrison** and **Michelle Augustus** assess what's peng and what's pants.

Passé Slang

CHUDDY (noun)

Chewing gum. Onomatopoeic.

CUSS (verb)

An outdated term referring to the act of insulting others. Used by the out of touch.

KOTCH (verb)

To relax, chill out, used typically by lower-to-high middle classes. Usually involves sofas.

GAY (adj.)

Neatly homophobic insult which manages to offend doubly.

MINT (adj.)

Denotes quality. Used by your parents when attempting to be down with the kids. See also: mega

MEGA (adj.)

Painfully 90s. Probably inspired by the Sega Mega Drive, which is equally out of date.

NAFF (adj.)

Tacky, very 90s. Possibly refers to "naff-naff", the apparently cool clothing company of the era.

PANTS (adj.)

Much-hated term of abuse towards poor objects. A mediocre term.

PEG IT (verb)

Only allowable when shouted at a high, childish pitch, when about to embark on an escape mission on foot from an approaching adversary.

Example: "PEG IT! MR. FLETCHER'S COMING!"

PHAT (adj.)

Mid 90s rap artists called. They want their slang back.

SKILL (noun, adj.)

Used to express your latent talent for an activity, or to express approval of an achievement by others.

WICKED (adj.)

Used by those ten years behind the rest of us. Denotes coolness.

Immortal Slang

COOL (adj., noun)

A timeless classic that will never stop being, well, cool.

FUCK OFF (adj.)

Pronounced as though one word. Used in situations of emphasis to impress upon the listener the sheer scale of the item in question.

Example: "Get that big fuck off <insert item here> away from me!"

MINGER (noun)

Requires an emphatic 'G' sound to prevent embarrassing "minge" connotations. Describes the non-aesthetically pleasing looks of a third party.

See also: munter

MUNTER (noun)

An evolved form of 'minger'. Its Germanic feel may give it a Deutsch flavour, but overall it refers to an ugly person.

SAFE (adj.)

Describes a reliable, quality individual or situation, and may be extended with the prefix 'bare' for emphasis.

New Slang

MINGE BIFKIN (noun)

Chav, scally or general undesirable. Has a tendency to jack phones.

HYPER-SUPER-BIEN / HYPER-SUPER-NUL (adjs.)

French terms of Orwellian-esque newspeak extolling supreme quality and failure, respectively. Use with caution: can imply lethal levels of pretentiousness.

GILBERT (noun)

A promiscuous woman who, like the rugby ball she takes her name from, has been passed around every male in the group. See also: village bicycle.

BABU / BABESS (nouns)

Mr. / Mrs. A new term to hit the colloquial scene, simply prefix it to a lady or gentleman's name for whom you wish to express respect.

SYNISTER WEASEL(Z) (noun)

Used to describe a cheating girlfriend, or in the plural a gang of giggling hen night ladettes. Popularised by up-and-coming grime crew, MC BLIZZARD.

TRISHA (adj.)

Describes an interfering individual who attempts to counsel or advise in situations of need. **Example:** "Stop being so Trisha".

How to wait out the winter

Banish those seasonal blues

Flailing on Ice

Coping with wintry months of 3pm sunsets and having feet so cold your toes have frozen together isn't perhaps the best way to start a new year. However, hard as it may seem, embracing this frosty hell is the way forward. Time to throw yourself headlong into the snow naked, as it were. First stop is the Millennium Square ice rink. Possibly not a good idea to throw yourself naked onto that. But grab some uber-trendy skates, don nineteen layers of knitwear, and strap a cushion to your arse and you're away. Torvill and Dean and their frickin' bolero will have nothing on you. Within mere moments you will have transcended to a level of elegance you never knew could be reached while wearing fleece. Or at least you will have entertained the crowds with your ambitious triple-lutz attempt. Plus Leeds General Infirmary is conveniently nearby.

Let it snow

You might not have heard about the Xscape Snowdome in Castleford, but if you're still bent on embracing the winter season after your ice-skating adventure then this might be right up your, er, slope. Enrol yourself and some fellow snow-loving buddies for some actual proper lessons and you're bound to learn some far more useful skills than anything you get from lectures. There's a toboggan run and everything. And an ice slide to whizz down on a giant inflatable ring. And a bar. What else could you possibly want? You winter blues will have disappeared before you can say 'shit, I'm going to crash'.

words/ **vivien king macdona**

Naff New Year Resolutions

While you're on the path of reinvention, why not get that daring haircut you've been considering? Fuck it, it'll grow back. Yours truly shaved off his omnipresent beard and moustache this January, much to the shock of my friends and compatriots. The sense of freedom and reinvention was, well... minimal, but still. It'll buy you five minutes of notoriety (or at least mild mockery) which is always worth the cost of a Toni and Guy haircut (or cheapo equivalent if you're skint). The third element of the holy trinity of reinvention is the new look: head out to the shops, pick up some of the sale items while hating yourself for being a generic January sale shopper. You'll probably never wear them again but for that glorious half hour where you imagine all the mysterious sexy strangers you'll pick up in your new life as an international sexual adventurer, you'll feel great. And anyway, you've still got the receipts.

Winter is a cold season. Don't let it freeze your heart: make that half-arsed effort to become the 'real' you and your little cockles will warm up like a log on a yuletide fire. It's that happy time again: New Year, and the cliched New Start. It seems everyone makes the post-Christmas resolutions to change their sagging belly, pitiful love life, dire financial state or unfashionable wardrobe, but how many of us really care enough to stick to them? Not many of us. Stuck to that diet long? Still managing to resist the cancerous allure of cigarettes? Thought not. There is a light at the end of the tunnel though. Thanks to the wonders of capitalism, the gyms and fitness suites of the city are offering discount introductory rates and free trials for all you financially-frustrated fatties aiming to shed that winter weight. Get in and take advantage and start shaping up into the svelte suave shape you should be.

words/ **matt andrews**

Ok, it's winter, get over it. Why our ancestors chose to populate this minuscule island which has about four sunny days every other year is beyond us, but we're here now. It's time to stop moping and deal.

Running...Everywhere

The cold is an evil that cannot be avoided, no matter how many layers we do, how many hot water bottles that we stuff underneath our knitted jumpers or how many times that we ask random strangers to share their bodily warmth with us. It is inevitable; the cold will get you. This we must accept but the Leeds Student has an ingenious idea of how to tackle the cruel fact of being chilly. Run, students, run. This fast-paced method of self-transportation will mean minimum exposure to the cold. Added to this benefit is that running causes increased bodily warmth - obviously a plus when traversing the arctic climes of Leeds. Then there is the benefit of fitness. Running will get your heart pumping and your body working. Screw the gym; this workout saves time and fights fat. And imagine the reaction of your acquaintance when they espy you sprinting across campus between Edward Boyle and the Union. They will naturally reach the conclusion that you are an important and busy person on an errand of great consequence - possibly commissioned by the CIA. Street cred will go sky-high.

The Uber-Umbrella

Yet to be manufactured, the Uber-Umbrella is the Leeds Student's brainchild. In brief, it is an umbrella with absolute coverage. Its spokes will reach far down to your ankles in order that the rain, slanted or vertical, cannot penetrate the umbrella and dampen your person. Naturally, in order for this to work, the umbrella will be transparent, allowing you to see where you are going whilst staying dry. The coverage will also provide insulation during those winter months and protection from the icy winds of Leeds. Not only this but such an umbrella will muffle unpleasant noises and provide a socially acceptable barrier between you and any undesirable acquaintance that you wish to repel. Any acquaintance with whom you would like to become more intimate with, simply invite them in, to share the private haven of you Uber-Umbrella. Romantic. We beg you, some enterprising company of Britain, make this dream happen.

Spontaneous Random Hugs

We have already mentioned the popular habit of asking random strangers to hug us in order to share bodily warmth. Unfortunately, many people believe that spontaneous random hugs are a social faux-pas and even a little bit weird. Leeds Student is here to protest. Not only is this a great method to gain a burst of warmth but also, the perfect way to meet new people. Who knows? Maybe your future partner in life is that blurry figure struggling up the wind-blasted hill, just waiting to be embraced by his or her one true love. However, spontaneous huggers be warned: if your hug-buddy seems somewhat bemused, frightened or resistant to your efforts, desist immediately. You may find yourself in a dingy prison cell before long, charged with GBH.

words/ **jessica parker**



LS2 Interviews... McLovin'



I hear you're not well at the moment?

No, I have a cold, man. It sucks.

Tell me about working on Superbad – what was it like?

It was a blast! The only problem was that I was 17 at the time we were filming so I had to be schooled on set while everyone else was off having a great time. But I got to have my share of fun. It was my first ever real acting job so there was a lot of learning but it was definitely a blast.

How did Judd Apatow find you then?

I just auditioned – they'd been looking for someone to play Fogle for a long time, over three months I think. They sent some emails to drama departments and three friends told me about so I just kind of auditioned and I was lucky enough to get the part.

Fogle / McLovin' turns out to be a bit of a hit with the ladies in Superbad. Do you get laid more now you're a movie star?

A little, yeah... (Laughs)

How did you get along with the rest of the cast? It looked like a fun movie to make.

Oh it was great. I guess I was the third leading man so I

spent a lot of time on set and then me, Michael and Jonah spent three months together going around and promoting the movie. We had to be in each other's company for a long time but we got on great. I still talk to the guys quite a lot.

How much influence did you have over the way Fogle was portrayed?

When we went to audition we improvised a lot but the character didn't really change all that much. The Fogle you see on screen is pretty much the Fogle I auditioned for but I enjoyed it so much, the whole process just really bumped up my acting skills.

Where do you think we would find Fogle 10 years from now?

I think he'd do a Van Wilder and stay in college for 10 years using up his dad's money (laughs).

What were you like at school? Fogle looks like the kind of guy who would have had a hard time.

It was easy for me at school. I went to a Humanities school where a lot of trust is placed on you to learn so it meant we could all cheat together. And it was pretty good with the ladies, too. I flirted a lot with the drama crowd.

Judd Apatow has had an amazing run so far...

Yeah, man, he's on a complete roll. But then he's so smart and quick, he deserves it, he's amazing.

And what's next for you?

I've just finished a film with Paul Rudd actually. I'm doing an animated film next and then something else with Judd, which I'm really looking forward to.

And what about the future? Do you have plans to take on a meaty dramatic role or are you happy with comedy?

I think for the moment I'll stick with comedy as it's what I'm comfortable with. Further down the line I'd like to maybe produce and make movies, and maybe one day I'll try something a little different but, for the moment, comedy suits me fine.

Did you contribute much to the DVD extras?

Yeah, we did a commentary on the film and I contributed to a lot of the other extras – there's loads there.

Are you a DVD / Blu-ray fan?

Oh man, yeah. I have a humungous DVD collection – literally thousands of them. And Blu-ray's amazing too, I'm just getting in to that and I think it's awesome.



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Competition!

Superbad was the surprise hit of the summer making a big name for Judd Apatow making stars of Jonah Hill, Seth Rogan and Michael Cera and ushering in a new wave of comedy. Superbad follows one epic night in the lives of soon to be high school graduates Seth and Evan. With the help of Fogle and a Hawaii driving license under the name of McLovin, Seth is convinced that this night could be the prime opportunity to lose their virginity before college and so follows the hilarious consequences.

In conjunction with the release of Superbad Summersdale have published a book entitled *How to Pull Women*, by Ed West which you can find online at www.summersdale.com and is available through all good bookshops. With the release of Superbad on DVD from 21st January Leeds Student in conjunction with Sony is offering some lucky readers the chance to grab some great Superbad prizes.

To be in with a chance of winning just answer the following question:

Michael Cera who plays Evan in Superbad is soon to be starring in which, soon to be released film, also starring Ellen Page?

Send all competition answers to ls2arts@gmail.com by Tuesday 29th January, including your full name and address.

The first prize winner will receive a Sony Portable DVD Player plus a Superbad DVD and *How to Pull Women* book by Ed West, but that's not all as 3 runners up will each receive a Superbad DVD and *How to Pull Women* book.

Smash hit comedy, Superbad, is released to buy on DVD, Blu-ray and UMDTM Video and to rent on DVD from 21st January 2008, courtesy of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.



HIGH-END HIGHSTREET

EARTH-MOTHER...

Romance

Anything feminine, floaty, or floral will grant you access to this camp. Sure to be 2008's great hit, it looks like it might be yet another summer of love. Roberto Cavalli, D&G and Diane Von Furstenberg all worked this look and the high street is sure to catch up soon. This look is so versatile - layering is key, use sheer vests and tees so not to look too bulky. Ruffles on skirts and dresses and floral, small prints are favoured to avoid looking too "mother of the bride" and keeps things cute. Most importantly this look is pretty - freshly sprung please, no straighteners, so out with the high maintenance glamour puss and in with the ethereal, innocent, sun kissed earth-mother.

High end: DVF, Roberto Cavalli, D&G, Luella

High street: Gap, All Saints, Primark, Monsoon Fusion



Roberto Cavalli



Asos.com £25

Grecian

This look, if pulled off spectacularly, can encompass many of this season's trends. Start with asymmetry, but this time think flowing Grecian goddess rather than nu-rave roller-skater: roused unstructured silks fixed with details such as ruffles and ties at the shoulder and then left to cascade down to the floor were seen at Lavin. For many Alber Elaze at Lanvin managed to sum up much of what was seen at this years Spring/Summer shows, showing chic, elegant dresses alongside tuxedos and bow-ties.



Lanvin

High end: Lanvin High street: ASOS.com

OR

words / chloe watson



Primark £14



Siwy £160

Asymmetric

Mostly taking the form of one-shoulder dresses and tops this trend featured in shows in both Milan and Paris. Jill Sander showcased a minimalist collection, using oriental inspirations to create clean lines. Her lilac one-shoulder sheaf dress ticks all the right boxes: romantic, sheer and asymmetric.

High end: Jill Sander, Alber Elaze at Lavin, YSL

Rive Gauche, Proenza Schouler

High street: Lipsy



Rodarte



Topshop £75



Lipsy £60

Hemlines

Skirts need to be pencil or structured A-line in a midi length (just above or on the knee). Marois Schwab brought the tulip shape back to the catwalk in sheer layered grey polka-dot whilst 3.1 Phillip Lim used block colours of red, orange and yellow to put some sunshine into a simple high-waisted pencil skirt. When it comes to trousers, think South of France yaughting chic - cut just above the ankle. Please under no circumstances confuse this with the trend which we all pray will never return - capri pants.

High end: 3.1 Phillip Lim, Marois Schwab, YSL Rive Gauche, Gucci.

High street: Gap, Levi's



Topshop £17



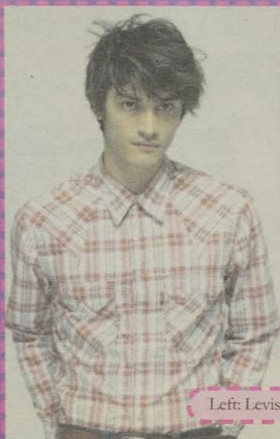
Asos.com £25

Statement Shoes

These are not shoes. You do not attempt to walk anywhere in these, they are simply for standing statuesque and looking absolutely magnificent. Miu Miu's candlestick stilettos are exactly that, stiletto heels that are candlesticks with fantastic red and yellow flames on the heel. Every girls favourite shoe designer Christian Louboutin did not disappoint taking fetish to a new level with electric blue leather strappy platforms covered (think scary dog collar) in gold studs. Chanel toned it down for the timid among us continuing the candlestick theme with black pumps with a subtle yet stunning and oh so versatile bronze candlestickesque heel.

High end: Chanel, Burberry, Miu Miu, Christian Louboutin, Alexander McQueen
High street: Office, Aldo, ASOS.com

SKINTED AND MINTED



Left: Levis (£33)



Centre: Topshop (£25)



Right: Oxfam (£5)

Now here's something you don't see everyday - a style that looks great on both men and women. And no, we're not talking about UGG boots (boys, for the last time, please avoid.) This month's must have is the checked shirt - the 'lumberjack', the 'cowboy' call it what you will, it's in. For girls a long baggy shirt is what you're looking for. Wear it open with a white vest top underneath, or as a short dress with a belt to achieve the 'just flung on the first thing I saw' look - with genuine minimum effort. For boys, a fitted shirt works best. Button it to the top for the ultimate geek-chic indie boy style or, for the more conventional of you, roll up the sleeves, stick a white t-shirt underneath and you're hot to trot. Alternatively, be a dare devil and go for a short sleeved shirt to get that old school, mods and rockers look. If you're quick enough you might still be able to snap up one of these bad boys in the sales. If not, scour vintage and charity shops for a bargain buy.

words / sophie herdman

LG - VIEWTYFUL?

We don't usually get too techie here in the fashion section but we couldn't help notice the new LG phones that are poking out of the pockets of many a student around the Union. After some closer inspection we realised that LG have been giving away loads of the things all week down in the Terrace bar. So we thought that we'd be a bit clever and cast our fashion eye over the stylish looking phones.

As ever we endeavoured to get a freebie from the LG promo girls and they said that they would lend us one of the new nifty phones. We felt very special. We are after all high powerful journalists - we can demand any gadget or item of clothing we want and companies will fall at their knees to give us their wares. Phillip Greene loves us more than Kate Moss, fact.

Well, actually it turns out that LG are lending out phones all over the place, as well as giving them out for people to keep for free. Humph. With newly deflated egos we decided to have a play around with our new found stylish gadget. The touch screen phone went with our outfits a lot better than our current phones, both of which are from the Stone Age and both of which are pretty much broken.

We soon realised after a quick play around with it that it was seemingly a smaller and lighter feeling version of the i-phone, except the Viewty comes with a little pen, attached to hand write text messages and press buttons - it's caring phone for people with chubby fingers. Unfortunately the handwriting text function doesn't really work well, but that doesn't matter too much as it is likely that 50 per cent of people



that have this phone will lose the little pen thing immediately.

It looks pretty slick and does all kind of clever things, it even connects to your computer and sends pop ups to your screen to tell you when the phone is ringing. The five mega pixel camera is also very swish and you can Bluetooth all your movies and pics straight through to your computer.

All in all we were pretty impressed with the phone's ability to be a smart fashion accessory. It is slightly maddening to use at first, but once we got used to it and accepted the fact that it is quite simply a bit smarter than the average human it was fun to use. So if you see the LG girls around the terrace so what you can get your hands on a freebie.



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eco-friendly clubbing.

Ethical clubbing can mean more than giving seals anaesthetic first. Ben Puddle reports on the world's first Sustainable Dance Club.

Professor Han Brezet of Delft University of Technology is the scientist behind the Sustainable Dance Club in Rotterdam, a project that aims to make nights out more eco-friendly. The clubbing industry has finally realised it must adapt to the ethical climate.

Enviu is the company responsible for the project, and Stef van Dongen - the scientist responsible - strongly argues the need for eco-

clubbing. "A nightclub uses 150 times the energy of an average household and produces around 12,000 litres of gas to recycle bottles and glasses each weekend."

Converting the ideas and science into a usable design is Alijd van Doorn. Alijd is the project manager of social architecture at Doll, a renowned design firm in Rotterdam.

"It's not just about architecture and design," Dongen explains. "The key is to utilise the interaction of clubbers with the environment. I love dancing and know that in the clubbing community you're forced to try to connect sustainability to self-interest and playfulness, somehow. I think the best way is to make them part of the solution."

The eco-collective looks at the energy expenditure of clubs and ways of reducing it. Some of the technology is already available, but's not widely used in clubs. Acoustics, used from examples as early as the Roman amphitheatres, uses surfaces that make sounds "bounce" off them, allowing music to be played at a lower volume without a loss of quality, and saving electricity.

Ideas have been suggested that make use of the latent energy expended in dancing. Using a simple mechanical system in the dancefloor,

clubbers' feet press a surface membrane that works a flywheel to generate voltage. "You dance on some fabric and the air is pumped out and back again, like a pair of bellows," Brezet explains. "You use the air for micro-turbine and micro-generators."

The electricity is fed back into the system to light up the dancefloor, but research is being done into routing the surplus electricity to power the air conditioning. "This is not recycling, it's upcycling," says van Dongen. "It's about finding ways for consumption to generate positive benefits via the interaction between clubbers and the club itself."

A more complex system for the power-dancefloor, known as piezoelectricity, uses crystals that give off a small voltage under pressure. This is far from widespread commercial use, as it's prohibitively expensive and loses efficiency unless you can predict where the feet will fall. Other eco friendly initiatives include rainwater lavatories, biological beers, walls that change colour according to body heat and an intelligent LED lighting system.

The advantages of sustainability for business and the environment are unquestionable. Professor Brezet is optimistic about the future

CLUBBING: Not really relevant, but a good gag nonetheless.



DANCING: No longer destroys the rainforest.

of eco-clubbing, pointing out the short lifespan of the average club and the willingness for them to invest in new ideas. "They need to get used to the idea that clubbing and sustainability can go together," he summarised, "It's not a gimmick."

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Leeds Listings.

