

**Energy Change**  
LS1 says it's time  
we reviewed our  
power supplies

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**Grammarman**  
The LS2 hero &  
Punctuation Girl save  
LUU from bad grammar

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# The Leeds Student Newspaper

Friday, May 2, 2008

volume:38 issue:20

## Triumph and tragedy

A year in news: victory, sorrow, triumph. *LS* looks back over events that have shaken the student community in this final issue of the year

### LS launches student housing rights campaign

The year started with the launch of our campaign for better tenant housing rights, which was specifically aimed at former LSH boss Rory Aitkens who owed his former tenants a reported £125,000 in unreturned deposits. The saga continued on the pages of several *LS* issues as we continually pushed him on whether the debt would be repaid. Leeds Students are still embroiled in a bitter battle with Rory who allegedly continues to owe £70,000 in unreturned deposits. This came to a head on Tuesday when students gathered to protest outside his former premises, now the office of YourStudentHomes.

Story continued page 5.

### Faceblocked: national interest in *LS* story

Autumn brought with it the revelation that University authorities had been taking action against certain Facebook groups which were seen to be targeting individuals. One group personally attacked a female student and another a female professor.

Speculation soon mounted concerning whether the lines between social networking and real life were being legitimately policed by University authorities. The story was recently picked up by the national press and it has also since been revealed that a rival monthly student newspaper in Leeds which will aim to provide uncensored and unregulated alternatives to similar stories.



### Bod closure revealed: set to sell for millions

In November *LS* revealed that the University had taken the decision to close down Bodington Hall.

The site's 1,200 residents are to be moved closer to the University, into sites such as Charles Morris that will be redeveloped to accommodate the excess student residents numbers. The news led to outcry from disgruntled students who felt that their community would be eroded without the remote site which is the furthest hall away from campus.

Later in the year a referendum motion was passed by the Union who agreed to lobby the University into reviewing the proposed sale.



### Vigil for Meredith



Last February the murder of Meredith Kercher, a Leeds student studying Italian abroad, sent a shock-wave through the campus and country. Students from all over Leeds gathered together to mourn her death, holding a vigil in the Tetley Garden, next to the Social Sciences building.

### Straw plaque in tatters, earthquake shatters

Just weeks after students voted to have Jack Straw's name reinstated on the board of LUU Presidents situated in the Old Bar, political vandals decided to remove it once more.



Leeds was later left shaken after the first earthquake in 24 years struck the area, disturbing sleeping students and loud house parties across the area.

### LS joins campaign for fairer 'home fees'

February saw *LS* concentrating on the plight of asylum-seeking students attempting to obtain recognition as students from the University but facing obstacles at every turn. We explored student awareness of Asylum and corrected some of the misconceptions surrounding this issue, supporting a referendum motion that hoped to correct this problem.



### Frequent protests permeate campus

It has been an eventful year for protest around campus. Students have been increasingly inventive in their methods to drive home their respective campaigns, with stunts ranging from caged campaigners to 24-hours sleeping rough strikes. The protestors have covered a wide range of issues including the Tibet-China conflict, as well as those a little closer to home, such as the national student fees debate.



### Sorrow for Gavin

January this year was marred by the disappearance of Gavin Terry, a 19-year old Leeds Met Student. *LS* backed a substantial Facebook campaign launched to help find the missing student. Messages of support flooded in, but the mystery was sorrowfully solved when he was found drowned over the Easter break.





# Sketch

words/  
Charlotte  
Griffiths



In case you haven't noticed - LUU have just launched their self-celebrated 'Celebrate Week' campaign.

This widely promoted stroke of marketing genius was designed to help societies to prove to each other, and to the all members of LUU what a good job they have been doing with their respective groups and how much they have contributed towards transforming our Union

this year.