So we decided to let you know about the calibre stuff going on this semester: in the uni, outside the uni, even *gasp* at the Met. Because then hopefully you won't forget and just end up going to Fruity every week. We proudly present the coveted Best of The Next Two Months.

January

25th Haggis Horns @ Smokestack.

These horn players are fresh from their Mark Ronson tour, and have also played with the delectable Ms. Winehouse. Plus it's at a great bar. Feel cool.

26th Basement Jaxx @ Discoteque.

Anyone whose seen them live know what they bring to the table. I would bet tht their DJ set would be joyous and filth at the same time - kind of like an entire night of 'Where's Your Head At?'.

26th Vitalic @ Wax: On

Vitalic the Veteran, that's what they call him. Cos he's been 'doing it' since 96. An electronic dance music head honcho, you'll not have heard of him too much, but that's cos you're not underground. He prefers cocaine.

27th Don't Panic Party @ the Faversham

Loads of cool art on show, loads of cool DJs including Cassette Jam and Death on the Balcony, loads of whiskey. This'll be one sweet gig. Wait-it's on a Sunday?!

27th The Leg Up @ Elbow Room

Conscious hip-hop lovers unite at one of the best venues in Leeds. The Herbaliser, Benji B from Radio 1 Extra and some new cat called Paper Tiger. I trust the promoters at this club, so let's go! It's gonna be better than Westwood, at least.

27th Funky Dory @ Space

let's hear it for the Hoxton whores! not the delectable ladies of the night but the dirty DJs calling in Funky Dory's 3rd birthday. Sexy night here, so this means if you get there looking like shit, you're gonna get drinks spilled on you.

31st Ice Cream @ The Cockpit.

You wait ages for a good gay club night, and...one comes along. Modern, slick and bolstered by live bands, this should be the one to test the mighty Pink Pounder Part II.

31st The Kooks @ Brudenell Social Club

You're not seeing things. One of the biggest bands in the U.K. playing one of the smallest venues in Leeds. Lie, steal and pillage your way to a ticket. It will be memorable.

February

1st TY @ The Faversham

One of the only really credible UK hip hop stars will climb out of his usual venue of the HIFI club to engage a bigger audience at The Fav. Last time he brought amazing singers and a double bass with him. £6 in advance or £7 on the door. Either way it's a bargain.

6th Simian Mobile Disco @ The Cockpit

OK, so they're not Justice or Boys Noize, but they're still pretty damn good. Remember that 'We are your Friends' tune? oh yeah.

7th Andy C/Valve Soundsystem @ Stylus/Pulse/Mine

The top boy returns with another handful of this year's bangers. The Valve system offers no respite for your ears, either. Hands up who still likes Andy C!

8th Digital Society @ Myhouse

With a line up that would grace any venue in the world, Digital Society announces UK Trance icon Matt Hardwick as headliner. After 10 Years residency at Gatecrasher, he should be. With all this garage renaissance going on...my money's on trance for 2010. Believe.

10th Queens of the Stone Age @ the Refectory

Josh Homme, the lead singer for this band is over 6 feet tall, ginger, and still gets laid all the time. How is this possible? He is also charismatic as hell, and is as big a badass as if he came from...down there. Imagine what his music sounds like.

16th I Was a Cub Scout @ The Cockpit

Gorgeous indie music from two boys who seem to be unable to say boo to a goose. Check the myspace and buy the tickets in one, fluid motion.

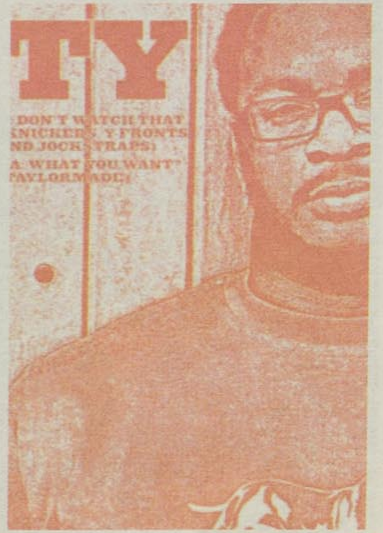
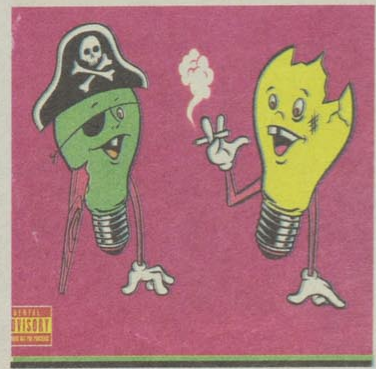
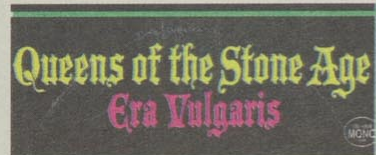
24th Gallows @ Leeds Met.

The coolest band in the world right now (according to the NME). Worth seeing to a) cement the NME's position as Bible or b) rinse them for having worse taste than your little brother.

26th Duffy @ The Brudenell Social Club

What's with the Brudenell? Again they manage to book one of the hottest UK talents for absolutely ages (just check the myspace) and *quelle surprise* tell nearly no-one. So someone tell me how it's nearly sold out already? Did I already say lie steal and bribe?

words/ karim khan



Househunting 2008: D

This time of year sees the annual scrabble for the best houses in Leeds. But how do

A violent knock at my door at God-knows-O'Clock and five eager looking boys stumble into my bedroom (this is not the beginning of a recurrent fantasy of mine). I peep up from behind my duvet, stare at these intruders and try to remember whether I was wise enough to don any pyjamas last night.

Another figure appears amidst this unwelcome gathering that is rapidly diffusing at a worrying rate across the confines of my petite room. Through my half-opened and uncontact-lensed eyes, I can just about distinguish the markings of a familiar goatee; assiduously shaven to a remarkably fine, dark line and trimmed to perfection. It is my Landlord. He bellows chirpily, 'Hello there! Is it OK if we look around?' I glare up at him and his motley crew with despair as they occupy the entirety of my box of a bedroom and reply, 'Around? What else, exactly, is it that you would like to see?' They snigger whilst I draw the covers over my head and pray for their departure. I hear them trundle out and move on to torture my housemate next door whose remarks are somewhat less restrained on being awoken: 'What the f**k?!' A few minutes later and I believe the ordeal to be over. However, a subtle tap-tap at my door signals it is not. They can't possibly want to see more. 'Yes!?', I shout. One of the crew

opens and puts his head round the door. He says, 'Sorry, but you were the only one up and about.' (I process the words 'up and about' with some incredulity). He continues: 'We just wanted to check, what do you think of this Landlord?' My answer: 'Right now, not very much.'

This unfortunate experience reflects a central theme of our student population's house-hunting: too early. I refer less to early morning visits, as unreasonable as this 12.30 PM invasion was, and more to the annual rush around January and February. I heard last week that a group of Freshers had been told by an unscrupulous Landlord that, should they have failed to sign for a house by Tuesday 22nd January, they would probably not get one at all. No doubt they swiftly signed for a leaking pile of crumbling bricks featuring a classic garden port-a-loo (A.K.A. the only toilet) and a rustic, eco-friendly bucket for shower for the bargain price of £75/week each. Panic is a dangerous and overpowering emotion. It is also, unfortunately, one that many Landlords play on in order to flog their houses early and profitably. News just in: there is a housing SURPLUS in the Leeds Hyde Park, Burley, Woodhouse, Little London and Headingley areas. Certainly you might argue that in order to get the best houses, you must search and

sign early. However, this is not necessarily the case. Susan Nash, Education Officer at LUU, didn't sign for her house until May. 'Previously, I've always signed around January and February, believing that you had to but last year, I took a chance and I've ended up with the best house that I've ever had in Leeds.' Indeed, it is believed that some Landlords hold their more desirable properties back. These, after all, are almost guaranteed sell. Properties less likely to 'wow' students are consequently given far more viewings in order to maximise the chance of their being snapped up. The especially hectic and "competitive" house-hunting season of January and February is one of the best times to unload the more inferior flats and houses upon the eager and unknowing student. Rumours fly, pressure mounts, disputes arise and the desire to just get it sorted increases daily. It's an exhausting business and one rarely without complications. Rob Damiao, third year Politics student 'has noticed the problem: 'Landlords can exert a lot of pressure on students, especially Freshers, to sign for a house. This can lead to students getting a very rough deal on rent and living in a house fraught with problems and promises to fix them that never materialise. The fact that Landlords get away with it is a joke.' Freshers are of course particularly vulnerable

to the condition of premature buying, knowing relatively little of the Leeds housing market and keen, in that first flush of independence, to secure a property with their friends. Friends, incidentally, that they will probably have known only five or six months, possibly less; an additional reason to perhaps wait that little bit longer before signing on the dotted line.

I'm not suggesting that we all wait until summer to find a house. Although, incidentally, most students in cities such as London don't usually house-hunt until this time of the year for the same September move. But there is certainly a panic, propagated by Landlords and students alike, that makes this time of year extremely stressful for many of us. So how can we tackle the problem? What seems essential is that more information reaches students on what the Leeds housing market is really all about and how best to play it. Rush-buying is far from the only danger for the Leeds student house-hunter and it is imperative that steps are taken to safeguard and protect the student population from being exploited by a marketplace of which they have had little experience. Rest assured it's never too late to find a house. I just hope we're not too late in saying so.

words/ jessica parker

How do you rate your landlord?

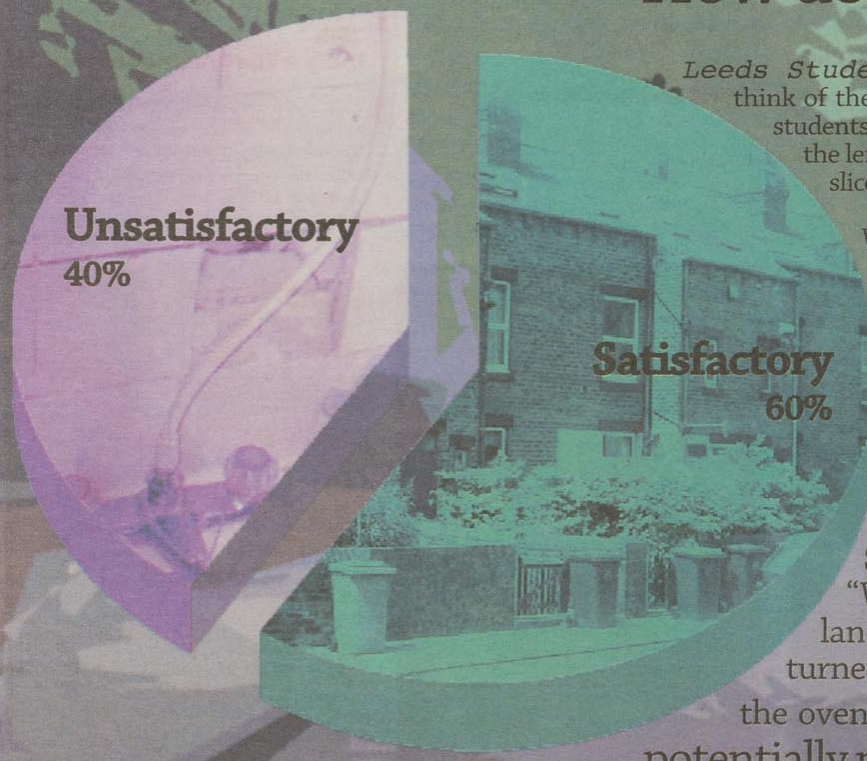
Leeds Student conducted an informal poll to discover what Leeds students think of their landlords. Results were somewhat of a surprise with most students indicating they were happy with their landlords. The pie chart to the left represents those who are happy with their landlord (the green slice) versus those who are unhappy (the purple).

What does this mean? Are the Leeds housing scandals exaggerated? Or are Leeds students just ignorant of the rip-off merchant landlords out to capitalise on naive renters and easily-led students? It's hard to say.

What we can conclude is that dodgy landlords **do** exist and with a bit of care, it's possible to avoid them. Check out <http://unipol.leeds.ac.uk> for the university's own housing agency.

Sam, International Development 2nd Year

"We don't have a gas certificate in our place, and the landlord got a dodgy handyman in to fix our oven. It turned out that it was leaking gas for two weeks- not only the oven itself but the gas pipe itself. So our landlord potentially put our lives in serious danger."



Do you know the score?

Do you avoid being taken for a ride by dodgy landlords? *Leeds Student* investigates.

Frankie, Theatre Studies 2nd Year



"Our landlord never does the jobs that need doing - we've had damp walls, a broken shower and faulty locks. They don't seem to care about their tenants."

Hannah, Psychology 2nd Year

"When we first moved in our landlord hadn't done anything he'd agreed to on the tenancy agreement. We rang him eight times about the leaky toilet- it's been broken since September...!"

Ben, Physics 3rd Year



"Last year it took ages for our independent landlord to give our deposit back. We were waiting for letters to be sent from utilities companies and we've only just got it back, seven months later."

vox pop

we get your views on the standard of student housing and landlords in Leeds

Jenny, Contemporary Art 4th Year

"The washing machine in our house was left broken for six months. It had leaked so much we needed a new carpet in the next room but our landlord just ignored us and only got it replaced this month in time for the new prospective tenants to look round."

Kate, Music 3rd Year

"Our house has a leaking roof and has done for ages. We've been in the house for two years and it's still leaky. The landlord is finally organising for it to be replaced but it'll probably only be finished by the time we've moved out."

Carley, Fashion Design, 3rd Year



"The landlord we had last year claimed he needed to buy a new sofa for our house after we moved out, taking the money out of our deposit. He then forged a receipt for it so he could charge us for more than it was worth. He let the lawn grow to knee height and then turned up to cut it, not with a lawnmower but with a chainsaw!"

Barry, New Media 1st Year



"It always takes so long for our landlord to get anything fixed. I've lived in the same house for three years and the shower hasn't worked properly for the entire time."

A side

by Helena



Album of the Week

British Sea Power
Do You Like Rock Music?

(Rough Trade)

This decade will, without a doubt, be remembered as the real birth of the digital age. Some will lament the 00s for the destruction of the music industry, (perhaps a little over the top) some will praise them for the technological leaps that have enabled every man and his synth to be an artiste, but surely the question is, will anyone remember the music?

The marketing and distribution is, as everyone knows, the hot topic of recent years. The NME have recently implied guitar music is on the way out, and that songs about cups of tea and what we get up to on the weekend are a thing of their own, brief, past. It doesn't really matter in the end; the Pigeon Detectives, the Kate Nashes of today won't last, who cares?

What is important is that the record company may be on the way out, too. Who would have predicted in the 90s that iTunes would become the leading online music distribution site? Who would have predicted online music distribution be a term that would strike fear into the hearts of record labels everywhere.

When the cassette tape was popular in our youth, DJs used to ask us not to record the chart shows, but we did. Whether you believe we are morally accountable for illegally downloading music or not, what has become clear is that labels like EMI shouldn't have taken the approach they did. Suing Napster and taking Joe Bloggs to court has not been a successful endeavour. Shouldn't labels, like EMI, have taken Apple's line - and jumped on the digital revolutionary bandwagon?

Apple are responsible for twenty per cent of music downloads and eighty per cent are made up of illegal programmes like Limewire.

Radiohead's *In Rainbows* may, in fact, epitomise the record company's loss of control this decade. Will this decade be remembered for New Rave? Anti-punk? Post-folk? Regurgitated whatever? Or will



it be remembered as the decade when the record companies finally lost their grip on the artist, and us?

British Sea Power's third album opens and closes with the same stark line drifting in and out of the mix: "We're all in it, and we close our eyes". This pretty much sums up BSP's intentions for the record - merging the skewed post-punk of their already-classic debut *The Decline* with follow-up *Open Season's* pastoral grandeur, the Brighton band have fused their tendencies towards the anthemic and the ethereal, and created their most effortlessly confident album to date.

'Waving Flags' symbolises everything the band have achieved in the three years since

Open Season beautifully epic pop monster which simply swoons out of the speakers on a tidal wave of strings, distortion and heavenly choirs, immaculately produced by the band



Grizzly Bear

Friend
(Warp)

Grizzly Bear made a lot of friends with their 2006 LP *Yellow House* and the title of this mini-album, essentially an offering of assorted treats, can perhaps be read as both a gift to those fans and an excuse to involve their own musical friends, who offer a cover each. Also present are original compositions, their cover of Crystals' 'He Hit Me', and various new versions and recordings of older songs.

Despite its constitution, *Friends* is pleasingly cohesive, furthering the epic folk sound exhibited by the band's Warp releases. Fans of the LP will relish the reworkings early tracks are given. The opening 'choir version' of 'Alligator' begins similarly to the pleasantly dirge-like original from *Horn of Plenty*, soon builds to the orchestral *crescendos* have come to expect, leaving the album version sounding more like a demo. Similarly, 'He Hit Me' is gleefully and successfully incorporated into the band's sonic palette, with the oft-aped lyrics 'He hit me, and it felt like a kiss' given a new poignancy when sung by openly gay vocalist Ed Droste. The only original song 'Granny Diner' continues the theme of despairing domesticity with the curiously affecting lament 'I always clean up the kitchen'.

The collection has an identifiable aural coherence; indeed, it is the tracks that stick out where it falters. The pastoral mood is rather disturbed by the otherwise palatable pop-electro cover of 'Knife' by CSS; Band of Horses maul 'Plans' until it sounds like unnerving bluegrass from a hellish dimension; Atlas Sound fare only slightly better with a hypnotic, dream-folk reworking of 'Knife'. Although they close the EP nicely, the arc is lessened. Certainly a worthwhile complement to the canon, *Friend* will please those who are after a new Grizzly fix, and have the ability to skip tracks at



themselves. Lead singer Yan's growls and sighs propel the track, which deals with illegal immigration and underage drinking. Likewise, 'Atom' starts off in ballad territory, before taking a complete 180-degree turn and charging headlong into a big, dumb, two-chord thrashalong, making for one of the most exhilarating moments in the band's canon. Not bad for a track about nuclear physics.

Aside from the impeccable production, the



The Magnetic Fields

Distortion
(Nonesuch)

The Magnetic Fields' latest effort comprises of a disparate mash of the pop magic fans have come to expect, and what appear to be misplaced Christmas jingles. The band's exploration of concepts in constructing albums is by now familiar; upsettingly, this album lacks much of the integrity of previous ones, not just because of its extremely limited driving concept (lots of the songs are, um, distorted) but also as a result of a distinctly mediocre first side. Perhaps this is unwarranted, but I can't help but draw comparison with Melvin Burgess, whose drive to constantly outdo himself sapped his novels of all creativity. True: this album is not quite as devastatingly limp as *Doing It*, but it leaves a lot to be desired, especially when compared with *69 Love Songs*. Maybe it's asking too much for all the Fields' driving concepts to be that vast, but it remains that, next to an album of sixty-nine songs about different aspects of love, *Distortion* is somewhat unimpressive.

That is not to say that *Distortion* is charmless. 'Zombie Boy' in particular is ravishing: a skeletal piano melody weaves around the menace of the bassline; this song at least works fantastically as a distorted piece. 'Till The Bitter End' restores Merritt's security as the elder statesman of dark pop, the narrator resigned to debauchery and easily being as atmospheric as 'Hotel California' desperately wants to be.

For the most part, though, it's hard not to feel Merritt has taken this collection no further than the lower limit of its potential. Frankly, this album is The Kooks to *69's* Libertines, and its underlying plaintive charm is not enough to convince a listener of any kind of sustained quality. (7)

Albums.

best thing about *Do You Like Rock Music?* is hearing Yan's brother, bassist Hamilton (whose shaky delivery underpinned earlier tracks like 'Blackout' and 'The Land Beyond') come completely into his own with his songwriting and vocals; he sounds far less scared of the microphone than before, and the three best tracks on the album belong to him. 'Open The Door' is the closest BSP have ever come to writing a love song, while 'Down on the Ground' is the kind of driving, string-laden wig-out we thought only his brother was capable of. The best of the lot - hell, probably the best track BSP have ever written - is 'No Lucifer'. It's another one of Hamilton's, and within its three glorious minutes you'll find a wrestling chant, thunderous drums, a near-perfect chorus, and references to the Hitler Youth, Israel's Megiddo valley and "a little lost roe deer". The last time we were this floored by a pop song, it was Arcade Fire's 'Keep The Car Running'; if there's any justice, the world will belong to British Sea Power much like last year belonged to their Canadian cousins. Indeed, much like *Neon Bible*, *Do You Like Rock Music?* is the sound of a band believing their own hype and creating the grand folly of a record we all knew



Flying Lotus

Reset EP
(Warp)

Electronica labels, known previously for drill 'n' bass and ambient experimentation, seem recently to be expanding their horizons: dubstep artists are being picked up in droves by Planet μ , while Warp are giving leftfield hip-hop some much deserved attention. In the past, Warp's hip-hop beats were mostly provided by label veterans Nightmares on Wax and Prefuse 73, though added to this roster are artists such as ex-antipop consortium member Beans and, most recently, Flying Lotus (n//Steven Ellison).

His first Warp release is *Reset EP*, six pieces of mostly instrumental hip-hop littered by the occasional sample. The latter is provided by Brighton singer/songwriter Andrey Triana on *Resets* first, probably best, track 'Tea Leaf Dancers'. Portishead comparisons are understandable, although the breathy vocal, layered with odd, almost indistinguishable effects, manages to make itself distinct from Gibbons' peculiar stylings. The hypnotic, pulsating waves of synth that provide the backing set the tone for the rest of the work, although it is unfortunate that they mark its high point. Notable, however, is 'Spicy Sammich', a track built for testing (or perhaps breaking) your subwoofer; a dense bass texture pervades the work, broken up by static, incoherent warbling, and clunky percussion.

The remainder of *Reset* ticks all the boxes for adequate trip-hop, though it suffers from being too often reminiscent of other works. A satisfying beat pattern or purposely over-produced radio sample is likely redolent of DJ Shadow or Daedalus. This isn't an indictment of unoriginality: *Reset* shows promise and occasionally something novel, though it perhaps suffers from a lack of a tangible identity. Hopefully its more interesting aspects will be further explored for an LP. (6)

Live.

Gig of the Week

The Cribs

Brudenell Social Club

19/12/07

Playing three shows in as many days in aid of Cystic Fibrosis, The Cribs return to their spiritual home, and second home for many of Hyde Park's less salubrious residents, the Brudenell Social Club, showcasing each of their three albums under the banner 'The Three Days of Cribsmas.' Teenage boys cast furtive glances across the bar at Kate Nash, while various Kaiser Chiefs, Pigeon Detectives and members from what seem like every other band in Leeds renew old acquaintances - but it is to be a band from out of town who are to spring the biggest surprise of the night.

Hundred Reasons

The Cockpit
20/01/08

The most exciting aspect of Flood of Red is probably the lead singer's haircut, which fuses the 80s and the 00s together incorporating both a mullet and a side-swiping fringe.

Slightly heavier but equally monotonous are From Autumn to Ashes. Despite their latest vocalist, Francis Mark, being able to switch between melodic singing and a hardcore roar the overall sound is repetitive



and dull. To their credit they're a tight unit hitting every note but again the excitement comes not in the music but seeing the rhythm guitarist throw a hissy fit and storm offstage after facing technical difficulties and having a drink thrown at him.

Hundred Reasons decision to tour below Enter Shikari last year may have caused a few raised eyebrows but it seems to have reminded music lovers that the band even exist. That, coupled with latest single 'No Way Back', must be the reason for the impressive turnout tonight. This gives them confidence and perhaps daringly they play usual set-closer 'If I Could' second, leaving many of the newer songs to comprise the latter half of the show. 'Ideas Above Our Station' is undoubtedly still their career highlight but they manage to pull off the aforementioned tactic with the audience lapping it up almost just as passionately. Having the consistently energetic Colin Doran on board can't hurt the performance either. With a regrown ginger afro back intact the skinny frontman flails around both the stage and audience like an epileptic monkey. They finish with 'Silver' which goes down triumphantly despite the keyboard parts being inaudible... (7)

words/ luke fear

We are first treated to a Cribs 'B' sides set, with the Wakefield trio playing tracks from the era of their 2004 debut. Despite a few forgotten lyrics and a misplaced chord here and there, the band tear through their opening set with abandon. The admission from guitarist Ryan Jarman, after a "first and last ever" rendition of 'Song From Practice One', that they have run out of tracks they can remember how to play means we are left in the capable hands of Jonny Strangeways, an old friend of the band and Brudenell regular. The promised party atmosphere materialises in the most traditional form possible, with games of bingo and pass-the-parcel containing prizes such as signed carrots and Roy Chubby Brown vinyls.

By this point I have heard so many rumours that Sonic Youth/U2/Pink Floyd are going to play that, when it is announced it will in fact be Franz Ferdinand, a part of me doesn't quite believe it, but sure enough, on

Ida Maria

229, Great Portland Street
27/01/08

Any day now, this band will invade your homes. Signed to Sony BMG and with a string of MTV sets, it seems the music agents want to let us into their little secret slowly. The three Swedish boys and the one Norwegian girl that make up Ida Maria play with a mixture of swagger and joyful ferocity that make their folk-rock simply unmissable live.

So their stuff sounds OK on MySpace, but standing three feet away from a relatively suspicious crowd is always a real test of character - one that the band, and most noticeably Ida (the redheaded vocalist prone to smashing her equipment/self up on stage) take up with an impressive gusto. Heavy and melodic at times, light and snappy at others, the variety of influences is audible, and yet always tied together by the unabashedly stunning vocals. Comparisons with even Björk are credible here: elfin and coy, defiant and mesmerisingly powerful. What I like about her is that she is obviously a character at ease with her audience, cracking jokes and making wry little comments like 'come closer



to the stage: I can't see you!' It makes them a little more human - perhaps that's what Ida tries to portray by flinging herself into the drum-kit and guitarist, often with resulting injury and blood flow. She smiles ravenously as if to let us all know that she can take it. I leave not doubting her, or the bubbling popularity of this band that their agents smugly confirm. One of Sony's cockney reps asks Ida if she wants another drink. "Triple, Ida?" "Why not?" she replies. With a product this good, she can afford to get a little pissed. (8)

words/ karim khan

they come. New tracks 'Ulysses' and 'Can't Stop This Feeling' are aired alongside fan favourites, with the crowd lapping up every second of this incredibly rare opportunity. Despite the four-piece clearly needing to sharpen up, most notable in a hilariously rusty version of 'Take Me Out', it's brilliant to see the Glaswegians back in action.

If the crowd is at fever pitch when Franz Ferdinand emerge, the opening chimes of 'The Watch Trick' threaten to blow the roof off when The Cribs re-emerge. The next half hour flies by in a flurry of sweat and raw energy. After an epic 'Third Outing', the gig spectacularly collapses on itself like Cribs gigs have done for years and will do until the end of time. Ryan is shirtless, bloodied and crowdsurfing his way around the venue while Gary drains wave after wave of feedback from his battered bass. And, with that proceedings, are brought to a very disorderly close. (9)

words/ malcolm mathieson

Slow Club

Brudenell Social Club
21/01/08

I am still smiling from seeing Slow Club. Whilst I am, admittedly, a sucker for a spot of witty lyricism poured over some pretty backing vocals, I certainly didn't expect to be quite this bowled over. I'd be scrawling my initials with theirs in a heart on every piece of paper I own, if I could. I'd heard some songs online, but they were far more arresting in a live setting; Slow Club's Charles and Rebecca felt, at times, as though they had climbed on



top of a table and were singing to all of their friends. With just a guitar, snare drum and tambourine, their pared down performance allowed you to really focus in on the lyrics, which moved from the sardonic to the twee. I was apprehensive that the latter would be overwhelming, but, unlike other bands whose twee antics (handclapping, whistling, cutesy instruments, anyone?) seem highly pretentious, the banter between Charles and Rebecca, and also with the audience, was simply honest and charming. Even though the interaction within Slow Club was impressive - the songs were tightly performed, and there was real chemistry - the main highlights were really brought by Rebecca. Her vocals during the encore song, 'Apples and Pears', were stunning; she glided over a wide vocal range, perfectly complementing the gentle, almost spoken-word quality of Charles' contribution.

With people linking arms and dancing around me, and practically the whole crowd grinning from ear-to-ear, it's fair to say that Slow Club are definitely a band to be experienced live, and come highly recommended. (9)

words/ sophie green

B side

by Ramzy



So you hate my sunglasses? Well, your precious Leeds is dead
The Cribs, 2005

I realised over Christmas that, at this stage last decade, the 90s felt as though they were all but over. A spate of 'pop' acts marketed at eleven-year-olds remained to frolic vaguely through the debris of post-rave and Britpop, but nothing with any real 'identity' was born.

Which is ironic, because lowest-common-denominator pop outfits, largely the product of reality TV, ended up defining the decade that followed - or so we were prematurely led to believe; following the internet's overhaul of music distribution, any sense of cohesion or trajectory vanished and became replaced by thousands of micro-currents, with a net motion of zero. When *IS*

This I Was issued in 2001, The Strokes probably had little conception of the ocean of reactionary indie they had fathered but, seven years later, we still seem to be marketing their unfertilised seed as subversion (nu-what?). Whilst this is repeatedly cited as part of the way in which currents have vanished - the 'popular' music of the decade surely will seem to be 'independent' - I don't know that it will be all that clear with hindsight.

It has long been culturally posited that 'pop music' is an outmoded concept - that trends are no longer all-encompassing, and that there is too much choice available to us to be ruled by any sort of current. But a glance down the high street and into the indie clubs will tell you something else. Pop music has always grown out of genuinely subversive movements - insofar as it is ever possible to be so. Pop in the 80s grew out of punk and new-wave; pop in the 90s sprang forth from acid and post-Thatcherism. There is always the feeling of a sinking ship as the emphasis shifts into what can be sold, which is perhaps what we are retrospectively becoming aware of as regards the middle of the decade now, but are the Cribs' drowning cries really justified - or is the corruption of subversiveness itself part of the only trend that will eventually lead to an 'authentic' reaction that belongs to the 2010s (as though these epochal trends are anything other than contingent)?

No, because authenticity is of course impossible. Nothing is authentic. Genre is always born out of artifice, even when it has something to say. It is not pop music that is 'selling out', but the 2000s that - as does every decade - refuses to let go of what it thought would be its revolution. The trend no longer has such a strong discernable identity, but for those willing to look beyond what the identity claims to embody, it becomes clear that the decade has been defined not by haircuts but by pop-postmodernity. In the words of Idlewild, 'this wooden idea is how you sell reduction'.

Janu/ary falling i_ nto place

Somehow, you have all managed to survive nearly the entire month without a *LS Music* singles column. In a third page of reviews cunningly disguised as a feature, **Helena** and **Ramzy** remedy this with seventeen of the best/wo_rst.

The Maccabees - 'Toothpaste Kisses' - Fiction

'Toothpaste Kisses' effects a calculated lo-fidelity charm through a rose-tinted vocal filter and a rather intangible solo, but I feel the same way about it as I did when I reviewed *Colour It In* nine months ago. As it is the flagship single for a re-release of said album, it seems necessary to state again that The Maccabees' first LP is permissible affect at best, and they should really be building on it, rather than digging it up and replanting it, single version or not. (6)

Turin Brakes - 'Something in My Eye' - EMI

Turin Brakes are back with their fourth album and a plethora of brilliant new tunes. 'Something in My Eye' is a charming, eloquent song about the joy of parenthood and its echo-laden guitar twangs defy the more recent trend of electronic madness. (8)

Supergrass - 'Diamond Hoo Ha Man' - Parlophone

'Electrifying', says the 'Diamond Hoo Ha Man' press release. This is rather the issue. Supergrass have abandoned the striking Elliott-Smith-via-prog heart of their finest album, 2005's *Road to Rouen*, and gone for the jugular. It rocks, and as a single choice it makes wearying sense, but nerves don't necessarily sound like engine oil, and it is a shame to think that *Road's* rather damp reception might have caused them to lose theirs. (6)

The Little Ones - 'Ordinary Song' - Heavenly

A meta-love song, lyrically reminiscent of Gwyneth's testimony in Episode Three of the T. Davies *Doctor Who*, 'Ordinary Song' gives a believable reflection on something we have all done: falling in love with a song. Far from being trite, its imploring harmonies and irresistible rhythmic pull lend it a relatability that makes me wonder why I don't fall in love more often. (7)

Hot Chip - 'Ready for the Floor' - EMI

This is far from their worst single, but Hot Chip are (at best) hardly the KLF, and (at worst) excruciatingly pointless. (2)

Cut Off Your Hands - 'Oh Girl' - 679

It is with some embarrassment that I admit that a single with this title is the best thing I have heard for several weeks. 'Oh Girl' effortlessly achieves a melodic romanticism somewhere between Duran Duran and The Libertines, tracked by a vocal you probably shouldn't buy a used car from but might run away with. There's something heartbreakingly 1996 about what seems to be the most whirlwind love affair I have had with a chorus for some time. I think this is why I went into music journalism. (8)

Eastern Conference Champions - 'Single Sedative' - Geffen

People seem to like this but I can't really work out why. A distressing vocal sits atop a dull some-people-with-guitars backing. The lyrics pass me by. It appears to be The Fratellis but less distinct. (1)

Elliot Minor - 'Still Figuring Out' - Warner Brothers

Regardless of the orchestra and any classical training they may have, this is unforgivably boring. Whoever compared Elliot Minor with McFly needs to listen to McFly again: this is more like Blink 182 covering Queen for a Disney soundtrack. An extra mark for the packaging. I am in a good mood. (2)

David Ford - 'I'm Alright Now' - Independent

David Ford's new single opens with an uncanny likeness to Avril Lavigne's 'I'm With You' and goes on to be a relatively bland, violin driven

tribute to Damien Rice. The lyrics are earnest in the most negative sense of the term, and never quite reach the confessional tone they're reaching for. (4)

Jack Johnson - 'If I had Eyes' - Brushfire

The first single to be taken from new album *Sleep Through the Static*, 'If I Had Eyes' is a refreshingly upbeat version of the predictable break-up song. Whilst the main lyrical hook is poor, the chorus is strong, making this a mediocre piece of easy listening. (5)

One Night Only - 'Just for Tonight' - Vertigo

This Youthful North Yorkshire five-piece have been causing quite a stir with single 'One Night Only'. However, what all the fuss is about is unclear, as this boringly derivative, indie pop drive only seems to highlight their immaturity. (3)

The White Stripes - 'Conquest' - Warner

The third single from The White Stripes number one album *Icky Thump* is a cover of Corky Robbin's 'Conquest'. With raging guitars, furiously energetic mariachi trumpets and wailing vocals, this track is an outstanding tribute, featuring Jack's fastest solo on record. (8)

The Hoosiers - 'Worst Case Scenario' - Sony BMG

The Hoosiers follow on from the success of previous releases with a cheerful, enthusiastic take on pessimism. Distinctive, tuneful, yelping from Irwin Sparkes combined with bouncing guitars makes this a sure-fire hit once again. (8)

Robyn - 'Be Mine' - Konichiwa

Robyn does that thing that pop stars from Sweden do. She makes twee tunes cool. (7)

Underworld - 'Beautiful Burnout' - Underworldlive

I'm not really sure what Underworld want. The subdued, half-spoken vocal and the icy synthesiser hooks of the second single from *Oblivion With Bells* attempt to stimulate a bleak, abstract melancholy, but the song is scored to reflect the title: its shot at pop tragedy is too blatant, just like the album title in reverse (or 'Crying at the Discotheque'). Something in its expansive bass-led harmony and its cold, otherworldly arrangement - not really at home in any of the last three decades - is worth it; it's majestic enough, and familiar in most of the right places; but its taste is that of Robbie Williams covering 'We're the Pet Shop Boys': I'm sorry, you're not. (6)

Laura Marling - 'Ghosts' - Virgin

Laura Marling is an outstanding and under appreciated singer-songwriter with a beautiful voice and a truly poetic gift for lyrics. Her single 'Ghosts' tell of lost love with simple xylophone, percussion and fiddle accompaniment. Her debut album *Alas I Cannot Swim* is due out on 4th February. (9)

Stephen Fretwell - 'Now' - Fiction

In a world awash with male acoustic singer-songwriters, Stephen Fretwell outshines the likes of James Blunt so many times over that it's amazing he isn't more popular. Now is a beautiful as David Gray's best moments, and as credible as pre-mundanity Coldplay. (9)

Radiohead - 'Jigsaw Falling into Place' - XL

As the only track on *In Rainbows* that could have potentially come from most Radiohead albums, this seems like a rather silly choice for a single. The overbearing, lyrical hook arches in and out of a deceptively romantic narrative; when Yorke lets loose, one is reminded that Radiohead occasionally make fantastic singles, but the purpose would have been much better served by its doppelganger, 'Bodysnatchers' - which does the blue notes even more searingly, and the frustrated claustrophobia even more tightly. 'Better Still' would have been a single that actually sold the character of Radiohead's most organic record since *The Bends* and their most unashamedly pop ever. (8)

REFERENDUM 2008

LEEDS STUDENT EDITOR.

YOU ELECT THE LEEDS STUDENT EDITOR.

THIS WASN'T THE CASE IN 2006. THE EDITOR WAS APPOINTED BY A PANEL AND INTERVIEWED. HOWEVER HIND HASSAN, A 3RD YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT, BELIEVED THAT SUCH A SYSTEM WAS CONTRARY TO THE ETHOS OF LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION AS IT ALLOWED A SMALL SAMPLE OF PEOPLE, SOME OF WHOM WERE FROM OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTION, TO IMPACT GREATLY UPON A KEY SERVICE OF LUU.

HIND WANTED TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO CHOOSE WHO RUNS THEIR CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, BY RE-ESTABLISHING A CROSS CAMPUS BALLOT. SO SHE PUT FORWARD A MOTION AND ASKED THE MEMBERS WHETHER THEY AGREED WITH HER, AND IT TURNS OUT THEY DID.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE IN THE UNION VISIT: WWW.LUUNIONLINE.COM/REFERENDUM OR TALK TO DST OR EXEC ABOUT HOW TO WRITE AND SUBMIT A MOTION.

Leeds University Union.



WARNING! THIS HAS CHANGED.



Post-modern or a load of pants?

Harriet Knowles asks, "Is 'Echo Beach' making waves, or is 'Moving Wallpaper' more like watching paint dry?"

ITV1's new brain child is 'Moving Wallpaper' and following half an hour later, the Cornish soap 'Echo Beach'. 'Moving Wallpaper' is a drama about the

Brent and Andy Millman. The lines dividing reality became blurred, and it seems this was what the ITV1 producers were aiming for. Whilst 'Extras' was both cringeworthy and laugh-out-loud funny, 'Moving Wallpaper' and 'Echo Beach' are not. The main let down to this potentially interesting idea is 'Echo Beach'. The dialogue is stilted and fake and we have all seen the show's main events a hundred times before. January 19th's plot line seemed to be based around a series of

Grove' than to 9:30pm on a Friday night? The only thing that makes 'Echo Beach' vaguely watchable is noticing things that were discussed in

'Moving Wallpaper' come to fruition therein.

For example, Susie Amy was angling for a better back story for her 'Echo Beach' character in 'Moving Wallpaper'. She wanted to be a writer who always carries around a laptop.

Instead, in 'Echo Beach' she sits in the pub with a notepad and pen. This was probably due to budget constraints - how post modern.

It could be argued that 'Echo Beach' is supposed to be a badly made soap. The motivation behind Jonathon Pope's character is that he has been brought in last minute to save the failing series. Yet,

if it is supposed to be bad, why would anyone watch it? The little sidelines and in jokes found in 'Echo Beach' are not enough to make up for the truly atrocious acting and predictable storylines. Yet, it could be argued that 'Echo Beach' only seems a little dodgy because we have seen the sleazy antics that go on behind the scenes. One of the characters, Amy, offers the producer oral sex in exchange for a walk on part. He takes her up on the offer. I hate to think what Valda had to do in order to reappear in 'Neighbours'.

Maybe I should be a little more complimentary as ITV1 have done something new here. But how many times can we watch TV about making TV? 'Moving Wallpaper' definitely has potential, but 'Echo Beach' reminds me of an appendix. It's kind of interesting, but ultimately pointless.

words/ harriet knowles

“ I hate to think what Valda had to do to reappear in 'Neighbours' ”

the writers of 'Echo Beach'. After you've watched the behind the scenes cock-ups and the David Brent-esque managing styles of Jonathon Pope, you can watch the results in 'Echo Beach.' It is an awfully clever idea, but does it work? The answer to this question is a complex one; it seems that ITV1 has tried to re-create the head spinning antics of Ricky Gervais' character in 'Extras', who, whilst making a pittance as an extra, was also writing a show remarkably similar to 'The Office.' It became difficult to distinguish Ricky Gervas from David

misunderstandings between a group of pretty young things, that could have been solved if they actually talked to each other. Surely this level of mediocrity is more suited to 'Byker

What a load of balls.

On yer soapbox

Ever spluttered with incredulity as your favourite serial drama reveals another ridiculous storyline? Here's your chance to do better ...

What:

I don't know whether or not you've noticed, but the land of soap can sometimes be a little... miserable. People having affairs, dying, discovering new (and violent) relations, dramatic weddings swiftly followed by bitter divorce - the list goes on. Not an episode goes by without mascara running down cheeks, fists punching faces, and bags being thrown out on the streets. If you ask me, all those soap characters out there need to make a New Year's resolution. They need to start being a hell of a lot more cheerful. Wouldn't it be lovely if, just for once, the sun came out and everybody adopted a sunny and chirpy disposition?