Unfortunately the move may have backfired. Judging from the stockpiles of "Student Annuals" hidden away in corners of the Union, it seems that against all expectations students have *not* been clamouring to catch a glimpse of the charitable geniuses behind such groups as 'the HouseCraft Society' and 'the Real Ale Society'. The former of which proudly booklet-boasts that this year they have: "made a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken" and the latter of which claims to

have: "drunk over 1,500 pints of ale this year and counting..."

The Leeds Student society was given the following mention: "readership has gone up". Four words. Thanks. Well, I will have you know that it has "gone up" by a whopping 40% actually - but this is beside the point; LS does not need unopened booklets to boast about how amazing we are. We have instead opted to litter our own, larger and far more widely read, publication with references, pictures and even sketches of our conceited, smug and self-satisfied faces (see

below and left for example).

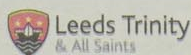
Forgive my egotism, it's just that unlike the exec, who have felt the need to publicly scold themselves for an annum of poor performance with buckets of ice water and sponges to the face, I feel that LS deserves actually deserves a bit of praise. After all, we have to make up for the measly four words granted to us by the 'magical' Celebrate Week booklet. Well done everyone who works for us, and for those who don't - prepare to behold our greatness in all it's glory.



## Readers/editors of the Week

**Editor** - Charlotte Griffiths / **Associate Editors** - James Haddon Gardiner, Matt Andrews, Laurie Whitwell & John Puddephatt / **News** - Chris Stevenson, Laura Mackenzie & Natasha Evans / **Extra** - Vivien King Macdonald, Jessica Parker / **Comment** - Maryam Ahmad / **Big Debate** - Virginia Newman / **Sport** - Owen Bradley, Ahran Symonds-Baig, Joe Hibbert / **Photo editors** - John Puddephatt & Maria Garbutt-Lucero / **Jobless** - Bazzgone / **Advertising assistant** - Kate Bevan / **Advert design** - Rebecca Edlin / **Copy editors** - Sarah Allen & Tom Midlane / **Proof readers** - Sarah Kelleher, Lauren Broadbent, Vicky Ellis, Thom Midlane, Jack Grommitt, Emillie Ruston & Amy Moorcroft.

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### Postgraduate Open Evening

Wednesday 7 May from 5.00 to 8.00 pm

Find out more about postgraduate opportunities at Leeds Trinity & All Saints

We offer:

PGC Secondary Education/Leeds School-Centred Initial Teacher Training

Postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in:

> Journalism > Business Studies > Literature and Spirituality > Victorian Studies

Research Programmes (MPhil/PhD)

For course details see [www.leedstrinity.ac.uk](http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk)

To book for our Open Evening

**e: [opendays@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:opendays@leedstrinity.ac.uk) t: 0113 283 7150**

Leeds Trinity & All Saints Brownberrie Lane Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5HD



# Pissed panda pervert left dangling the baby

by Will Alure-White  
& Drew Statman

Shock swept campus yesterday (Thursday) as the outgoing *Leeds Student* editor, Charlotte Griffiths, paraded what looked to be an 8-month-old baby around the University whilst extremely intoxicated. Paramedics, police and even the RSPCA were called to avert serious danger and bring an end to what commentators have been quick to christen, Charliegate.

The day of high drama began at 11am in the Old Bar where onlookers were said to be "horrified" by the lack of care shown to the toddler and "disgusted" with the way their mid-morning drinks had been interrupted. One witness, Barry McSquarebloom, a 1st year Computer Science student said: "I was quietly sipping on my real ale when I heard a loud sobbing sound coming from a dimly lit corner of the pub. When I turned to find out what all the commotion was about I saw a middle-aged woman flailing her arms madly, a drink in one hand, a baby in the other. She was wailing something like 'It's all over. Everything that was

gold has turned to shit." Adding: "The woman seemed to be showing more care for the bottle of alcohol than the living creature. My paternal instincts were all a quiver."

The drunken reign of terror continued into the Terrace bar where Griffiths – whom some have satirically dubbed 'The Mother of Mishap' – mounted one of the outside tables. Philippa Higgins-Smythe, a 2nd year History of Art student, takes up the story: "I was having a much-needed cig break when my glass of Moët got knocked over. I looked up to see this evidently squiffy girl trying to dance with a little baby draped in a veil. First she attempted a foxtrot, then a tango, but the frail form in her hands was unable to keep up with her frantic movement." Desdemona Verity Haddock, who studies Fashion commented: "After the girl gave up on the dancing, all she seemed concerned about was where the next Smirnoff Ice was coming from. She repeatedly shouted 'It's Happy Hour!' apparently trying to claim cheaper drinks. I was

disturbed; spittle was dribbling from her mouth onto the child's head. It was an uncontrollable baptism of saliva." Adding: "The worst thing was that the sheathed diminutive had been clothed in some green bedsheet which totally



clashed with the woman's red handbag. It was a heinous crime."

It is not the first time that former foot-model Griffiths, 32, has been at the centre of controversy. In October she was allegedly involved in a toy dog-fighting ring, while in January speculation was rife that the natural redhead had begun a food fight at a New Year's Eve party in trendy Lambeth. In each case, the evidence needed for conviction was insufficient and cases against her collapsed. But this performance of child neglect has taken her infamy to new heights.

As to the reasons for such outlandish behaviour one friend – who wishes to remain anonymous – ventured: "The end of her tenure as the Leeds Student's editor has hit her hard. That paper was her life, and to not be at the helm anymore has made her realise

this." Adding: "I didn't even know she had a kid. I mean she had a bulge in the abdomen area for a few months but I thought it was just a food baby."

At approximately 3p.m Griffiths was next sighted at the top of Union building, leaning over the LSR balcony. As a crowd of students and staff gathered below concern grew for safety of the baby in her arms. Bob Robinson, head of LUU security, was one of those congregated beneath: "We were all very worried, the little baba was clearly in a lot of danger. I'm very aware of health and safety regulations and I'm pretty sure she was contravening at least one of them." As tension mounted, heckles from the group were aired. It appears Griffiths mistook these shouts of condemnation for adulation and support, and she dangled the nipper over the balcony for a few seconds while gargling, "This is for you. I love you all." An audible gasp of horror could be heard.

Moments later a SWAT team managed to enter the radio office with the help of a battering ram and expertly coaxed Griffiths down with the aid of rubber bullets and CS gas. "She's bloody bonkers," one steely-faced officer told us as he wiped vomit and other fluids from his forehead. Reports surfaced that Griffiths was dragged kicking and screaming into a police van, all the while shouting "IT'S NOT MY BABY! IT'S BLAIR'S!". When asked for comment, Dr. Julie McWaffles of the Leeds Mental Health Institute said: "This shows all the classic signs of a mental breakdown. We at the LMHI would recommend a lengthy course of antibiotics and psychological dream therapy."

As speculation mounted over the

identity of the unknown father, rumours surfaced that the baby was not of human orientation, a fact later confirmed by CIA officer Neil 'Big Mac' Mackenzie: "It appears the child is not a child at all but a baby panda."



Adding: "How she came to be in possession of a creature listed as endangered is a concern and something we will look into. An investigation will commence immediately!"

Boris Johnson, Griffiths' local MP and close friend commented: "It's a sad day for the girl, sounds like lots of nasty rotters are out to get her. Clearly the pressure has got to her but in future she'll need to toe the line more."

As *Leeds Student* went to press hints that Griffiths had obtained the poor animal from a nature reserve in Zimbabwe were left unconfirmed.

## Boys put under the hammer for charity

by Tom Skinner

Bargains were to be had in the Old Bar last Saturday April 26, yet boys rather than beer were the main focus of attention, as they were auctioned off for charity.

First year student Becky Thompson came up with this original idea in order to fundraise for the UK based charity 'Project Peru'. Required to raise £1,000 for the cause, she made significant progress towards her target, as 'Buy a Boy' made £500 in what was a hugely successful evening.