How:

There would be no more of this soap rivalry, oh no. All the residents of soap land would come together as one big happy family. First of all, the Dingles of 'Emmerdale' would renounce their sinful ways, and start up a farm, specialising in free-range chickens and eggs. In line with their new charitable attitude, they would invite the residents of 'EastEnders', who have never before left London, to come and

Emmerdale becomes filled with ex-Eastenders, who are particularly impressed by the presence of washing machines in the homes of these otherwise backward folk. There is no more illness for these jolly dwellers, for the cast of 'Doctors' join them, bringing with them a cure for the common cold, and a newly revived Vera Duckworth from 'Coronation Street', much to everybody's delight. Corrie characters then start coming to 'Emmerdale' on pilgrimages, to see for themselves their beloved Vera back from the dead. They are enchanted by the merriness of this elysian world, as well as the never-ending supplies of hotpot, and they too decide to stay.



PEGGY: Looking sheepish.

The Woolpack becomes a busy hub of jolly social gatherings, fed by Marlon's exquisite cooking, and an excellent repertoire of experienced staff, although Peggy Mitchell is often mistaken for a sheep and removed from the building. Finally, the cast of Hollyoaks arrive, bringing with them great academic knowledge and the promising joys of youth. Soap land is forever filled with fresh air and rosy cheeks.

words/ anna burnell

The Argument

Which of these food freaks would win The Big Food Fight?

Gordon Ramsay

This culinary bout is a no-contest, a T.K.O before the microwave bell signalling the end of the first round has even rung: Gordon Ramsay is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the kitchen world. To pit him against the lexical incompetent that is Jamie (with every 'Pukka' uttered more spittle floods from his mouth) and the sentimental soul that is Hugh (a man who cries over dying chickens) is a total mismatch and one that will (hopefully) only end in terminal brain damage for the losers. Ramsay is a man who can have creases in his face the size of First World War trenches and still command respect. He does this by talking sense and taking no shit. Ramsay looks people firmly in the eye and says, "meat is too good not to eat", "more women should get back in the kitchen", and "you fucking cretin". They are mottos to live and die by.

words/ laurie whitwell

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Although Ramsay may be the boldest of the three fighters, Hugh has something that the other two fighters lack. Behind his curly haired mop hides the prowess of a viking warrior. Like a true contender, Hugh does not wear his heart on his sleeve and this enables him to keep his enemies guessing. Hugh is truly fearless, eating anything and everything that stands in his way. He even ate a baby placenta, and one can only hope that he makes mincemeat out of Oliver and Ramsay.

words/ harriet knowles

Jamie Oliver

Jamie Oliver could save your life. He could help the two thirds of Britons who are overweight to eat more healthily and stop us from literally eating ourselves to death. With the help of autopsies of a 25 stone man carried out by creepy Dutch anatomist Dr Gunther Von Hagens, and an army of nutritionists, Jolly Olly is a health hero. He even kindly comforted a seventy-year old nan who was told live on 'Eat To Save Your Life' that due to her morbid obesity, she only had seven years left to live. So pukka up for the kiss of life from old Jamie who would make a much better saviour than Gordon 'effing' Ramsey or Hugh never-had-a-wash-ingstall. If he can save our schools from the horrors of turkey-twizzlers then he can definitely batter Ramsay and Hugh. He's my kind of flavour shaker.

words/ maddy mcgarrie

Terrestrial

Films of the week

The Celestial



Spirited Away

BBC4
Saturday 26th January
8:00pm

Miyazaki's Oscar winning animation is always worth a second look. It tells the story of Chihiro who finds a passage to a magical land when her and her family find an abandoned fairground. Through consuming the food they find at the fair ground they are magically turned into pigs, and Chihiro is forced to work at a spa for fantasy creatures in order to save her parents from being made into bacon butties. The best bit about this film is when Yubaba's clinically obese son gets turned into a really cute mouse that looks a lot like a moomin. The moomin rat is then carried around by a tiny raven. If you don't find yourself regressing into a slobbering idiot and cooing like a baby, you have no soul. This film is not without its darker moments, No Face, after taking an unhealthy interest in Chihiro, swallows a frog and precedes to eat most of the residents of the spa. This, critics have argued, represents the greed of modern society. This film has it all: layers of meaning and analogy, and lots of cute animals as well.

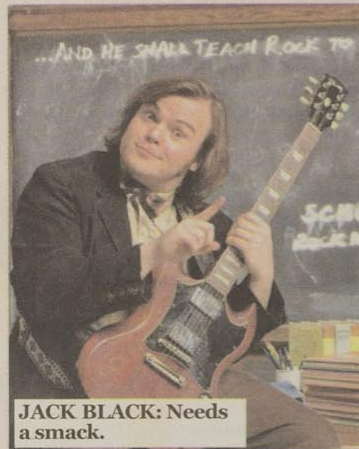
words/harriet knowles

Friday

School of Rock Channel 4 8.00pm

School may seem a lifetime ago but why not relive those days of homework, forged sick notes and horrible school dinners served by 'Big Barbara' by entering the 'School of Rock'. Favourite funny man and eternal child, Jack Black stars as a hapless teacher. He teaches rock music to a bunch of middle-class and overly worked brats and in turn receives a valuable lesson himself. With surprisingly great tunes and killer jokes this is something that will undoubtedly bring a bit of music into your Friday night.

words/marya yasin



JACK BLACK: Needs a smack.

Saturday

ER Channel 4 9.00pm

Every so often on the news you hear about members of the public passing themselves off as doctors. If you've ever fancied becoming one of these pseudo doctors, then you should take up watching ER. As well as showing you how to work a defibrillator and making you conversant in U.S. medic speak ("I need 50 ccs of hydromexachlorine now!"), the show still packs a genuine emotional punch after more than 200 episodes. In tonight's instalment, Neela is still shackled up at Abby's place recovering from some serious blood loss whilst the hunky Dr. Kovac is on sabbatical, and Gates attempts to get one of his patients onto a new drug.

words/thomas midlane

Sunday

Friends Channel 4 1.00pm

There is nothing quite as good as spending good quality time with your favourite 'Friends'. Although, you may have watched this particular episode a gazillion times why not relive the moments that made 'Friends' famous for its humour as well as its huge coffee mugs. Today, Monica buys expensive boots much to the dismay of Chandler whilst Phoebe tries to scrounge tickets to see Sting by becoming one of Ben's 'mommies'. Rachel, on the other hand, finds herself at the centre of resolving a family dispute when Joey's kid sister finds herself pregnant.

words/marya yasin

Monday

Damages BBC1 10.35pm

Forget 'CSI' and even 'The Bill'. 'Damages' is the newest legal drama cause a stir here in the USA. 'Damages' is about Ellen Parsons, a young hotshot lawyer, who goes to work for Patty Hewes. As we watch the legal battle between Patty's firm and millionaire Arthur Frobisher we are given sneak previews into the future, where Ellen's fiance has been violently murdered and Ellen is being accused of the crime. How did this cataclysmic event come about? And why, when Ellen first finds the body is she wearing just a coat and her knickers? Viewers can only hope that these tantalizing mysteries will be solved quickly, unlike 'Lost', instead of just being dragged on until we all get bored.

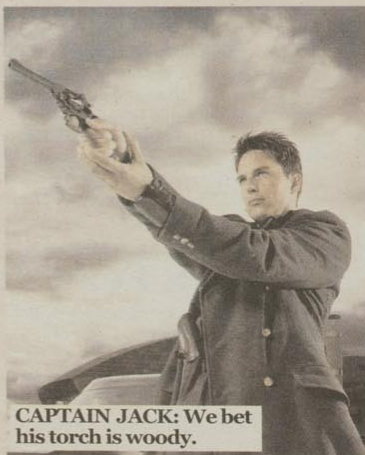
words/harriet knowles

Tuesday

A Boy Called Alex Channel 4
11:05pm

Alex Stobbs story is as impressive as it is emotionally heart-breaking. A sixteen year old Eton student who is an organist, composer and conductor. What makes him so impressive is that he has managed this with severe cystic fibrosis, a disease that has left him partially deaf and twice during the three month filming he nearly died. It follows him preparing to conduct a performance of Bach's Magnificat before an audience of several hundred people. If classical music isn't your cup of tea Alex's extraordinary courage makes it well worth watching.

words/maddy mcgarrie



CAPTAIN JACK: We bet his torch is woody.

Wednesday

What Women Want BBC1 8.00pm

Who wouldn't want to see Mel Gibson shimmying around in tights and waxing his legs? This classic chick flick sees the star getting in touch with his feminine side when he suffers an electric shock, causing him to be able to hear the thoughts of the women around him. At first, of course, this is slightly unnerving, especially as no father would want to hear his daughter planning her losing-my-virginity outfit. Well, you can't blame him for getting a bit freaked out really, can you? He eventually manages to use his new powers to help him find a new way of looking at the world, and to discover... what women want. I could have told him that. Chocolate.

words/anna burnell

Thursday

Torchwood BBC2 7:00pm

Series two of 'Torchwood' starts this week, described as Dr Who Porn for its sexed-up and more adult content. Starring John Barrowman, that all singing all dancing judge from 'Any Dream Will Do', this series he is joined by Freema Agyeman who played Dr Who's assistant, Alan Dale who played Caleb William from 'The OC' and most excitingly James Marsters who is none other than Spike from 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'. Expect some homo-erotic pashing between James and John this series too. Often considered Dr Who for grown-ups I think I'd much rather see David Tennant in a more adult viewing.

words/maddy mcgarrie

Freeview

Friday

Pop on Trial: the Final *BBC 4* 10.00pm

Pop undergoes the Nuremberg treatment on BBC4 tonight, in an attempt to try and divine which decade was best. For a medium that touches so many people (the formative events of most of our young lives are soundtrack by a pop tune or three), pop rarely gets the respect it deserves. It's great to see a programme which takes it seriously and looks beyond the froth and fizz. Okay, so it's presented by Stuart Maconie (Mojo magazine in human form) and the basic idea is artificial and ridiculous – surely every era should be judged on its own merits? – but only a loser would say that it doesn't sound like fun. Which decade shall triumph?

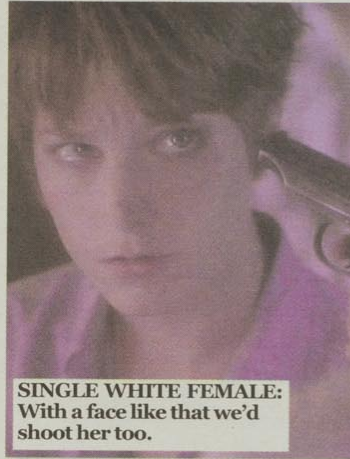
words/ thomas midlane

Saturday

Single White Female *Living TV* 9pm

Some of you may think that your current living situation is unbearable. Dirty laundry, moulding dishes and stained carpets may be the staples of a typical student home but consider yourselves lucky. In 'Single White Female', Bridget Fonda finds herself the object of psycho roommate Jennifer Jason Leigh's obsession when Leigh begins to emulate her every move. From copying her pixie haircut to destroying her relationship, Leigh is the roommate from hell. Watch this if only to make yourself feel better. Verdict: it will make your roommates look like angels.

words/ maria yasin



SINGLE WHITE FEMALE:
With a face like that we'd shoot her too.

Films of the week

The Satanic

Spiceworld: the Movie

BBC 4
Tuesday 25th January
8:30pm

Last year 12,000 British moviegoers voted 'Spice World The Movie' as the worst movie ever made in the MSN Movies survey. It even won the award for 'Worst Actress' at the 1998 Golden Raspberries. With guest appearances by Roger Moore, Meat Loaf, Michael Barrymore and Richard E. Grant, it's hard to imagine how such a star studded film could be so critically trashed. With director Bob Spiers, famous for 'Fawltly Towers' and 'Absolutely Fabulous', alongside the uber-talented girl-power babes, including the former UN ambassador Geri Halliwell, and an homage to the Beatles' 'A Hard Days Night', 'Spice World' should have been something truly special. Like every girl of the nineties I was a fully paid up member to the Spice Girls fan club with magazine and membership card. But looking back I realise just how brainwashed I was by the Spice Girls frenzy. Most notably my delusion that the music was actually good and that 'wannabe' is a real word. In fact listening to 'Wannabe' on loop for 90 minutes would be less painful, and less likely to make your ears bleed, than watching 'Spice World'.

words/ maddy mcgarrie



JAMIE: Cooking up a storm.

Sunday

Stranded! The Andes Plane Crash Survivors: Storyville *BBC4* 10.00pm

In 1972 a plane taking a student rugby team crashed in the Andes, leaving the surviving passengers stranded. 72 days later, 16 of them were rescued following an epic struggle for survival, which infamously involved them eating the flesh of dead passengers to ward off starvation. The last time the events were dealt with on TV was Five's less-than-reverent 2006 reality show *Alive: Back to the Andes*, where "celebrities" such as Adam Rickitt decamped to the mountains to chow down on raw meat. Fortunately for everyone, this documentary seems like a more respectful take on the story, bringing home its power even after thirty-five years.

words/ jim moore

Monday

Big Brother: Celebrity hijack Live Final *E4* 8.30pm

You have to admit that this replacement of Celebrity Big Brother has certainly had a twist. What a refreshing change to watch the tortuous existence of contestants with actual talent, rather than already famous people who never had any. So perhaps you have been eagerly awaiting this final with baited breath, or maybe you are one of those people who couldn't care less but just feels the need to be in the know in your Tuesday lectures. Possibly you're reading this right now and wondering what or who Big Brother is, leading me to suspect that you just emerged from a reclusive house of your own... Whatever your reasons, tune in for the final.

words/ anna burnell

Tuesday

Reaper *E4* 10.00pm

Before being mothballed due to the writers' strike, this brand new U.S. comedy was gaining praise for combining comedy and horror in a way that harks back to cult favourite 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'. Sam discovers that his parents sold his soul to the Devil, who know how to collect souls who have escaped from hell and bringing them back. Depending on the writing, this could be spun out to a greater length than Dante's Divine Comedy, or it could suffer consignment to the fiery depths of cancellation. One factor in its favour is the presence of Ray Wise playing the Prince of Darkness himself.

words/ jim moore

Wednesday

Sex... with Mum and Dad *BBC 3* 9.00pm

Once you've glanced and frowned and then looked properly, you'll be sorely disappointed to read that this is not a programme which indulges twisted human curiosity and finally considers what it might be like to indulge in a night of passion with those two people who gave you life. We've seen bestiality in the form of Rebecca Loos and that 'pig' incident and we've had live sex on Big Brother, but quite frankly I'd rather watch Terry Wogan pleasure a bicycle than cringe as two angst-ridden teenagers divulge intimate details to their horrified parents, who then go on to return the favour...

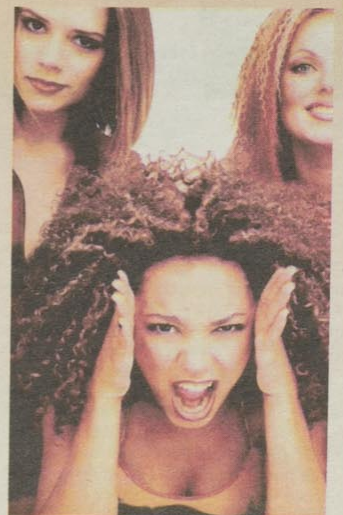
words/ kat cooper

Thursday

Kill It, Cook It, Eat It *BBC3* 9.00pm

There's certainly some stirring up going on in the world of food at the moment, with Messrs. Oliver, Ramsay and Fearnley-Whittingstall all doing their best to make us think about where our meat comes from. Here then, is the next offering. A studio is built around an abattoir, which hosts the killing and then eating of the animals by the studio audience. Tonight it's lamb on the menu, followed by the diners' views on the process. This is shocking stuff, as most of us don't like to think about the fluffy lambs being somehow related to our Sunday lunch. Nevertheless, this ruthless version of documentary really gets the message across.

words/ anna burnell



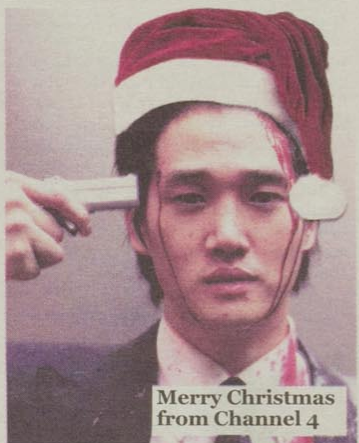


Art Attacks

I have a confession to make. Having sat through the trailer for *St Trinians*, I actually, genuinely and without sarcasm, wanted to see it again. This may well seem inexcusable, but I do have a defence. Firstly, I haven't watched it again, and secondly, I think I was in shock. I have, absolutely honestly, never seen a worse trailer for a film in my life. There are few words that can do its complete failure justice. For those of you who were equally unfortunate to see it, my condolences.

As far as I can remember (it was over a month ago) there was a single line of dialogue, which could be loosely termed as a joke, though it assumes that a ten-year-old posh girl saying "bloody" is hilarious, and therefore fails miserably. Unfortunately, this was the genuine high point of the trailer. There appears to be no plot to the film, or at least none that the creators judged as important to encouraging people to see it. Instead, all we see are teenage girls in school uniforms strutting around plastered in make-up to the music of Billie Piper. Honestly, the only audiences it can appeal to are children and borderline paedophiles, which must present a number of logistical and legal problems in the aftermath of performances.

Incidentally, some of my friends went to the cinema (actually paid) to see this film. They probably know I am disappointed in them - but if you can put it in print you have to really, don't you?



Merry Christmas from Channel 4

So, that trailer was the worst film-based experience of this Christmas (though it obviously made quite an impression on me), but the best was a complete accident too. Flicking channels on TV at about 2am on Christmas morning, I stumbled upon the best anti-Christmas movie ever. Someone at Channel 4 has enough a sense of humour to equate 'the season to be merry' with 'brutal Korean vengeance'. Park Chan-Wook's awesome *Oldboy* has to be one of the least 'holiday' films imaginable, and I was lucky enough to begin my Christmas watching close-ups of amateur dentistry with a hammer and no anaesthetic. What could be better?

Oh, and in case you had got this far without noticing, this is an arts column, not a rambling failed excuse of a review. Just to defend myself from the easily confused in advance.

words/ simon gillett

Sweeney Todd

Starring/ Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter
Director/ Tim Burton

Tim Burton's new extravaganza, *Sweeney Todd*, bears the tagline 'Never Forgive, Never Forget'. Unfortunately I found the film itself somewhat forgettable. The story is a well known one, that of a barber wrongfully accused and sent into exile for 15 years. On his return to London, he finds his wife to be dead and daughter imprisoned by the very man who sent him away, the dastardly Judge Turpin. With the help of Mrs Lovett and her ailing pie shop, Sweeney, with barber tools in hand, wreaks havoc upon London in his desire for revenge and recompense.

Tim Burton injects his usual flare for the morbid and gothic and although he has perfected this genre and dominated it, there may come a time when his films become all too familiar. The screen duo of Helena Bonham Carter and Johnny Depp have proved to be a tried and tested success and it is a pleasant surprise to find that they have creditable singing talents to match. Depp in particular is brilliant, complete with Cruella DeVil hair, although there were points where I found his accent to be too similar to that of Captain Jack from the *Pirates* trilogy so while Sweeney was busy slitting throats I was caught up in a rollicking rendition of 'It's a pirate's life for me'. The supporting cast are great; Timothy Spall is enjoying particular success at the moment by mastering the role of the weaselly servant, having enjoyed Christmas success in *Enchanted* and appearing as the Beadle in *Sweeney Todd*. Alan Rickman is perfect as the slimy Judge Turpin, resplendent in mustard coloured silk trousers and in



desperate need of a shave, and Jamie Campbell Bower and Ed Sanders prove to be two exciting new talents with voices that more than measure up.

The film itself is a masterpiece, if a little overtly gory to the point where seeing yet another throat sliced open and lifeless body deposited on its head in the pie shop basement becomes boring. Some are calling it the best movie musical every made, but can this really be placed in the same category as such classics as *Singing in the Rain*? Sure, it is a different kind of musical, but Baz Luhrmann's recent

success, *Moulin Rouge* was something completely different and utterly original. Somehow, I fear Burton's edge may be lost in overkill, which would be a great shame and loss to film in general for there can be no denying that he is very good at what he does.

Sweeney Todd is still worth a watch and will undoubtedly be a success. Perhaps I expected something a little different, or perhaps I prefer just a little less gore with my Gershwin.

words/ lucy mcintosh

I'm Not There

Starring/ Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Cate Blanchett, Richard Gere
Director/ Todd Haynes

There is always a danger that films like *I'm Not There* can do nothing but disappoint. After all, when we are told again and again that something is going to be a strong contender for Oscars before it is released it is difficult to watch it without that in mind.

However, this is a film that constantly defies expectation, ensuring that its critical response is pushed to the back of your mind. Yes, its use of six very different actors to play elements of Bob Dylan's life and persona has been widely publicised (especially the casting of Cate Blanchett, who has already deservedly received a Golden Globe for her part), but aside from this the film is unpredictable and unique. Cutting between versions of the singer without ever mentioning his name, this is not a linear experience, but a collage of the different sides of a complex character.