Coming on stage to such classics as 'Sex Bomb' and the Arctic Monkey's 'I bet that you look good on the dancefloor', over twenty guys strutted their stuff before an enthusiastic female crowd, who bidded for the right to spend four hours with the boy of their choice.

The boys brushed any nerves aside as they went all out to impress. After a slow start, bids of £10 and more were

pouring in with one lucky lad going for an incredible £17 Jen McNeil played t. The night's takings keep Becky firmly on track to achieving her dream. In July this year she plans to fly out to Peru in order to play an active part in the charity. Helping in an orphanage will compromise the majority of her six-week stay, as Becky will attempt to try and aid some of the most deprived children in the country, as well as well as helping to build a new wing to the orphanage.

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If you would like to help Becky on her way to Peru please visit [www.justgiving.com/rebeccathomps](http://www.justgiving.com/rebeccathomps) on1



**MAKING A BID FOR LOVE: Old Bar hosts charity auction with a difference**

## Students get their own back and Exec find themselves soaking wet

**GET YOUR OWN BACK:** students get vengeful in the name of charity



by Laura Mackenzie

The Executive risked death and getting their clothes wet all in one week when they participated in a skydive and 'sponging' for charity.

Both LUU Welfare Officer, Lizzie Fellows, and Education Officer, Susan Nash, took part in the RAG skydive to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Care, and then managed to persuade

the rest of the Executive to take part in a sponging stunt to raise even more money.

'Sponge the Exec' took place on Tuesday and made a further £100 for the charity.

Susan said: "Quite a few members of my family have sadly passed away from cancer so it was a great opportunity for me to raise money for a charity that makes such a difference to so many families up and down the UK.



**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** Hit back at the Exec

Thanks to all those that supported us and to the other exec members who got soaked for the cause. I think the bar staff particularly enjoyed the soaking as they put ice in the water." The skydive was last Sunday but we are still collecting for charity so if there are any readers who wish to donate to this worthy cause feel free to send a cheque payable to 'LUU Rag' to Susan Nash, Exec office, LUU, LS1 1UH.



# University applications rise despite ever mounting debt

by Karim Flint and Adam Richardson

Figures released this week show that the number of students applying to University has increased despite the burden of increasing tuition fees.

The figures, released by UCAS show that applications to UK Universities and colleges are up 7.8 per cent from last year. The numbers from March 24 show 481,784 people have applied in comparison to 446,765 at the same point last year. The most popular course is Law, followed by psychology with pre-clinical medicine third. This is despite the advent of tuition fees, which will rise to £3,145 at Leeds next year.

What has been seen as one of the most significant rises has been that from students classed in lower socio-economic groups which has risen from 28.7 per cent to 29.4 per cent. Higher education minister Bill Rammell conceded that whilst the increase was not "huge", it was "reasonable progress." He added:

"Critics said when we developed the new system that applications would plummet, particularly from students from poorer backgrounds and it simply has not happened - rather the reverse of that." Other increases include the number of women applying to University, which has risen 9.5 per cent to 274,519.

Rammell was also pleased that government strategies to attract students to Universities had worked, adding: "We've spent £5m on TV ads, radio ads and multimedia campaigns to get the message across. The figures are an indication that the facts are getting across but we need to keep the momentum up. We have to redouble our efforts for the next cohort of students."

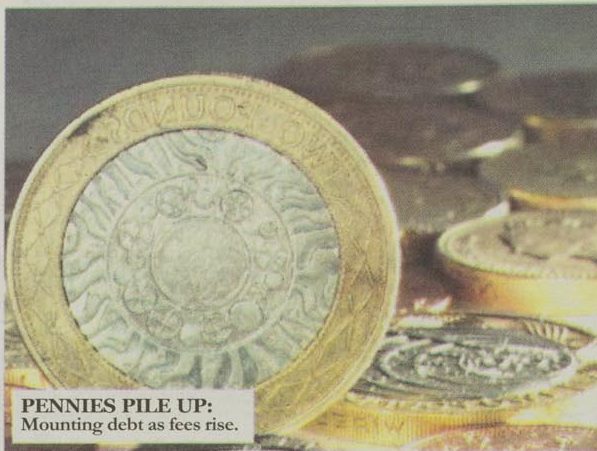
The NUS remains opposed to tuition fees with NUS President Gemma Tumelty saying: "A mere 0.7 per cent rise in applications from lower socio-economic backgrounds is certainly no cause for celebration, especially as these figures take no account of the change in the overall size of population. Clearly, the unworkable and unsustainable tuition fees system needs to be abolished in

favour of a more equitable means of funding the sector."

Laura McFarlane-Shopes, a second year International Development student, said of the findings: "The number of applications to universities may have increased despite tuition fees but this does not mean that students aren't being affected in other

ways. One of my housemates has to work two jobs in order to fund her degree, and this is causing her several personal problems.

"Tuition fees are eroding all of the improvements that have been made to academic institutions over the past 50 years - we are returning to an elitist system."



**PENNIES PILE UP:**  
Mounting debt as fees rise.

## Leeds flounders in regional table

by Emillie Ruston

This year's Independent University league tables have recently been released and the regional league tables reveal that Leeds has come third to York and Sheffield universities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Leeds scored the same or worse than York and Sheffield in all of the categories measured by the league table.

Student satisfaction and graduate prospects are higher at both the first and second place institutions, with Leeds' student-staff ratio being the only category in which it does not trail behind either York or Sheffield: in this category it gains the same score as Sheffield.

Students do not seem to be happy about Leeds' result. Abigail Ward, a first year Philosophy student, said: "Leeds doesn't deserve to be below York and Sheffield, we have just as much prestige as them. For my course the programme is much stronger here, I looked at York and Sheffield but Leeds covers a far wider range of content."

Whether or not it is felt that the University of Leeds deserves to be placed third regionally, it is unclear how much of an effect these league tables have on students' decisions to apply to Leeds.

Nicola McDonough, a first year Political Studies student, said: "League tables didn't affect my decision at all, the course itself, the university and the city attracted it more".

Whilst York's victory in the region was said by The Independent to be "unsurprising", there were a number of less predictable results in the rest of the country.

### National ranking of universities in the Yorkshire-Humber region

University	Rank
York	11
Sheffield	26
Leeds	32
Hull	48
Bradford	49
Sheffield Hallam	80
York St. John	97
Leeds Met	98
Huddersfield	105

## Role-call for Royal Academy of Music

by Laura Mackenzie

Three budding performers are trying to raise a total of £60,000 after winning places at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music.

Nik Briggs, Sam Harrison and Laura Tebbutt, all final year students at the University of Leeds, won three of thirty places on the post-graduate Musical Theatre diploma course, which had more applicants this year than ever before.

The diploma is a year long and each of the students must pay £11,800 in tuition fees as well as raising £8,200 to cover living and other costs.

The audition process involved a preliminary stage which began with an improvisational movement workshop. Nik Briggs, who is studying Theatre and Performance at Leeds, found this part of the process particularly traumatic: "An international student shouted 'fat boy' at me! I was like, 'Cheers babe, you just called me fat in front of the judging panel.'"

Laura Tebbutt's performance was similarly memorable. She said: "I kept swearing and it was supposed to be in Jane Austen times!"

Each of the applicants also had to prepare three songs and two monologues from any era or genre of their choice.

Nik Briggs was offered a place after the preliminary stage and was at work when he heard the news: "My Mum came to my work to give me the news and both she and my boss started to cry."

Both Sam and Laura had to attend recalls where they sang another two songs and performed another monologue. Sam said of the call-back audition: "I managed to make up a whole new song, I don't think I got a single word in the right order!"

Among the judges on the panel was Mary Hammond, the executive of the British Voice Association, who can count Chris Martin of Coldplay fame among her students.