The use of the different stars works effectively, certainly operating as far more than a gimmick, cleverly cutting between very different portrayals to develop contrasts, especially between Christian Bale's (slightly underused) self-effacing, shy and

awkward Dylan and Heath Ledger's more romantic character (one of the last roles he played before his tragic death this week). Of course, Blanchett's portrayal of the 'electric era' is an incredible achievement - as we have been told incessantly since the film was previewed - but the highlight of the film is the final act, centred around Richard Gere's outlaw Dylan. This section is absolutely fantastic - an eerie, unsettling allegory set in a western town with the entire population wearing dusty Halloween outfits.

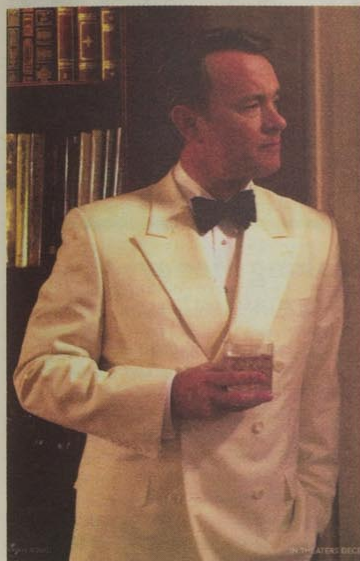
It is rare that a major film can be as surprising, at times confusing, and at times inspired as this. It is one of the least conventional movies to gain such a critical following in recent times, and is certainly worth watching - as long as you are expecting easy, mindless cinema. It may not be perfect (it could be criticised as over-complicated and patchy at places) but its fusion of actors, and styles - including documentary, biopic, and allegory - is constantly interesting, even when the plot is at its most convoluted, and the excellent use of Dylan's songs helps to hold it together.

The problem for *I'm Not There* is unlikely to be whether it contends for Academy Awards, but which of its stars get the nominations - this is ensemble cinema at its best, a unique and individual film that makes the most of its great acting talent.

words/ simon gillett



Charlie Wilson's War
 Starring/ Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts,
 Philip Seymour Hoffman
 Director/ Mike Nichols



For those of a more cynical disposition, *Charlie Wilson's War* may at first appear to be yet another up-its-own-arse film with Julia Roberts in it. However the heavyweight names on show don't undermine what is a smart, interesting movie that tells a great story. It is that of playboy U.S. congressman Charlie Wilson

(Hanks) who in the late 1980's, during the cold war, engineered the arming of the Afghani mujahideen so that they could fight against the invading communist forces from Russia.

Unlike *The Kite Runner*, (its contemporary also dealing with the Afghan-Soviet conflict), it involves strippers, Jacuzzis, cocaine, and Philip Seymour Hoffman hitting on Julia Roberts. At least two of these are very good things. The big Hollywood names generally work well, Hanks injecting his character with a likeable wit and providing a reliably effortless turn (unless you hate him, which apparently a few people do), but the real star of the film is Hoffman, whose portrayal of pissed off CIA agent Gust Avrakotos provides some hilariously astute observations regarding the global events that are taking place. His character's dialogue reflects overall what director Mike Nichols seems to be going for, with his use of comedy underscoring a situation that had massively far reaching consequences worldwide.

The satirically prophetic nature of the film's conclusion ("We fucked up the endgame" says Charlie) potentially resonates with an audience who will know that Charlie's efforts inadvertently equipped Al-Qaeda, something that reinforces the relevance of America's far from excellent track record overseas.

Less serious than *Syriana*, gentler than *The Kingdom*, this film stands on its own two feet with good performances, a sharply written script (courtesy of *West Wing* screenwriter Aaron Sorkin) and most strikingly a true story at its heart.

words/ max barry

Paranoid Park

Starring/ Gabe Nevans, Daniel Liu
 Director/ Gus Van Sant



Gus, Gus, Gus. Where did it all go wrong? Unlike his previous commercial and art-house triumphs such as *Good Will Hunting* and *My Own Private Idaho*, *Paranoid Park* is not a film which matches Mr. Van Sant's former brilliance. Then again he did create the utterly shocking (not in a good way) *Psycho* remake, so the occasional blip is perhaps an inevitability. And this is one big blip.

But let's be positive and dwell on

Paranoid Park's few redeeming features before finding out exactly why you'd be better off spending your ticket money on an extra bag of pick'n'mix and chilling in the cinema car park for a couple of hours instead of actually sitting through it. Its stars are a bunch of fresh-faced young ingenues, several of whom were allegedly recruited via the medium of MySpace. Very now. Whether they can act is sometimes debatable but it's refreshing to see a teenage-themed film that is not populated by an army of Lindsay Lohans. The dialogue is sparse but realistic along with the lead actor's portrayal of taciturn teen. Then again any teenager would probably be a bit surlier than usual if they'd just killed someone.

The problem is the fact that the central moment, the big climax, the pinnacle of the action is so wackily absurd that it instantly demolishes the credibility of the otherwise quite deftly observed and well-shot film, despite its lack of drama. If you don't want to spoil the surprise, look away now. Having been whacked by our lead boy's skateboard and toppled onto a railway track, a security guard is cut in half. So far, so horror movie. But it's when his severed torso starts crawling towards our troubled protagonist that things start to get a tad far fetched. I mean really. If your film's so uneventful you have to add a crawling torso to create a bit of interest it's time to go back to the drawing board. Or actually chuck the drawing board in a skip and become a plumber.

words/ viven king macdona

The Kite Runner

Starring/ Zekeria Ebrahimi,
 Homayoun Ershadi
 Director/ Mark Forster



The Kite Runner follows two Afghan boys growing up in Kabul - the well-off Amir (Zekeria Ebrahimi) and his great friend Hassan. Amir's father is ashamed of his son's cowardly nature, aware that the more physically slight Hassan, bullied for his Hazara ethnicity, is always stepping in to defend them both. When Hassan is raped by one of the bullies, a future Taliban fighter called Assef, Amir has a chance to intervene but instead watches and then hides.

The impact of what he sees is crucial to the rift that forms between them, but Forster, clearly under pressure to keep controversy to a minimum, gives us the merest artful hint of a rape - trousers coming down, a bit of writhing, some drops of blood in the snow. The scene just isn't painful or life-altering enough. This is a pivotal scene in the book and its strength is what holds the story together. Its weakness in the film is truly a let-down.

During the first sequence of this film, Amir is told that "there is a way for him to be good again". Added to this unoriginal 'flashback' introduction, Amir and his wife have no chemistry and the dialogue between them comes across as fake and uninspired.

I believe this film would be nothing

without the performances of the actors who play Hassan and Amir's father. Homayoun Ershadi plays a strong father figure, maintaining his strength and dignity throughout his performance as he portrays a man going from a high powered, respected position in Kabul to a job at a San Francisco garage, in a country where he is considered a nobody. Twelve-year-old Ahmad Khan Mahmudzada plays the role of Hassan. He is able to convey both the strong and soft nature of Hassan, and this is especially moving during a scene in which Amir is begging Hassan to fight him - at this point I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Mark Forster's film of the Khaled Hosseini novel is a curiously superficial affair - you can feel it gesturing towards big themes and emotions, but it doesn't clinch the deal. All in all, the whole movie feels a lot more timid than the book and therefore a lot less powerful.

words/ maya manwaring

WED. 30 JANUARY - SAT. 2 FEBRUARY 7.30 PM stage@leeds £5/7

MNEMONIC

by kind permission of Complicite London

Mnemonic

Wednesday 30th January - Saturday 2nd February
 Stage@Leeds

Forty-two characters, nine actors, and over eight different languages in 14 countries; all of this in 100 minutes of gripping theatre opening at Stage@Leeds on Wednesday 30th January.

It's no surprise then that I jumped at the opportunity to go along to a few rehearsals of *Mnemonic* to see exactly whether this ambitious plan would succeed, and to get a sneak preview for LS2.

From what I saw, *Mnemonic* asks a lot of its audience, which is certainly refreshing. No single object retains its initial significance. A

chair becomes a person, a mop becomes a train. The same goes for locations, which are changed at the drop of a hat, or rather through sophisticated technical changes. Speaking to the directors they seem, above all else, excited. They have had an original score written for the piece and have been in rehearsals for over four months, turning the cast into a quick-footed ensemble. The productions of Complicite demand precision, indeed it is a daunting task for any company to put on one of their plays, nevermind a student run one. However, the atmosphere in rehearsals is one of determination, and it is hard not to join in.

One of the hottest tickets this term? I suspect one of the hottest tickets of this year.

words/ katie smith

Branded...?

Comedian, journalist, radio presenter, television personality, actor – Russell Brand has certainly tried his hand at a multitude of careers, not to mention sexual organs, and has won an array of prestigious awards including: Time Out's 'Comedian of the

“ My biggest problem is that I've lived an autobiography rather than a life

Year', 'Best Newcomer' at the British Comedy Awards, 'Best TV Performer' at the Broadcasting Press Guild Awards, a GQ 'Men of the Year Award' (and the Sun's 'Shagger of the Year'). Still there are large groups that proclaim a hatred of this successful man, with endless groups on Facebook including 'I Hate Russell Brand with Every Lota of My Soul... And More'.

What many fail to realise is that the gothic, drainpipe sporting buffoon with volcanic bundles of wiry black hair is only the most

contemporary image of his diverse TV career. Years before Brand discovered black eyeliner he was a popular face on MTV and it was only after being sacked for controversially arriving at work dressed as Osama Bin Laden on 12th September 2001 that he was forced to explore new paths.

Some of Brand's critics use Peep Show as a juxtaposed example of what British comedy should be like today. Yet Brand counts David Mitchell as one of his many close comedian friends, as well as Eddie Murphy, Stephen Fry, Matt Lucas, David Walliams, Jimmy Carr and Ricky Gervais. More importantly though, to hate Russell Brand is to rate him, for whilst controversy has landed him in the bad books of Bob Geldof and Rod Stewart (and just possibly in the beds of their daughters) it is his shame that has rocketed him to fame.

'My Booky Wook' is a fantastic autobiography that, as The Observer stated, "puts other celebrity memoirs to shame". Brand's style of writing is intelligent, entertaining and beautifully composed.

His story regarding sex addiction treatment in the suburbs of Philadelphia is so funny it makes your average fresher's proudest gap year anecdote seem about as humorous as a fire safety talk. Brand's past is illuminously dark, but his future looks exceptionally bright.

words/ jack cullen



Answering Back Carol Ann Duffy

In Answering Back, Carol Ann Duffy has invited fifty living poets "to reply to the poetry of the past". Each of the fifty poets has written a poem in response to one they have chosen by an acclaimed, usually dead, poet. Just like a weird, literary sort of séance, I hear you asking? Well, not exactly. The classics, including John Donne, Christina Rossetti and Walter de la Mare, as well as modern heroes like Allen Ginsberg, are all called back from the ashes, as it were, to serve as a diving board for the respective plunderers of the deep, like Liz Lochhead, Roger McGough, Wendy Cope, and of course Carol Ann herself steps up to take a final stab at the corpse just before it slides into the incinerator.

As morbid as all this could be however, the pairing up of these 100 poems is actually an ingenious resurrection, less Frankenstein, and more hallowed rebirth of JC himself. It also reveals that the "poetry of the past" is supremely relevant to today's world: in "the lost baby poem" and "The No Baby Poem", motherhood and the sense of loss at the lack of a child is entirely one and the same, only in the contemporary "The No Baby Poem", the sense of frustration at the failure of IVF treatment is one example of an emotion that transcends the barrier of time. The engagement between the pairs of poems is at times elegiac, occasionally irreverent, and always intriguing. Donne is tackled several times, but always paying respect towards his poetic integrity, whilst Larkin's cutting "This Be The Verse", famously – and scandalously – opening with the line, "They fuck you up, your mum and dad.", is swiftly rebutted by Carol Rumens' concluding line, "That bean't the verse." Not only is there a fascinating interplay between the living and the dead in this neat collection, the conversation is always lively. "Answering Back" reasserts the position of "poetry of the past" alongside the poets of today, and is a must-have for fans of classic and contemporary poetry.

words/ victoria ellis



Making Money Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett is undoubtedly amongst the greatest authors in Britain today, frequenting the charts with seemingly every release, making him the best-selling British writer of the 1990s. Although his big break was 'The Carpet People' in 1971, most of Pratchett's success stems from Discworld, a disjointed set of mini-series bearing rough acquaintance to the fantasy genre, although having more in common perhaps with real life. Real life that is with the addition of Universities for Wizards (long before the name 'Hogwarts' had been uttered) and in which Death rides a white horse called Binky. Nothing you read in a Discworld novel will be unfamiliar, but it will be upside-down; it will be

“ Universities for Wizards long before the name 'Hogwarts' had been uttered

crumpled into a ball, thrown against a wall and then land satisfyingly into a different and wonderfully funny place.

Pratchett's achievements are monumental when we consider he dropped out of secondary school aged 16. He has since passed an A-level in English, and for his contribution to literature has been awarded four honorary doctorates in Literature, although the jewel in Pratchett's crown is perhaps his OBE in 1998, which for a long time he assumed to be a hoax.

If you're new to Pratchett, fear not, as while there is a common theme to the Discworld series, it can be dipped into easily, offering familiarities and private jokes for his fans while remaining accessible to new readers.

His latest novel, 'Making Money', tells the story of Postmaster General Moist von Lipwig's reassignment to the venerable Royal Mint of Ankh Morpork where he is immediately faced with the dilemma that it costs more than a penny to make a penny and so an elaborate trail of events commences. Pratchett delivers fresh twists, turns and dry, intelligent humour that will engage the most seasoned of fans and virgins alike, the maintenance of which is a testimony to his integrity and talent. Recently Pratchett announced that he was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, but instead of retiring will accelerate his life dedication to literature, in servitude to his hundreds of thousands of fans.

words/ benjamin o'brien



Sweet Jesus Christ on an information superhighway: iPage is back! Rest assured, dear reader, iPage has missed you too. But enough frivolities! On with this week's instalment of the latest technology and science stories left unreported by the lesser media we call the 'mainstream'.

Urgent news reaches iPage this week regarding our most fearsome enemy as humanity: robots. A common theme of iPage's, you may believe, but when the devious digital demigods begin their struggle for power, iPage's warnings of their evil intents shall not go forgotten. Scientists in Switzerland have developed a group of robots who have uniquely discovered that most human of traits: the ability to lie.

In a digital recreation of the human gene pool, dozens of 'generations' of the robots evolved gradually through experiments involving food and poison, which respectively charged and drained their batteries. By the 50th generation, the robots, strengthened by their advanced genes, were able to convince their fellow robot brethren that the food was poison and vice-versa. The more foolish robots took the bait and died, while the more devious devices lived to lie another day. If this is how they act towards their fellows, what can we weak humans expect when they inevitably conquer the human race? iPage quakes.

In less paranoid news, Apple, apparently bored with the still-buzzing media hype about the iPhone, have announced a new, even sexier product. If you still don't feel you've burned enough money on your (possibly faulty) iPhone, be one of the first to snap up a Macbook Air, apparently "the world's thinnest notebook" at an anorexic 0.41cm at its most slight. Apple fans are already familiar with a lessened

hardware quality in return for the wow factor, so will be undaunted to learn the Air does not come with an ethernet port. Anyone wanting to get online will have to purchase a separate connector, but if you can afford the £1000 pricetag you can probably afford to splash out on the extras too.

Japanese astronauts have been up to their usual tricks, this time planning to launch a paper aeroplane from the International Space Station which will hopefully fly all the way back to Earth. The origami aircraft will be 30-40cm long and weigh around 30 grams. Apparently the test models have survived Mach 7 velocity streams and up to 300C temperatures, which may or may not prepare it for its fiery re-entry to the planet's atmosphere. iPage gulps.

Devious Devon-based paedophiles are using sat nat systems and games consoles to store their dirty photo collection, according to recent police reports. The cunning criminals are attempting to use these 'less suspect' devices in order to disguise their illicit activities, but local cops are onto them. While their actions are obviously sickening, you have to admire their creativity. iPage ponders impending legal action...

Russian company SUP have purchased the popular internet diary website livejournal.com. Lonely teenagers in Moscow are suddenly concerned.

Facebook news: despite their recent headline-grabbing with the privacy issues concerning deleted profiles which still exist after 'deletion', the biggest issue here is the current threat to the Scrabulous application by Mattel, the trademark owner of Scrabble. iPage is a particularly big fan of this application and challenges readers to a duel, anytime, anywhere. iPage also sends out a word of warning to Mattel: don't take away the best

promotional tool for your product in the past decade, guys. Also, iPage is about to beat LS Charlotte Griffiths with a triple word score: please don't take that away from me.

Good news for rodent-haters: a rat-eating plant has been discovered in a remote location in Cape York, Australia. The plant, found near a swamp, has been christened "Tenax", but is shrouded in secrecy, probably for fears that corrupt governments will attempt to harness the plant's consumptive powers in order to destroy society, starting with the rats.

And so that brings us to the end of another week's iPage. It's been another rollocking ride through the rigours of reporting, and iPage wouldn't have it any other way. Join me next week for more!

Yours somethingly,
iPage / Drew Statman



iPage's cool sites of the week

• www.magmypic.com

Upload your photo and then choose a magazine cover ranging from Vogue to Rolling Stone and National Geographic to Playboy. Click save and you can see what your 15 minutes of fame could look like from the comfort of your dirty student pad. Hours (minutes) of fun.

• www.tinyurl.com/32c2qo

With a title like "The 9 Most Badass Bible Verses", how could this site not be good? Check out some of the less-preached verses from the holy book, including iPage's favourite, wherein Elisha curses "forty-two youths" with a bear mauling for calling him bald. Biblical.

• uk.youtube.com/profile?user=lobster8591

Perhaps the most impressively-produced collection of amateur films you will ever see. The Dr. Who clip comes highly recommended: keep an eye out for the upcoming Indiana Jones special.

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AUDIT ■ TAX ■ ADVISORY



My Apricot Hell

Having spent Christmas and revision week in between the sofa, the fridge, and the library, I'm feeling somewhat out of shape. I haven't been to the gym in over a month and I'm feeling slightly irritable having consumed copious amounts of dried apricots, only to find out they're laden with calories. I feel like the health industry has pulled the wool over my eyes by packaging these fat orange blobs of cellulite-to-be in green packaging. Green means healthy right? It's not that I'm one of those annoying calorie counters who eagerly tries to impress you by knowing which sandwich in the Union is really the least fattening, or by informing you that you need not spread a poppadom with oil before you put it in the mike, saving total of 30 calories. I have merely one weakness, the dreaded apricot calorie count. That awful moment of realisation, when my hapless eye flitted over the k/cal mark, happened in a moment where I was caught unawares in the library during revision week. My concentration faltered, and I began to occupy myself with reading the graffiti on the desk. 'I want cock', 'I love boobs', nothing enlightening to be learnt about the human race, running out of things to read, must prolong procrastination, ahh success, the back of a packet of apricots. And then I saw it.



Fuming, I decided that it was time to head to the gym; you know that sweaty, windowless, crap air con place that you used to frequent in first year? But to my horror, I realised that I had no tracksuit bottoms! Armed with a David

“ Like a tracksuit bandit in JJB's whose trainers are more air maxed than yours, the glory was all mine. ”

Cameron-esque approach to fashion (he of the nauseating down with the kids vibe and 'hug a hoodie' campaign), I headed to TK-Max where I hoped to find some 'cool' tracky-bs. Now this produced various problems. I didn't want to look like a wigga or a wannabe DnB north London dj, so I avoided the light grey Nike sweat pants. Nor did I want a pair of 'jobby catchers'. Apparently, the hideous elasticated ankles on tracky-bs are made for the sole purpose that if the wearer shits himself, the trousers would catch the 'jobby' at the bottom. And then there were the pink velveteen ones that Carmel wears on Hollyoaks; with a name like that, need I say more? Hmmm, if only my mum had kept those adidas poppers that I had been so fond of when I was 12. They'd blatantly be retro by now. Finally, after rummaging through the tack-to-the-max, my efforts proved fruitful and I triumphantly clutched my prize. Like a tracksuit bandit in JJB's whose trainers are more air maxed than yours, the glory was all mine. In my possession I held a stereotype free, socially acceptable pair of joggers. As long as Mr Cameron doesn't take to wearing them I think they'll be OK. Has anyone else thrown their converse away?

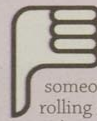
words/ harriet hernando

Hit, Miss, or Maybe



The Metro Newspaper

The only thing that makes bearable being stuck in traffic on the peasant waggon. Cramped in like battery chickens we brave this bus ride for one thing only; to pick up our free copy of the metro. Packed full of newbreaking stories, such as 'The Ninja Crutch Bandit' and the construction of a Jedi church in Wales, we're more than happy to sit opposite a drunken tramp whilst he hails abuse at us. Or the hate racked grandad from north Yorkshire whose allegiance with The Daily Mail must not be broken, and if you're dim enough to sit next to him will give you some tiresome BNP spin. Hooray for the Metro, (the best free paper after Leeds Student).



Fake Bran

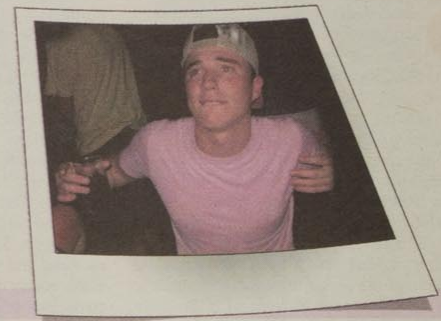
A.K.A fake tan for those of you who aren't in the know. Smells a bit like Branflakes or Hobnobs, and should you decide to grind your body against someone, they'll probably be left wondering if you've been rolling around in oats all day. Because that's exactly what you're going to do: roll around in your pony's oats and then head straight to Tequila for some prime grind action. Dove Summer Glow body lotion is the main culprit, followed closely by Johnson's Holiday Skin. It just makes you wonder what goes into the bottle, that in some cases, has the capability to tan you to another race. The latter may be witnessed most prominently in History of Art classes for some unknown reason. Another popular complaint from users is soiling the bedsheets. This happens when you apply the fake tan before you go to bed, and when you wake up you've got a perfect imprint of your body on the sheets. However, due to recent advances in technology, this may be avoided with use of the tan a sac, a cotton sleeping bad that slips in your bed. Now that's what I call good in the sack! Purchase your own at www.tanasac.com.



Madeleine the Movie

The story of Madeleine McCann's disappearance may be turned into a big budget movie. Is it just me or does something sound not quite right? Is it an example of Hollywood movie moguls descending on an already frail couple, or is it simply a well thought out plan to raise money to help find their daughter? Her parents hope it could bring in millions for the fast dwindling Find Madeleine fund, set up after the four-year-old vanished from a holiday flat in Praia da Luz, Portugal. But surely the film runs the risk of mythologising a child that hasn't even been pronounced dead?

words/ harriet hernando



Tackpool

Ever breakfasted on a slice of last night's pizza, one that's still edible but not to quite the same extent as when it was first delivered fresh (if such an adjective can be attached to takeaway offerings) to your door? Of course you have; it's part of a student's staple diet. At a stretch this act could be considered analogous to a recent trip I made to the fair coastal town of Blackpool. As a young child I loved visiting the Riviera of the North [sic] (a regular occurrence due to grandparents living there); it was a magical place of rollercoaster thrills and candyfloss escape. However, upon returning to the tourist hotspot for the first time in a number of years it was not all I remembered: Blackpool had turned



“ While the Eiffel Tower acts as the focal point for everything around it Blackpool's version sits atop Pricebusters. ”

into last night's pizza. The consumable amount of cheese had become tacky and tasteless, the delicious aroma was lost amid an urban pong and the much-needed heat was replaced by a strangely palpable coldness. It had all gone a bit, well, mawk.

Blackpool Tower, that iconic landmark, illustrates the point to perfection. Despite being inspired by the monument in Paris the Anglicised copy lacks any of the original's ability to inspire awe or conjure a feeling of grandeur. While the Eiffel Tower is built in picturesque surroundings and acts as the focal point for everything around it Blackpool's version sits atop Pricebusters. Classy. And while the structural size of the latter may be scaled down from the former, the cost for entering is not. The theme of cheap imitation is one that runs through many of the town's tourist draws. On one of the piers is a medium sized Ferris wheel. An acceptable little bit of fun until you read the sign proudly declaring it 'The Famous Blackpool Eye'. The words are absent of any irony and so induce laughter to be directed at the ride rather than with it.

The promenade is one long, seemingly endless concrete stretch of gimmicky crap. Walking along it you are greeted by numerous cabins of 'gipsy' palm readers all titled Madame Somethingorother and all proclaiming to be the only truthful soothsayer on the walkway: 'Your future will be told for a relatively small [read large] fee'. Bar doors, such as the ones to 80s styled Reflex, are kept open all day. Now I like 80s themed entertainment as much as the next Boy George, but not from 10a.m, and not for sixteen solid hours. There's only so many times you can listen to 'Karma Chameleon' without wanting to submerge your ears in hydrochloric acid. If you think the souvenir shops might hold some more traditional treats - Blackpool Rock maybe - you'd only be half right. Plentiful amounts of amusingly shaped pieces of candy are also on offer. As penis sweets are now passé 'Fanny Lolly's' are sold instead, packaged with the helpful instructions to, 'Lick my Lips'. Lovely. Or you could go for the 'Tasty Turd', a hilarious invention that has to be commended for its similarity to a steaming pile of shit, and a useful cover-up for scat lovers everywhere.

A 2008 excursion to the coastal town can be fun as long as you consciously realise that everything is covered in a discernable layer of tat and laugh at all the 'attractions' you encounter.

Though seeing as the typical tourist is clothed in a shell suit or a hen night costume the presence of a knowing mind of comic perception is probably in the minority. To be honest I'd still eat a slice of Blackpool tack, just on very rare occasions.

words/ laurie whitwell



The LoveBox

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

Missed Connections

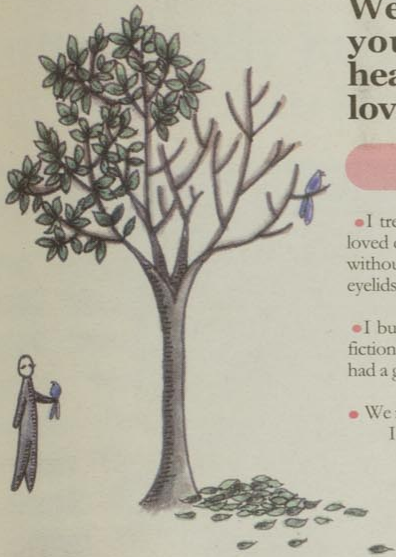
- I treated you as a coma patient for 17 years and loved every minute of it. Then you woke up and left without saying goodbye. I want to see your lovely eyelids and stroke your face once more.
- I bumped into you in the doorway of the erotic fiction shop. You were wearing a rubber gimp suit. I had a green hat. Let's meet again.
- We met putting out a man on fire on the Headrow. I thought you were smoking hot, hotter than him anyway. And he was literally on fire.
- I gave you a badge that may have been infected with a blood disease. This isn't really about love, it's more hygiene. You should go to the hospital soon.

- My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard, but you are a vegan and don't drink it. I see you looking mournfully at the cheese counter sometimes.



Lonely Hearts

- Give it up for my love. I like hugs and joy and friendship and Reggae-Reggae sauce. Could you be my chicken that I could slather my sauce all over?
- Boy is nice. I like Boy. I am money, yes? Give you money and you give me boy, yes?
- The fiftieth person who looks at me today will get a blowjob. I'll be stood in the toilets in the Parkinson basement. Come and check me out.
- The police may have locked me up for 47 years for a violent and unspeakable crime but I still need love from a woman. Care to touch me there?



Tommy Pockets Tells Your Future

Our world-renowned, 27-year-old astrologer Tommy Pockets (pictured here on the Titanic) lays down the secrets of your mystic week. Spookalicious.

Aries
A squirrel's admiration for 'your work' goes too far this week as the little rascal begins a campaign of stalking. You will have packages containing bunches of red fur sent to your door and wake up to find piles of nuts scattered on your bed. Murder is the only resolution. Your lucky death by misadventure is Kurt Cobain.

Leo
Returning from a night out you will find your room in a complete state of devastation. There will be broken heirlooms and strewn clothing. And a small gaggle of snails will be trying to push your mugs out of your window. Snails love mugs and use them as skateparks. Your lucky death by misadventure Elvis Presley.

Sagittarius
Today you'll be visited by Chris Langham, who'll explain at length the reasons for his possession of child pornography, and exactly why he is entirely blameless - describing the sexual abuse he suffered as a child - before touching your eight-year old son. You'll be convinced. Your lucky death by misadventure is River Phoenix.

Taurus
On Tuesday Boris Yeltsin will resurrect from the dead and challenge you to a Vodka drinking contest. If you win the crazy drunkard will award you his extremely valuable Warhammer collection. If you lose he will roughly shave your swimsuit area. Be prepared. Your lucky death by misadventure is Marilyn Monroe.

Virgo
Worldwide pen production reaches maximum this week as Bic et al. struggle to keep up with the renewed interest in doodling thanks to Prince's claim that pen drawing is cooler than rock 'n' roll. It is revealed to be a misprint. He actually said "you've ruined my life, mother." Your lucky death by misadventure is James Dean.

Capricorn
Today you take B*witched's advice and blame it on the weatherman, launching a three-year campaign of hatred and persecution that shatters his otherwise perfect life. Eventually he obtains a restraining order, but the damage is done. He drinks himself to death. That'll show the fucker what happens when your cornflakes go soggy. Your lucky death by misadventure is Grace Kelly.

Gemini
There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold and she's climbing a stairway of bacon. A rueful eulogy for a lost art is accidentally submitted instead of an essay this week and your deepest secrets are revealed. Those secrets are that you once wanked over a teddy. Your lucky death by misadventure is Princess Di.

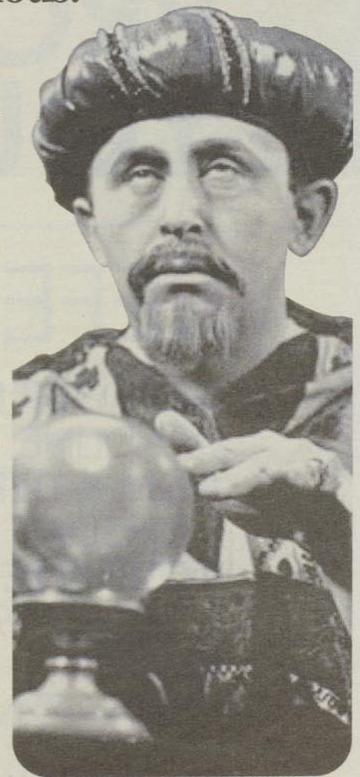
Libra
Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone; unless by 'weep' you mean 'urinate on a man named Frank during a wild night at a Fulham fetish club and get married in Amsterdam'. It's all part of the same pattern. And great fun. Your lucky death by misadventure is Her Serene Highness The Princess of Monaco.

Aquarius
A woman with an envious voice calls you up and reveals that your A-level results were fraudulent and you could have applied for Cambridge after all. Her vicious tones remind you that you've made a lot of friends at Leeds and you are glad you missed out. Your lucky death by misadventure is Michael Hutchence.

Cancer
You wake up with your ankles tied together and a sock in your mouth. The heat burns your face through the pillowcase over your head. Have you been kidnapped, oh no! You've actually just been involved in an orgy at Ikea. Your lucky death by misadventure is Jimmi Hendrix.

Scorpio
A spate of undergarment assaults takes place on Woodhouse Moor this week. A cloaked assailant terrorises students with unprovoked baggings, wedgies and general crotchal mayhem. The culprit is later revealed to be Richard Maddyly. Your lucky death by misadventure is Janis Joplin.

Pisces
Today will be marred by tragedy when you wash your lucky underwear at too high a temperature and, on taking them out, realise that you have a disappointingly small penis. Your lucky death by misadventure is Heath Ledger.



NB: Tommy Pockets does not accept responsibility for any life-changing events that occur from following his obviously not made-up advice e.g. giving a lecture on economics.

Tommy Pockets is Hawkwind.



WARNING! CHANGE IS IN PROGRESS IN YOUR UNION.

REFERENDUM 2008:

GET YOUR IDEAS FOR CHANGE IN BY:

DEADLINE: THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY

AGM & DEBATE MEETING

THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

VOTING PERIOD

TUESDAY 19TH TO THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

RESULTS:

FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

REFERENDUM 2008



Leeds University Union.

Is it a laughing matter?

“Funny” really just a joke? **Lara Choksey** explores the issues of being forced into stereotypes before they even get to the punchline.



GRAPHIC: Matt Andrews

cannot, or are not allowed to, look at women as asexual beings. Women, on the other hand, view men without the context of sex on a daily basis. This is due mainly to the simple fact that the media demands such an asexual perspective. Men are everywhere, and where they cannot go (page 3 of the Sun, for example) would seem to make little difference to anyone's life.

In German, there is no distinguishing whether a woman is married or not by her title. 'Frau' applies to all women of all ages. However, professions are divided into genders; words are adapted into a feminine alternatives. A woman cannot be an Arzt (doctor) in Germany, she must be an Ärztin (literally, a female doctor). Although it is gradually becoming politically incorrect to use job titles such as 'actress' and 'authoress' in the UK, there are certain fields into which women cannot enter without being defined by their gender. A woman cannot

simply be a footballer; she must be part of a women's football team. Politics, too, contains this self-consciousness with regard to gender. Only a decade ago Tony Blair was making a huge statement about the forward thinking of New Labour by introducing his troop of female cabinet ministers. The tiptoeing around the issue of equal rights for women, however, only highlights the chasm between the male and female in the professional world. We live in a society that thinks nothing of sexual harassment charges and law suits over maternity leave. The same chasm prevents women such as Dawn French and Victoria Wood from being seen as anything other than comediennes, novelties in their comedy, and exceptions to the rule.

One comedian who appears to break through the barrier of gender is Catherine Tate. Here is an example of an attractive and witty critic of modern Britain who also happens to be a woman. Yet

ask men about Catherine Tate in relation to other female comics and a number will respond, "But her comedy is masculine." Perhaps a more appropriate analysis would be to say that, certainly in terms of her

“ There is a myth that men and women are not only different, but inherently opposing forces.

sketch show, Tate's comedy fits into a generic form of palatable mainstream comedy whose modern forerunners are shows such as 'The Office' and 'Little Britain', shows that are dominated by men. More pertinently, Catherine Tate is most successful in a sketch show format where she takes on a number of different roles, through which the audience can only guess her own opinion without ever being explicitly told.

A great deal of the discussion of whether or not women are funny comes down to what defines gender difference.

There is a myth that men and women are not only different, but inherently opposing forces. One particularly apt demonstration of such a myth was a recent Mail on Sunday advert that showed men kicking up footballs and women throwing handbags over a battlefield that resembled a scene out of 'Braveheart'. A myth, however, is exactly what such a demonstration is, and is merely an extension of the childhood division between Action Man and Barbie. This is not to deny the differences between men and women, but this somewhat prehistoric notion that they have totally opposing interests is insulting to both sexes.

It appears that in 21st Century Britain, a woman is socially accepted as being funny as long as she adheres to a supposedly masculine code of humour, thereby denying her own femininity in order to do so. There is a barrier between women and stand-up comedy that, while possible to break through, is considered to involve a sacrifice of mystery. Only once women accept either that such mystery is essentially meaningless, or that it is possible to create humour without consciously drawing attention to gender, will we start seeing a change in the widespread misconception that women and stand-up are incompatible.



DAWN: Funny?



Fag Off!

A letter to LUU's Exec regarding the cigarette sales ban.



Peter Beckett
peteracbeckett@hotmail.com

Our Union website informs me that the Union shops won't sell me my cigarettes for a week. Is this some kind of sick joke? What about when I'm about to go to Fruity and am about to run out and there is nowhere else to go but Extras and the cigarettes are quite obviously behind the counter but staff refuse to sell them to me because of some ridiculous instructions from know-it-all smart arses who run LUU yet don't have a clue about the average

student?

Frankly, I will continue to make my own decisions about whether or not I smoke.

You won't sell me my fags for a week? Well fuck you. I'll stop buying food and drink and everything else there as well - my money obviously isn't good enough for you. You've no trouble making money through cigarettes most of the time, so stop pretending you're so high and mighty and that you actually give a fuck about me. You don't.

And while we're on the subject, I'm yet to see a penny of this 13p in the pound that is supposedly pumped back into student services. All I see is overpriced tickets for club nights and gigs, and overpriced cans of beer in Extras. £5 for 4 Kronembourg? Get fucking real. The corner shop near my house does it for £3 and they don't get anywhere near the economies of scale LUU does.

I also see private businesses like Wrapid, Endsleigh Insurance and this new pasty place making a killing by renting LUU premises to charge students too much for their shitty food or insurance schemes that won't pay out when some scally climbs in through their kitchen window and nicks their laptop when they're sat unaware in the

lounge.

Which twat came up with this ridiculous idea? Whoever it is, they demonstrate beyond any doubt why I and pretty much everyone else here can't be bothered

“ Which twat came up with this ridiculous idea? They demonstrate beyond any doubt why I and everyone else here can't be bothered to vote in LUU elections.

to vote in LUU elections. Everyone who stands is totally clueless about what most students really want, and have their head so far up their own arse that breathing has become almost impossible for them.

No, we don't give a fuck about your view

on the Middle Eastern conflict. Nor do we really care how many non-student managers a muted and outdated organisation like the NUS has on its executive board. But we would like to go into the Union shop and be able to buy what we need for the coming days without being looked down upon because one of those things is 25 grams of Golden Virginia.

This is an inconvenience which an organisation funded by our tuition fees and our drinking habits should know better than to impose.

I will quit when I'm ready, thank you very much. But until I do, I expect LUU to sell me my fags so I don't have to make an annoying detour whenever I want a pack. I do not appreciate being told to give up by the Union. When it's the doctor, I'll take it on the chin. But when it's you...well...I suggest you keep criticisms of my lifestyle to yourself.

Please cancel this ridiculous scheme. It won't help anybody quit, as I'm sure you already realise. All it will do is further alienate people like me who have very little use for the Union other than as a place to buy cigarettes when I've run out.

One Bullet: one step too far?

Facebook group is a danger to civilised society.



Klarice Tefara
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

There is a fashion in modern society that to be controversial is, more often than not, to be amusing. Mainstream comedians often use inappropriate and frankly unacceptable humour to get 'shock' laughs. This new trend is rampant and unchecked in our culture and has recently spread to the social networking behemoth that is Facebook. A glut of groups have been created that appear to endorse all manner of

insane and seemingly immoral concepts; one of which was brought to light by this very newspaper only last year concerning rape. The most recent and troubling addition to Facebook is the group One Bullet. This group is based around the 'game' where you discuss a certain category of people and argue who, within each category, most deserves to be shot with your one bullet. It clearly shares close ties to the game 'shag, marry, kill': another seemingly innocent and acceptable game which I feel exposes our culture to budding perils. Such games serve only to propagate cynicism and perhaps even encourage emotions of violence towards other people. A sad state of affairs that these feelings are now considered to be entertainment.

Although one may argue that the majority of the discussion boards concern fictional characters, some relate to real celebrities, making this group deplorable. Barry Scott may annoy a good many people, myself included, but does he actually deserve a bullet? That's the question which the irresponsible founders of this group put to you.

Unfortunately, this depressingly popular group, One Bullet, with new members joining disturbingly regularly

“ It could be argued that this is just a joke and that any remotely rational person will understand that the group doesn't actually endorse violence or gun crime.

since its inception, is just that: popular. New wall and discussion postings are added constantly. It could be argued that this is just a joke and that any remotely rational person will understand that the group doesn't actually endorse violence or gun

crime. But I disagree, and I'm not alone. Having only existed for less than a week at the time of writing, One Bullet has already inspired an addition to the entry on Wikipedia concerning 'Criticism of Facebook'. And why? Because it is considered a danger to civilised society and has motivated someone who shares my views to warn people of its potential consequences in the 'Controversial Groups' section of the article. It is also a worrying and pertinent fact that the group was created, and is confidently endorsed and supported, by students from Leeds University (who I won't name, because I don't want to inspire violence). Hence my motivation to write for the Leeds Student Newspaper (a supporter of free speech; certainly not casual violence), to warn people against the looming spectre of a group which believes that one of the best ways of having fun is by discussing which TV Chef actually deserves to be shot. On these grounds, perhaps One Bullet really is one step too far.



LS Chat

Either email:
talk@leedsstudent.org.uk

Or, text "LS1" followed by
your text to 60300

Reader's Comments

Dear LS,

I wrote a column last semester on binge drinking, after which an event of such startling noteworthiness that it has to be recounted and ranted upon happened to me in the Old Bar.

A pillock in a cardigan and skin-tight jeans with a fringe the size of Wales and a pathetic "I'm sophisticated and arty" beard wandered up to me and declared that what I had written "sent out the wrong message" and "was irresponsible." Not: "I think it sends out the wrong message" or "I think it's irresponsible". Apparently he had the singular privilege of dictating what is the "right message" (New Labour speech for "Gets Votes") or what is "Inappropriate" (politically correct for "what Guardian readers think is wrong").

No one can dictate to anyone else what they can think and what they can say. I will NOT feel guilty for liking beer and I will not be told what to think. This phenomenon of mealy-mouthed "Moral Responsibility" has as its power base the same thing as Health and Safety and political correctness. Namely, that to disagree with it is "inappropriate" because while, of course, we all support "free speech", it is only free as long as you agree with the Feminist Cyclist Vegetarian Lesbian movement of Camden.