Nik, Sam and Laura, who met through the LUU Stage Musical Society (SMS), are in the process of trying to raise the money needed to fund their diplomas and are currently making a CD in collaboration with fellow Stage Musical Society member, Charlotte Donald, which they plan to sell on Facebook. They are also planning to hold a concert towards the end of the year.

More information can be found on the Facebook group:

## News in Brief

### 'Queer' to stay

A delegation of four students attended the annual NUS Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Conference last weekend, in order to vote on future legislation and priority campaigns.

This year's conference, which was the biggest to date, was particularly controversial as Student Respect and Labour presented a motion to ban the use of the word 'Queer' from the campaign. This motion fell however.

Sophia James, the previous LUU LGBT Chair, was nominated for the position of Bisexual Representative on the NUS LGBT Assembly, although eventually lost out to Vicki Baars from Leeds Metropolitan University.

Geoff Whaley, another delegate, added: "Conference bought together opposing ideas and activists from all over the UK, but in the end it allowed for a unified front on issues ranging from gay marriages to LGBT refugees."

The Assembly regularly carries out political stunts and joint events and is looking to campaign against homophobia in sport and challenge stereotypes, whilst also supporting fellow LGBT individuals suffering persecution abroad.

### Wax:On, wax off

Wax:On are giving any students with a NUS card ten per cent off tickets to the first ever Wax:On Live.

Tickets are £39.50 and can be bought at [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk). For more information students can visit: [www.waxonuk.com](http://www.waxonuk.com).

### Cure exam stress

The Exec have produced Exam Stress Survival Guides, which have useful tips and advice to help students prepare for the exams ahead. Booklets can be picked up around campus. For more advice visit: [www.luonline.com/help/healthandwellbeing/examstress](http://www.luonline.com/help/healthandwellbeing/examstress).

### Blast off to US

nineteen;twentynine, a theatre company comprised of Leeds University undergraduates is taking their production of Sarah Kane's seminal play **BLASTED** to San Francisco in June 2008.

The US production has been made possible by a travel bursary granted by the University of Leeds. Five members of the original cast are flying over to be joined by three American counterparts. Director Felix Mortimer sees the venture as, "a great chance to place the play in a different context and explore its themes in a transatlantic setting".

The play debuted thirteen years ago and its graphic nature was seen as sensationalist.

BLASTED has never been staged in San Francisco, and with over twenty performances scheduled from 19th June 2008, it is set to cause a stir again. For more information, visit: <http://www.nineteentwenty-nine.co.uk>



# Same old story, no escape for Rory

by Chris Stevenson

It was a case of "same old story" for protesters outside the business premises of YourStudent Home.com on Tuesday when Rory Aitkens faced a further barrage from his former tenants in a protest which was marred by a physical clash with YSH staff.

A large group of students descended upon the building to show their anger over the fact that Aitkens has supposedly still not returned £70,000 worth of deposits. Several of the students dressed up in ginger wigs and wore t-shirts displaying a popular nickname for the landlord. They made their voices heard with instruments and chants including: "Same old story, don't trust Rory", placards were also carried. The display gained much public support with passing cars beeping their horns and pedestrians shouting their support.

Further controversy was caused when a Your Student Homes staff

member pushed one protester off the wall in order to get past the mattress blocking the entrance. The protester, Danny Adilypour, a third year Politics student said: "One of his workers appeared, aggressively yelled at a group of us to move and before we had a chance to react, he grabbed me round the neck and threw me off the wall. I was standing next to a concrete flight of stairs and could have seriously hurt myself if I'd have landed awkwardly." Danny added: "We shouldn't be subjected to such violent intimidation at a completely peaceful protest."

This seemed an isolated incident as another protester Jessica Parker, a third year English and History student pointed out: "Generally the staff seemed to actually be enjoying the whole thing. We even saw, through the window, that some of them were dancing along to our chants and drumming."