I urge others in joining me to overthrow the yoke of the tyrannical oppressive regime of the "appropriate." Ideally by shooting anyone who uses the phrase "in the community" but I appreciate if people just want to drive cars and drink beer, not at the same time though.

So now, I'm going to go get drunk, make sexist comments, read Jeremy Clarkson, watch Top Gear then go to bed. Anyone who doesn't agree with it can, in the spirit of my proposed rebellion, go fuck themselves.

Tim Ingham



Your txts this week:

... I'm 'going to suckle fools and chronicle smll bears, baby! -GF

... brap word to homies, -bazza

...it's a text message! -barrycar

...dont touch me! -cass

...my face has no mum! -luce

... Mat and Maddy are makng the bst with two backs! -Pudde-phatt

.... please stop calling me your freaking me out this isnt funny

'No Platform!'

Nazi "freedom of speech" opposes minority rights to exist.

the principle right to exist of one individual in defence of another's so called freedom of speech?

I would like to make it clear that I believe it is of fundamental importance we ensure that such motions are watertight and clear in their proposals, leaving no room for possible exploitation by those who may wish to abuse such a system to silence those that merely pose a political threat. With this in mind I embrace the emerging debate as healthy. Nonetheless, I am also of the view that those stating that the prohibition of fascism is synonymous with freedom of expression unfortunately suffer from severe naiveté and misguidance. Preventing the British National Party from speaking is not a simple case of diverging politics. For example, I hold incongruous views to that of the

to Gulags and that his black limozine driver was also 'sick of the Pols'. However, as much as I oppose their views I would only look to silence them through open and frank debate.

There are two prominent arguments for allowing organisations such as the BNP on campus offered by students that clearly slept through history class and have not thought through the consequences of legitimising the illegitimate. The first is that 'freedom of speech' is a fundamental human right of every individual including fascists which should thus, in turn, bequeath them with an equal leverage to other ideologies. For those of you who haven't recently checked, the definition of Fascism is: "A system of government marked by centralisation of authority under a dictator, stringent socioeconomic controls, suppression of the opposition through terror and censorship, and typically a policy of belligerent nationalism and racism."

The principle of Fascism depends on, not just a rigorous streamlining of freedom of expression, but one that is perpetuated through violent means. Should I be given the right to form a society and use student funding to advocate the physical abuse of all international students? The idea is ludicrous.

The second argument could be that the BNP are not a fascist organisation. A splinter group of the National Front, they stand in the image of Hitler. Their constitution advocates the repeal of anti-discrimination laws and their leader was famously quoted as stating the BNP would 'Defend Rights for Whites' with well-directed boots and fists' and that he was "well aware that the orthodox opinion is that six million Jews were gassed and cremated or turned into lampshades. [But] Orthodox opinion also once held that the earth is flat..."

'No platform' works in the exclusion of the abhorrent and divisive views of the BNP. It prevents them from presenting their bigoted arguments to an audience or spreading uncritiqued propaganda, which has, thankfully, left all their attempts to infiltrate student elections moribund.

Perhaps those that advocate scrapping the policy should converse with the Afro-Caribbean, LGBT, Jewish, Islamic Society and our valuable international student members with how they feel regarding such 'free speech for Nazis' premise - after all these are the students that would be targeted.

Moreover, University Unions and the National Union of Students are membership organisations that are completely within their rights to restrict groups, whose principles they believe to be contrary to those upon which it is from using them as a vehicle to organise.

Our Union boasts a plethora of cultures, faiths and sexualities. Imagine a scenario where the BNP were allowed to form a society. They would potentially be walking around the building in branded hoodies, holding socials in the old bar and rallies in the arc. The union would be the antithesis of a 'safe space', which is what it currently is and should continue to be. Were they allowed to legitimise their racists and fascist ramblings within the walls of the union, many members would surely revoke their membership. The Holocaust did not happen because we lost an argument; it happened because of an ideology that has no care for democracy, liberalism, diversity but most of all freedom of speech.



Hind Hassan
hindhazzan@gmail.com

No Platform, a policy that prevents fascists from organising at unions, has been the hot topic of debate around university campuses. In the past few months we have witnessed the Oxford Union's Debate Society make, what they believe to be, a bold political statement by inviting BNP leader Nick Griffin and Holocaust denier David Irvin to speak. Northumbria University also saw their largest ever Union Council Open Meeting where a motion to 'no platform' fascists (and racists) was passed by a comfortable majority. At SOAS, students successfully challenged their No Platform policy, the National Union of Students ratified theirs by an overwhelming majority and I shall be proposing a motion to renew ours at the next referenda in February.

In the past universities, Leeds included, have taken an unacceptable heavy hand in political freedom of speech in general - this has been conflated with the spirit of 'No Platform'. There is no doubt that one of the great institutions a society can boast is the tolerance of diverse expression; once that belief advocates violence or defamation of innocent individual's basic human rights than it becomes an oxymoron. By consenting to the espousal of Fascism on a political platform we would be fallaciously suggesting that it possesses the moral equivalence of mainstream political parties. How can we deny

“Those who state the prohibition of fascism is synonymous with freedom of expression unfortunately suffer from severe misguidance.”

Conservative party, on both social and economic policy. A gay friend of mine believes them to be homophobic due to Thatcher's introduction of Section 28. I consider the Labour party to be a rotting corpse that, like Dorothy, whilst trying to reach its destination has got lost along the way and found itself bartering with scarecrows, armoured men with no brains and a few flying monkeys. UKIP evoked incredulity with their surfeit immigration and EU obsession when their deputy leader, at an International Affairs Forum Society talk, memorably insinuated that a continuation of the European Union would lead



Guantánamo: Six Years On

The controversial camp reaches its six year anniversary this month, but what is there to celebrate? **Laura McFarlane-Shopes**, Chair of LUU Amnesty International Society, investigates the situation.

This month we are celebrating the six-year anniversary of the opening of Guantánamo Bay! Well, maybe not quite celebrating in the balloons and party poppers kind of way, but we're certainly spending a lot of time thinking about it.

It all started on that fateful September day in 2001 when 3,000 people tragically lost their lives during the attacks on the World Trade Centre. Fear struck the nation and under 'Operation Enduring Freedom' justice was sought in a war in Afghanistan. To accompany this mission, on 13th November 2001 President George W. Bush authorised the Pentagon to hold non-US citizens for an indefinite period of time without charge. The order also prohibited any detainee from being prosecuted in a US, foreign or international court, meaning that any trials would be by military commission only, not an independent or impartial court. This decision led to the opening of a new military prison to hold those arrested in the 'war on terror'. On January 11th 2002, the first detainees were transferred, hooded and shackled, to Guantánamo Bay.

Since then, the detention centre has been shrouded in controversy. It is now widely and internationally criticised for a number of reasons, primarily its illegality and ill-treatment of detainees. Not only are detainees held in Guantánamo without charge or due process (illegal under international law), but human rights organisations claim that for many, conditions in the prison amount to 'cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment'. Isolation is the primary method of torture at Guantánamo, especially used in the higher security camps. For example Camp Six, with a 178 person capacity, is surrounded by high, concrete walls. Inside, detainees are kept in small, steel, windowless cells without access to natural light and air, but instead blinding, fluorescent lighting 24 hours a day. Amnesty International UK director Kate

Allen said that "with many prisoners already in despair at being held in indefinite detention on a remote island prison, some are dangerously close to full-blown mental and physical breakdown after years of solitary confinement". This has led to four suicides and dozens more attempts. However, partly due to international pressure, around 470 detainees have been released over the last six years.

Many now say there is no longer a question of whether Guantánamo should close, but how. There are complications for around 70 detainees who would face death or torture in their own countries. One such is Ahmed Belbacha, an Algerian who was refused asylum in the UK, left for Pakistan where he was arrested and taken to Guantánamo. If a third country is not found then Ahmed will be returned to Algeria. Now labelled an 'enemy combatant' by the US government he will face a very real threat of secret detention at the hands of the Algerian Department for Information and Security, which would put him at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

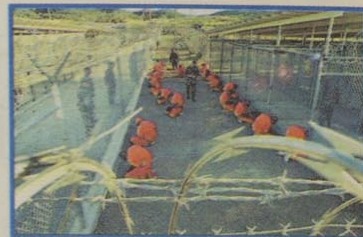
While the status of Guantánamo is largely heading in the right direction, it is just the tip of the detention centre iceberg. Guantánamo was established with the assumption that in Cuba it would be beyond the control of the US constitution and Geneva conventions. However, international and domestic pressure has made Guantánamo an embarrassment during a war fought on the premise of freedom and democracy. This has led to a series of judicial decisions that have actually made the running of Guantánamo impractical. The military commissions have been called 'unethical' by the US National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers and 'illegal' by the federal judge. The US Supreme Court has ruled the detention centre illegal and in violation of the Geneva Convention. So many domestic lawsuits have

meant that the US is outsourcing torture even further afield; to Afghanistan.

Former Guantánamo detainee Moazzam Begg was held in Bagram, Afghanistan, before he was sent to Cuba. He says that he drew strength from the knowledge that he was no longer in the worst prison, so couldn't be defeated while there were so many people undergoing even greater suffering. Mr. Begg emphasises that in Guantánamo at least the international community had knowledge of him, but in the 'black holes of detention' the media is not present and not even his family knew what was going on. Justified by being located closer to the conflict zone, many now say that the US military will simply replace Guantánamo by moving more interrogation and detention centres to Afghanistan, which The Guardian describes as 'one huge US jail'.

In both Bagram and the Kandahar airbase, guards dehumanize the detainees, beat them, violate their genitals, deprive them of sleep, suffocate them and abuse religious practices. Now that the number of detainees held in Guantánamo is decreasing to less than 300, it is important to remember that each one of them will represent five, maybe ten people detained globally under the guise of the 'war on terror'. However, methods adopted by human rights campaigners have been proven successful in Guantánamo so they can be replicated all over the world. By keeping ourselves informed and holding onto international pressure, we can respect human rights while combating terrorism. Counter terror with justice!

To find out more about these issues come to a talk by Moazzam Begg, former Guantánamo detainee, hosted by LUU Amnesty International Society on Tuesday 29th January at 6:30pm in Conference Auditorium One. Any questions can be sent to luu.amnesty@leeds.ac.uk



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LS Sport: Off the Record

Inside Sport this week:

The Carling Cup is often seen as the poor relation of the FA Cup, the refuge of teams who have nothing else to play for. To an extent this may be true, after all Middlesbrough won it in 2004, but a quick look at the semi-finalists this year should tell a different story. Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton and Tottenham were competing for a place in the final. All four of these teams are still in Europe, Everton are the only ones who have been knocked out of the FA Cup, and, with the exception of Tottenham, all are well into the mix for Champions League qualification. Chelsea actually fielded a team worth well over £100 million to see off the challenge of the Toffees.

The Carling Cup is clearly important for Chelsea who have won the trophy in two of the last three seasons. Avram Grant is on record as saying "We're pleased to be in the final. Chelsea try to win every competition they are involved in." It certainly matters to Spurs, as it represents their best chance of silverware this season. Yet Arsenal and Manchester United generally use the competition as a proving ground for their youngsters, especially in the earlier stages. An Arsenal team missing some of the star names - Toure, Rosicky, Flamini - were knocked out by Spurs in the semi final, and Manchester United's reserves were beaten by Coventry.

The Carling Cup is strange in the way that it seems to be a cheap trophy to win. Not getting through to the final seems to have done Man Utd, Liverpool or

Arsenal no harm, with Wenger dismissing the importance of the trophy as the bottom of their priorities after the match. Chelsea's recent dominance somehow seems rather hollow and somehow unfair in light of the weakened teams fielded by the rest of the 'big four', yet it is still silverware, a day out at Wembley and a route into Europe.

It is also apparently enough to keep Berbatov at White Hart Lane for the rest of the season at least, and as a Spurs fan, that is more than enough for me to value its importance!

words/ahran symonds-baig

Post-season greetings to everyone in sports-land. Before we move onto matters of BUSA and the joys of university sport, there is a brief tennis related matter I need to get off my chest.

The Australian open is in full swing and, as I type, the headlines from down-under are concerned with a certain J.W Tsonga and his magnificent defeat, no, magnificent destruction, of would-be world number one Rafael Nadal. It is true that Tsonga played like a man possessed. In his own words: "Nothing could stop me today. I tried to hit everything and everything went in." Whether Tsonga had a great day and Nadal a bad one is immaterial though - quality is quality and a performance like this from a player like Tsonga has been a long time coming.

Which brings us onto my first gripe of the day. Quality is quality, and Andy Murray is quality. I simply could not believe some of the comments in the press upon the Scot's loss in the opening round of the Australian Open, 7-5, 6-4, 0-6, 7-6. Who was this man that dare beat the British number one!? This just proves that Murray is terrible, no skills and no bottle! How dare he lose out to this unknown minnow of world tennis!?

Who was the man that showed us just how poor Murray really is? A certain Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, that's who. Yes, Murray was defeated by one of the up and coming young stars of

world tennis, someone who will one day occupy the top five placings along with Murray and compete with him for every major title. I am once again in awe of the abuse our sports stars receive from the public after what in the grander scale of Murray's career is merely a slip-up. Murray is acknowledged by the likes of Roger Federer as a man who will one day win a grand-slam, and I think the world number one for a record 208 consecutive weeks knows a little more about it than your average member of the public.

Australia, arguably the greatest sporting nation on the planet, never lays into their young sports stars in such a manner. Their press is harsh, yes (see the Ashes loss to the mighty England), but they encourage rather than destroy their youngsters. Luckily for Britain, quality is quality, so Murray will win a grand-slam sooner rather than later. It's just a shame he has to sit through the collective rubbish and abuse of an ill-informed British public on the way.

I don't generally do New Year's resolutions, but decided to buck my own trend this year. It's easy working for the Leeds Student to find yourself forever cooped up in the office, so this term I'm aiming to get out and actually watch some sport again.

This began with covering the Intra-Mural Netball playoffs and the Netball 3rds this week. That's a combined 6 hours of netball in 24 hours. More time than I spent sleeping.

I'm not saying that I don't like netball. It's good fun to watch, the game flows pretty nicely, and the company is great. But no one, especially me, should be exposed to that much netball in such a short amount of time.

By the closing stages of Wednesday's match against York St. John my notes on the game consisted of what the girl stood next to me was shouting (thanks for that by the way Lucy) or I doubt there'd have been a report. It's not that it isn't a great sport or that it wasn't a good game, it's just that I was all netballed out.

words/owen bradley



300 Seconds

Joe Hibbert chats to Women's fencing captain Hayley Beaumont



Quote of the Week

"It's Pablo that gets caught with his knickers down and Robinho dances around him...pulls it back for Raul. Raul says "Thank you very much, Brazilian boy!" It's off to the races! Like a thoroughbred. Robinho's vision, Robinho's class, Raul's deadly dagger!"

Ray Hudson, GoITV Commentator, Atletico Madrid vs Real Madrid.

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Sport

300 seconds with: **Hayley Beaumont****Hayley Beaumont**
Captain Women's
Fencing

LS: Hi Hayley, tell us a bit about the team this year.

HB: We've got a really strong team this year, we've just got so many new girls, it's fantastic, in fact there's only about three of us that played last year, everyone else is new, and there's a few girls who have been absolutely amazing.

LS: Whereabouts are you in the league?

HB: We're third at the moment, there's a team above us and then there's Northumbria and we've got to play them in a week which is exciting. We're going to work hard in training this week. There's one girl that plays for them who I come up against in a lot of competitions so there's a bit of a rivalry there. She's really good, but I've actually nearly beaten her on a couple of occasions, so it's a real grudge match.

LS: What's your training schedule like?

HB: Personally I train Monday night and Tuesday night and then there's matches on

“ Each point that we win is such a high.

Wednesday and training again on Saturday

LS: Have you organised many socials this year?

HB: Our social secretary has organised some massive socials like the Christmas meal that we had. I've organised a few girlie socials like going for cocktails, and we went to Viva Cuba and ate far too much, the table was filled with food.

LS: How long have you been fencing for?

HB: I started about five years ago, after I watched that scene in the James Bond film 'Die Another Day'. I went down to a local leisure centre and got involved with the fencing there. I then went on to junior level and I did really well. When I got too old for the juniors I came to Uni and now I play every week.

LS: Is this your first year as captain?

HB: Yes. I got chosen in the elections at the end of last season. In the first season I became quite a vital part of the team, because I became more versatile with the different weaponry. When I started out fencing for Leeds I only used the foil, but then we had a shortage on the Epee team so I had a go and I did really well.

LS: What's your favourite weapon?

HB: It's hard to say. When you train so hard with the foil and you have a bad day then you really hate it. The sabre is a lot of fun, it's a weapon that's quite easy to score points with.

LS: What's the best thing about being in the team?

HB: The fact that we're so close-knit. We all really support each other, we share everything. Each fight is worth forty-five points and we're all involved in that. Each point that we win is such a high.

LS: Are you looking forward to the big game against leaders Northumbria?

HB: Yeah, definitely. It's going to be a really exciting match, really good to watch. They've won all of their matches so far.



“ I started fencing after I watched that scene from 'Die Another Day'!

If you're interested in fencing then feel free to go along to their training sessions with a top fencing coach. They take place at the Sports Hall on Tuesdays 7pm-8pm for beginners, and on Saturday for 10:30am-12pm.

Playoff chances slip away for 3rds

Netball

Owen Bradley

Leeds Uni 3rds 33 - 41 York St. John 1sts Sports Hall One

A slow start cost Leeds dearly as the 'Jonnies' dominated the early exchanges and almost certainly ended any hope of the home side reaching the BUSA playoffs.

"Their goal attack had a storming game. Our defence worked hard, Natasha Corner our GK and captain was our player of the match. It was always going to be a hard game as they're one place above us," said committee member Lucy Ryan after the game.

Hardest to swallow will be the fact that Leeds were easily the better side in the second half, outscoring York 24-16.

"It wasn't working in the first and second quarter. In the third the team selection was much better but we were just too far behind to pull it back."

York flew from the first centre-pass, mesmerising the opposing defence whilst Leeds struggled to counter. It wasn't until the score was already at 4-0 that goal-shooter Charlotte Elvridge managed to get Leeds on the board, albeit at the third attempt after she had been fouled twice.

The torrent of early scoring continued for the

“ It wasn't working in the first and second quarter. In the third the team selection was much better.

away side though, the pick of the bunch being goal-attack Petch's attempt which found the net whilst falling backwards. Petch was ably backed

up by goal-shooter Halford who was prolific throughout, whereas her opposite number struggled to take her chances.

The personnel changes in the second half brought Leeds firmly back into the game, and they held the momentum for the remainder of the game, including three unanswered points at the start of the final period.

Proceedings were halted just before the final interval as Leeds centre Catherine McPhillips went off with what was a suspected recurrence of a long term ankle injury.

But Lucy Ryan reports that the injury may not be as bad as first feared.

"Cat McPhillips will be fine," she said.

AUDITIONS!!!! ACTORS NEEDED!!!!

Peter Nichol's 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg' is a hilarious yet moving black comedy. It unravels the life of two parents and their struggle to care for a severely disabled daughter and explores the depths of parental love and societal taboos. In collaboration with the Leeds University Theatre Group, the play will be performed at THE CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE, in Millennium Square on the 4th, 5th and 6th of March at 7.30pm. We are looking for 6 actors - 2 boys, 4 girls.

FRIDAY 25th January 6-9pm - The Arc, meeting room 3.

MONDAY 28th January 5-8pm - The Arc, meeting room 4.

FOR ANYONE WANTING TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NON-ACT along to meeting room 3 at 5.30pm for a meeting. Any (sophieandrews@msn.com/07969780229)



January transfer window

After a long month of transfers for England's club sides **LS Sport** asks whether the transfer window really works.

the **big** debate:

By Adam Lord

When I was a lad, barely knee high to a grasshopper, football clubs could buy players from the start of the season, all the way until March, making sure they had their squads in order for the crucial run in. Crucial that is, unless you're a Derby fan.

Things are constantly evolving, some for the good of football, and some because Sepp Blatter appears to have lost a bet. The Champions League is no longer for champions. Now the team finishing eighth in the Blue Square Premier have a decent claim to at least make the qualifiers. And shudder to think, England are no longer guaranteed to qualify for all major football tournaments. That however is a completely different debate.

With it being New Year one of these "advancements" in modern

The transfer window could endanger the futures of clubs in weaker financial situations

football is dominating the back pages. Our beloved Transfer Window. Personally I'm not a fan of January, I find it a particularly depressing month. Thus the Transfer Window does brighten it up. But let's face it, it's beyond flawed. It's a farcical play, being directed by Sepp Blatter, who's clearly lost another bet.

Why is it flawed you say? The teams can replenish their squads ready for the start of season and then in the New Year, which falls nicely in the middle of the season. A fair point indeed, if you ignored the complete madness of the two aforementioned months.

In the past, when teams could take a better look at players and buy them when it suited them best, be it in terms of what their team needed or that the situation of the player at his current club had changed. This is just not possible now. Teams have two months to get in the players they are sure they want, the ones

they are fairly sure they want and the ones they might possibly, just maybe, perhaps, in an emergency, need later on in the season. The madness is added to this season, with the African Cup Of Nations not only falling

during the season, but in January, leaving clubs without many of their top stars.

This gives us a situation that resembles ducks desperately fighting over the bread thrown into the pond. Except the managers and chairmen of the clubs aren't ducks, they're just mugs, duped by a stupid system. Duped may be a little harsh, as it seems to me teams don't have much of a choice, with the farcical system forcing their hand.

Steve Bruce is one of many managers who has come out and made this point. I'm sure he will not be the last. Bruce especially emphasizes all clubs now need to carry a big squad.

The sad thing is, that compared to all the Football League clubs, which are also constrained by the Window system, Wigan should be just fine. It seems to me that the transfer window could endanger the futures of many clubs in weaker financial situations.

The obvious current example is Luton, who in order to simply stay afloat, not just survive in the Premier League as Wigan do, need to be able to offload their top stars.

But, oh no, they can't do that until January, when in the future it may be too late for certain clubs. Selling star players to bigger clubs is what keeps the traditionally smaller clubs going year on year, the transfer window doesn't allow them to do this as freely as they should be able to. Money, of course, the thing that means we know what the beautiful game with beer goggles on, meaning beautiful just isn't what it used to be. At the bottom end it is a matter of life of death for some clubs but at the top we are presented with a bizarre situation. Due to the need to get a deal done in a short period time, a selling club can demand an inflated price if one of their player's is being courted by another suitor. Ridiculously if a club wants a player badly enough, there is no debate over this elevated price, and clubs pay it, to make sure the deal gets done in time. However, managers shouldn't go into them expecting to find any bargains.

By Ahran Symonds-Baig

As midnight looms on January 31st, clubs up and down the country will be desperately finalising deals before the transfer window slams shut. The transfer window has given football some of its biggest headlines of recent times. Who could forget the last minute deals for West Ham to sign superstars Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano? Fans up and down the country argue over who their club will sign at midnight, as the media fuel speculation by reporting sightings of players or managers outside of their usual territory.

Rightly or wrongly, the transfer window is here to stay. It was introduced in the 2001/2 season to comply with European regulations, and was intended to level out the playing field. Under the previous system, where transfers could be completed any time until March, wealthy clubs could simply buy cover for injured players, or poach star players from poorer league rivals.

The advent of the Premiership and the money it brought had seemed to create a large division between the fortunate few and the majority.

Due to the limited weeks that the window operates within, the emphasis was meant to switch from purchasing power to coaching ability, as clubs are forced to survive with the squads they start the season with until January. As such, tactics and the ability of the coach to motivate his players is more important than how many players he can buy. To this end, Kevin Keegan can expect a more difficult task at Newcastle this time round.

There is an argument that the top clubs simply Hoover up talent from weaker clubs, and create a stockpile of players to ensure that they don't suffer with injuries, suspensions, or African Cup of Nations call-ups. For every Steve Sidwell who has moved to a bigger team to be an occasional Carling Cup player, there is a young player or lower league bargain

desperate for a chance to replace them and create a name for themselves. This season, if it wasn't for injuries, suspensions and international call-ups affecting the Spurs midfield, youth product Jamie O'Hara would not have been playing and getting a run in the side. Without the transfer window, it is likely that Spurs would have dipped into the market to sign cover rather than relying on youth.

Clubs which invest in their youth system are encouraged by the transfer window, as they can hang onto their players for at least half the season, and players are getting opportunities earlier. Rather than

It's likely that Spurs would have dipped into the market rather than relying on youth

the transfer frenzy to sign anyone with a glimmer of talent, what we are starting to see is smaller clubs getting a fairer price for their players, as the purchasing team become desperate to complete deals before the window shuts. Without the long negotiation period where players can become unsettled, the bargaining power shifts to the selling club, which can only be a good thing to decrease the deficit between large and small clubs.

Rather than signing players en masse in January, successful signings are the masterstrokes which settle straightaway and add that bit extra to the team. The best example of this would be Manchester United signing Henrik Larsson on short-term loan last season. His contribution proved to be so impressive that Sir Alex Ferguson tried-and failed-to extend his loan beyond the original March 12 end date. Clubs are beginning to realise that panic buying and firesales are generally detrimental to their seasons, so the oft-used criticism of the frantic nature of the transfer window is becoming less and less relevant.

Clubs are seeing the value of a settled side, but there will still be teams who purchase an entire new first XI in the window. While players like Tevez and Mascherano may look good on paper, overall they may take more than they give. However, this is all part of the excitement of the window, as the ridiculous signings like these stand side by side with the sublime transfers of Larsson et al.



Your Comments...

This week, we asked:

Are you happy with Fabio Capello's appointment?

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

"No. I think that an English manager would have been a lot better. Somebody like Harry Redknapp or an up-and-coming english manager like Aidy Boothroyd would ensure that England has a strong future."

Damian, 20, Accountancy

"I honestly don't think it matters who manages that over-paid shower of idiots, we still won't win anything!"

Tom, 19, English

"I would rather have seen Lippi take over. He is more experienced at this level, and he's certainly someone that the players would respect."

James, 18, Languages

"Jurgen Klinsman would have been a better choice. He did well from Germany, and he's definitely the sort of personality that we need."

Greg, 21, French

"Fabio Capello is an excellent choice. He knows how to handle prima-donnas and we've got plenty of those!"

Simon, 20, History

Next week's question: Does the Transfer Window system really work?

First for the History Girls

• Team claim first Intra-Mural title at third attempt

Intra-Mural Netball Play-offs

Owen Bradley

Sports Hall One

It was a case of third time lucky for the History Firsts on Tuesday night, as they were victorious in the KPMG Women's Netball Intra-Mural Play-offs. Finishing the evening with an impressive record of five wins and only one loss, team captain Alex Haddon-Cave was understandably delighted



with the result. "We're really pleased. We've had the same team for the last three years and lost in the finals twice, but finally we've won."

The event marked the conclusion of Intra-Mural netball competition for semester one, with semester two's matches starting shortly. The men's football finals also take place in the Sports Hall this week.

The round-robin format was remarkably competitive considering that the teams entered had all emerged from leagues of completely varying standards. Even the History Firsts, who had been dominant in their league, didn't escape with a perfect record. They were edged out 9-8 by Psyc Soc in what was probably the best match-up of the evening.

"I was really annoyed. We should have won," said Haddon-Cave. "We were just tired and not running off the ball." Some credit must go to Psyc Soc though, particularly the forward pair who ignited their second half performance after History Firsts had looked solid early on.

Event co-ordinator Natalie Hall paid tribute to the History team afterwards: "History had a really good season and a really good goal difference". She was also pleased with the competition as a whole: "It's gone really well, everyone's enjoyed it. I'm just glad everyone showed up and made the effort".



The victorious History Firsts

The play-offs, which will be repeated in semester two ahead of an intra-mural Varsity showdown against the Met champions, was also a welcome run-out for the University Netball Development Squad. "In the development squad this play-offs, they were all playing with people they weren't used to playing with and so they put in a really good performance despite the results," Club Captain Danielle Bartlett told the Leeds Student.

It was victory over the Development

Squad which brought the biggest smiles to the faces of the History team; "None of us are involved in Uni netball, except three of us on the development team, but we're more interested in playing for history. It was so great to beat them, and to beat Law Soc as well, who we lost to in the final last year."

And Haddon-Cave isn't content with just one play-off win; "We'll be back in the same league this semester with the same team so hopefully we'll get to the finals again."

Men's Squash squeeze through close encounter

Men's Squash

Rob Carragher

Leeds Uni 2nds 3 - 2 Durham University 1sts
Sports Centre

A win in the final match of the day granted Leeds Men's 2nd team a deserved 3-2 victory, keeping them within touching distance of third place in the league, and opening up a 12 point gap over their opponents from Durham University.

The matches began with contrasting fortunes for the players. Ashley Cross on court 1 made full use of his superior technical ability against a powerful Durham opponent, sealing a

9-1, 9-0, 9-5 whitewash with a show of real finesse - summed up in a finely executed shot from behind his back that left the Durham player on the floor. Meanwhile on court 2, although Will Orrock was pulling off some good shots from the back of the court, his adversary from Durham showed great agility throughout, and proved just too strong in his overall play, with Will eventually succumbing 4-9, 4-9, 1-9.

After two games played at a relative canter, Ruairi Revell's game came as something of a shock to the system, with both Ruairi and his opponent approaching the encounter at a frenetic pace. Despite some strong backhand winners that were typical of Ruairi's play, he couldn't stop the first game slipping away 4-9, before an uncanny display of symmetry in the scoring saw him stride off to three consecutive 9-1 victories.

With Leeds 2-1 up overall, and only two matches remaining, the focus fell on Charles White - already 0-2 down in games and on the brink of defeat. However, impressively, Charles' didn't allow his head to drop and played himself back into the contest, firstly with a 9-3 win, followed up by a 9-1 annihilation that he was unfortunate not to win



to love. At that point, Charles was surely wondering how he had gone wrong in the first two games, as he pulled off some of the finest shots of the day to drag the encounter into a final deciding game. Yet, despite being as close as 6-7 at one point, the Durham player regained his composure to seal the victory, and set up a tense final match for George Weston.

However, if there was anyone you might fancy to handle the pressure of this decider, then it would probably be George Weston,

who stood out with his focused nature and equally strong technical ability. Up against good opposition, George obliged by winning the first two games 9-3, 9-4, and rather fitting to the tightness of the day's action, the third game required 2 clear points as George closed out the win, 10-8. Moreover, in doing so he cemented the overall 3-2 victory for Leeds University Men's 2nd's - a win that will hopefully provide the momentum for a high finish at the end of the season.

Man of the Match

Charles White
He'll be disappointed not to have won, but his fightback was outstanding

BUSA Results

Wednesday 23 January

Men's Badminton

1sts 6-2 Central Lancaster 1sts

Men's Basketball

2nds 56-49 Leeds Met 2nds

Men's Fencing

1sts 135-58 Sunderland 1sts

Men's Football

1sts 1-2 MMU Cheshire
2nds Postponed due to rain
3rds 2-2 Sheffield Hallam 2nds
4ths Postponed due to rain

Women's Football

1sts Postponed due to rain

Men's Hockey

1sts 3-4 Loughborough 1sts
2nds 1-5 Durham 3rds
3rds 7-1 Teeside 1sts
4ths 2-3 Sunderland 1sts

Women's Hockey

1sts 0-2 Loughborough 1sts
2nds 4-3 Northumbria 2nds

Netball

1sts 31-30 Liverpool J.M 1sts
2nds 35-18 Leeds Met 2nds
3rds 33-41 York St John 1sts

Men's Rugby Union

1st 31-3 Worcester 1sts
2nds Postponed due to rain
3rds Postponed due to rain

Women's Rugby Union

1sts Postponed due to rain

Men's Squash

1sts 3-2 Durham 2nds

Volleyball

Men's 1-3 Northumbria 1sts
Women's 0-3 York 1sts

Late goals earn Leeds precious point

Men's Football

Tom Skinner

Leeds Uni 3rds 2 - 2 Sheffield Hallam Uni 2nds Weetwood

'You're at your most vulnerable immediately after you've just scored' is a classic football cliché and it must have been ringing round the visitors' heads as they made the coach journey back to Sheffield on Wednesday evening.

Convinced they were taking the three points home with them, after twice going ahead in the final half-hour, Leeds 3rds showed they had other ideas as they hit back with stunning strikes from telepathic centre forwards Mike Ward and Dan Wardell.

It's this kind of resistance that proves Gwylm Jones' boys have the stomach for the fight as they seek to move away from the foot of the table. With one BUSA game left to go, Wardell's last minute thunderbolt could prove crucial in the relegation run-in.

A competitive first half was eclipsed by the flurry of goals after the break, yet to go in 0-0 at half time was more than creditable, bearing in mind that the opposition, like many of the teams the 3rds have faced this season, were a 2nds team. With Hallam quickly adjusting to the 'rubber-crump' surface, Leeds were pushed onto the backfoot in the early stages, relying on the determination of centre backs Kosub and Pooley

and the saves of Barry Tierney in goal to keep the scores level.

After only threatening from set pieces in the first 45 minutes, player-manager Jones backed up his half time words of 'shoot on sight' by cracking several long range efforts at the visitors goal, as Leeds began to enjoy their best spell of the game. A more patient build up coupled with

Against the run of play, Hallam's left winger outpaced his marker sending in a low cross, which the visitors' frontman connected with before Tierney, with the ball squirming over the line. Not pretty by any means, yet it seemed a wonder strike compared to the opposition's second. After Leeds failed to clear their lines, a well struck shot ricocheted through a packed box and hit their striker on the knee, who knew little about it as the ball struck the net.

Fortunately, in between Sheffield's poaching, the 3rds grabbed a deserved equaliser. Mike Ward, who caused problems all afternoon, got the goal his play richly deserved and took it in clinical fashion. With a pass slid into him with his back to goal, he showed true striker's instinct to turn calmly on the edge of the area before flashing a drive past the helpless custodian.

However, the piece de résistance was still to come. When a handball shout was ignored by the referee deep in both injury time and the opposition half, you might have forgiven Leeds for concluding that it was not going to be their day. Wardell however had other ideas. Muscling his way onto the ball, he put all his frustration into a cracking strike that whipped into the top corner. Gerrard-esque in both the way he took the game by the scruff of the neck and dispatched the finish, Wardell showed this team have both the quality and belief to stay in the division. All they need now is a bit of help from Lady Luck.

Man of the Match

Mike Ward

A fine goal capped off a great afternoon for the striker, who constantly gave Sheffield something to think about.

Billingsworth's trickery down the right hand side suggested the home side might have the ability to unlock the Sheffield rearguard, as the opposition appeared to be running out of ideas.

But it is a well-known fact that when you're down the bottom your luck often deserts you.



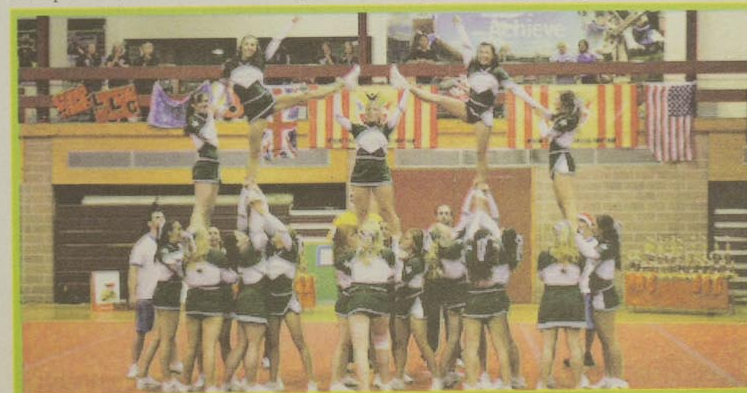
Cheerleaders triumph at ICC Regionals

The Leeds Celtics have wiped the gymnasium floor clean once again, being placed first in every division that they entered at the recent ICC Northern Regional competition held here in Leeds.

Against tough competition the Senior Group Stunt, Senior Co-ed Group Stunt,

Senior All Girl and Open Co-ed teams all achieved first place positions. Mike McMahon and Rachel Pearson, Stunt and Sophie Ibbotson and Jennifer Ingram both won in the pairs events.

The Celtics are next in action at the 'Heart of England' Championships on Valentines Day.



Teeside toppled

Men's Hockey

Ifor Duncan

Leeds Uni 3rds 7 - 1 University of Teeside Weetwood

Leeds 3rds demolished a lackluster Teeside team under the floodlights at Weetwood on Wednesday afternoon.

Early opposition possession countered for little when Leeds' Duncan Cole forced an early penalty corner that, after an illegal stop on the line by a Teeside defender, led to a goal from the resultant penalty flick. The lead was consolidated soon after when Hobbit Thompson chipped the keeper from close range as he sprawled across the goal line.

Cole was a constant threat throughout the first half, constantly running with the ball in his attractive dribbling style. His individual flair though caused visible friction with his own side. His lack of a final quality finish coupled with his selfishness on the ball is currently what prevents him from being a true match winner.

Leeds' varied attacks - alternating between penetrating drives through the middle and spraying the ball wide - caused havoc for Teeside throughout, whilst the away team struggled to muster any meaningful attack of their own. And as they pushed forward, Leeds struck on the counter once again through Cole.

The second half was dominated by the more physical home side. Winning battles all over the park, Leeds simply wore Teeside into the ground. The highlight of the half was Thompson's run and beautiful shot high in at the near post, hit whilst off balance and from the tightest of angles.

After Leeds had helped themselves to a sixth, man of the match Cole capped off a goal-filled performance with the team's seventh. Running through on the counter-attack, Cole cut through the Teeside backline with ease and ignoring his team mates, rounded the keeper to score as the final whistle blew.

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Big debate:
Does the Transfer Window work?



Sport, pg. 17

BUSA:
News, views and results



Sport, pgs. 18-20

Friday, January 25, 2008

leedsstudentsport@gmail.com

McAdam sparks Leeds

- Fly-half leads by example as Worcester are demolished
- Result moves side clear at top of BUSA Premier North B

Men's Rugby Union Dafydd Pritchard

Leeds Uni 1sts 31 - 3 Worcester University
Weetwood

Leeds' rugby firsts kicked-off the second semester in style at a blustery Weetwood as

they swept aside Worcester with a convincing performance. Despite a closely-fought first half, the home side's firepower in their backline proved too much for the one-dimensional visitors.

Having snatched victory with a last-gasp drop goal in the corresponding fixture earlier this season, Leeds began the match with a psychological advantage but this was far from evident in the opening exchanges. Towering above their counterparts, the Midlanders sought to capitalise on their physical superiority by playing to a decidedly forward-orientated game plan. Although slow at times, Worcester produced good, clean ball which allowed them to dominate possession. The tight approach paid dividends as Leeds were increasingly frustrated, and the pressure told when lock Matt Pearce was sin binned for entering a ruck from the side.

As reliable as Worcester's tactics were, their strategies brought no points and Leeds wasted little time in punishing their opponents'

profligacy. After weathering what was more a drizzle than a storm from the visitors, Leeds drew first blood with a splendidly worked try. Jamie Broadley's arched run tore through the opposition's defence and, having drawn the last defender, released Charlie Young to race over for his side's opening try. The home side were in the ascendancy and, after Worcester had a player binned, they pinned the opposition back with a kick to touch. From the ensuing line-out, the ball was moved swiftly, with numerous fine contributions from forwards and backs alike, to Neal Liu, who snuck in at the corner to secure a 10-0 half-time lead.

Whereas Worcester mauled forward by the yard in the first half, they could only advance in inches during the second period as their hosts turned the screw. Leeds played with a greater freedom, posing a stark contrast to the flat backline they were facing. However, the visitors were offered a glimmer of hope by their outside-half, Gareth Davies. Guffaws were heard from the touchline as he lined up an audacious kick to goal, only marginally in the Leeds half, but Davies silenced them with a rasping drive that sailed over with ease.

Worcester's revival was short-lived. From the restart, home captain Gareth Williams cantered into the opposing twenty-two, barging his way past any soul unfortunate

Man of the Match

Chris McAdam
The fly-half was influential as a runner and distributor, the catalyst for Leeds' adventurous approach.

enough to cross paths with the raging flanker. The foundation was then set for winger Liu, who stepped inside his opposite number to cross for his second try. The tiring visitors were deflated, yet their pride took further puncturing as Tim Sleight finished off an impressive move that was started inside his own half by Broadley. With the game already settled, James Dawson latched onto a chip ahead to conclude the scoring.

The winners celebrated victory with a rousing rendition of the Leeds United anthem 'Marching on Together' and, by stringing together such comprehensive wins as this, they seem intent on doing just as the song suggests.

Union in Nike Talks

by
Owen Bradley

Sport Leeds is in the early stages of talks with sports-giant Nike, LS Sport understands. Nike EKIN (a representative for the company) Ibbly Abutarboush, a former Leeds University Student, has visited this week with a view to building a lasting relationship between the two institutions.

As an EKIN one of Abutarboush's responsibilities is building bridges with the UK's Universities; "We have links with about twenty or so universities, but we'd like to develop Leeds as one of our core uni-links."

The tie with Nike would lead to awareness

for Leeds students in regard to correct equipment use and the prevention of overuse injuries, proper training techniques, events and initiatives held in association with Nike and the possibility of Nike products being used by LUU sports teams. "In the past, people have just done presentations and left it at that. Now we want to go into the community and help the sports teams."

Nike has sponsored stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney and Michael Jordan in recent years, and has also agreed a deal to buy England kit supplier Umbro in October 2007 for a reported £285 million.

Whilst discussions are in their infancy, there are hopes a deal can be done. "This is something we want to build on and really push on with."

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Annual Survey 2008



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