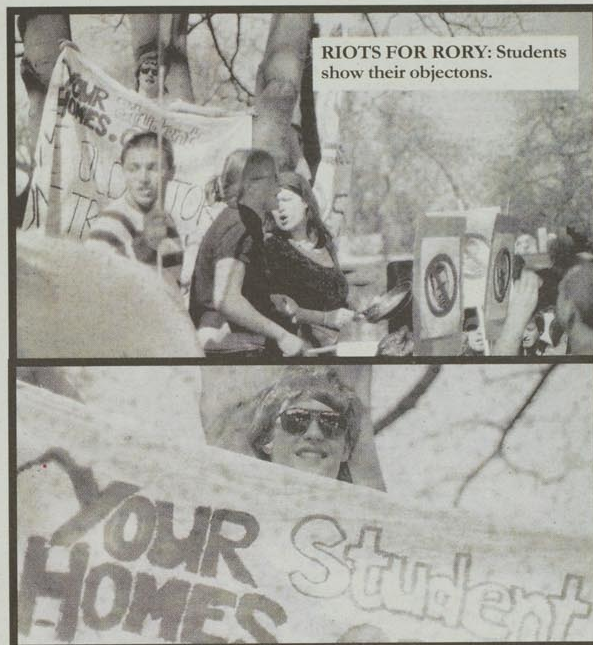
A mattress which bore the slogan "Rory owes us £70,000 - is it under here?" was also placed at the scene in response to the fact that

many of the former tenants deposits have been spent on mattresses. The Student Advice Centre said that to date Rory has charged nearly £10,000 for replacement mattresses. Over 40 students are being charged around £235 per mattress. These charges are compared with other agencies show stark differences. Charges range from £48 from Unipol to £165 directly from a bed company.

Another protester, Charlotte Ashton, said: "students aren't going to stand for rubbish accommodation. The general treatment we had from LeedsStudentHomes.com was appalling. We want to send out a message today that students are simply not going to stand for it anymore."

Commenting on the use of ginger wigs Charlotte said: "We wanted to make sure that people knew we were targeting Rory, as he needs to sort out this situation."

If people are still owed money from Rory or want to get involved with the group they can email: landlordactiongroup@yahoo.co.uk



## Controversial exorcist turned chick-lit author comes to Leeds

by Luke Rushworth

Children's author Graham Taylor visited Leeds University on April 29 as part of the Chaplaincy's 'An Audience With' series.

Taylor is the author of the popular 'Shadowmancer' series of children's novels and has recently released 'Mariah Mundi: The Midas Box'. He used to work as a priest, even sometimes as an exorcist, and his work often includes religious and supernatural themes.

'An Audience With' is a collaboration between the Chaplaincy and local arts organisations that gets Christian artists to discuss their work. A broad theme of the series is the interface between personal integrity and making a living in the culture industry.

Taylor said that the issue of integrity has been difficult for him, and the religious themes in his books have meant that radio and TV shows have often refused to have him on. Revd. Matthew Ward, of the Chaplaincy, says: "All writers write from their own context, they explore truth in one form or another and it makes sense that Taylor does this through his religion. It is quite admirable for a writer to include such unfashionable themes as religion in their work, and to be able to retain their integrity while making a living from it."

When asked about university and

students, he said: "The best thing you could do for students would be to get rid of the government. It is ridiculous for the government to call themselves Socialist when they impose such high fees on students."

He had high praise for Leeds University, saying: "It's important for Yorkshire to have a great uni, and Leeds is that, it has a great lifestyle." Taylor did not attend university until he was 35, having been expelled from every school he went to.

He claims that his work has struck a chord with many different groups, and has been approached

separately by people telling him that his characters are good Christians, or good Muslims, or even good Pagans. While he does write from a Christian background he remains ambiguous in his books, calling God by another name. His agenda, he says: "Is to put religion back on the table, to get children talking about big issues such as what happens to people when they die." He describes himself as an evangelical, but stresses that belief does not exclude thought, and rejects the extremist label that has been attached to the word.

Taylor, who self-published his first book from his home in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, has been compared favourably with both C.S. Lewis, author of the Narnia series, and J.K. Rowling. He has said that he is tired of his works being labelled 'the new Harry Potter.' His books are also compared to those of Philip Pullman, who wrote the His Dark Materials trilogy. Taylor says that Pullman was a great influence on him even though he: "disagrees with every word he says theologically."

A film was to be released based on his book Wormwood, but Taylor himself stopped production because the script was altered to such an extent that the story was unrecognisable. He has taken the book to another company and production is to start again soon.

He is currently working on the sequel to 'Mariah Mundi', and is also co-writing a chick-lit novel called 'Rosemary's Maybe', something he says that he has always wanted to do.



**GP TAYLOR:** The controversial author does not mince his words.

## Protestors battle to beat gay blood ban

by Adam Richardson

Campaigners from the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans-gender (LGBT) society protested outside the Union building on Wednesday morning against the rule preventing gay men from giving blood.

The activists aimed to protest against, and highlight the fact that gay men cannot donate blood for life once they have a had one male sexual partner. This is despite the blood undergoing extensive testing for infection once it is collected.

Levent, LGBT Assembly Chair and organiser of the demonstration, said: "The thing about gay and bi-sexual men not being able to give blood reinforces the negative idea that gay men inevitably get AIDS, which is wrong. This idea can also be seen in the rising number of straight men who get HIV, as they believe it is only gay and bi-sexual men who contract it."

Blood service policy dictates that men who have had just one male sexual partner cannot give blood for the rest of their life, even if they used a condom. However, men who have unprotected sex with a prostitute can give blood just one year after the encounter. Despite the testing that blood undergoes, there is a window period for people who are newly infected when any infection does not show up in testing.

The protestors also encouraged

other students to give blood, particularly because some of their members cannot. Levent added: "We should not be discriminated against because of our sexuality. However, we whole-heartedly support blood donation." The stance of the Leeds LGBT group is in stark contrast to that in some Unions, where blood donations have been stopped on campus.

This is in conjunction with the NUS LGBT priority campaign this year, 'Donation, Not Discrimination', which is against the blood policy preventing homosexual men from donating blood. The NUS believes that the ruling is both archaic and homophobic. Clare Anderson, NUS LGBT officer said: "This policy is really frustrating because lots of healthy gay and bisexual students want to give blood but can't because of the ban. It's not someone's sexual identity that makes them high risk, but their sexual practices."

There is also the online Bloodban Petition which will be sent to both the Prime Minister and the new advisory panel on blood in the summer. So far there are 1, 285 signatures.

The Leeds LGBT Assembly were recently recognized at the national NUS LGBT conference where the Assembly was highly commended for campaign of the year, 'Love Without Borders', which featured a Valentine's Day kiss and hug off during LGBT History month in February.



## 300 seconds with: Charlotte Griffiths and Laurie Whitwell

### Charlotte Griffiths and Laurie Whitwell

#### Outgoing/Incoming Leeds Student Editors

**LS:** Hi Guys here are your questions: Charlie, describe your editorship in three words.  
**CG:** I would definitely say fun, fun and more fun.  
**LW:** That's four words!  
**CG:** Oh alright then, erm, fun, friendship and fun, that sums up the office.

**LS:** Laurie, describe Charlie's leadership style in three words.  
**LW:** Demanding, she definitely demands the best out of everyone. There are many ways she gets people to respond. The many faces of Charlie - I respond best to her eating my sandwich, because I think 'Oh my God, I better eat this and get back to work before she gets over here!  
**CG:** (laughs) I only eat one bite of your sandwich, one bite a day.  
**LW:** One massive bite, big gob, no wonder she is an editor! Right, the other two words would have to be

Enjoyable and capricious.

**LS:** That's a big word. What does it mean?  
**LW:** Sudden changes of mind, I like a big word and that pretty much sums it up.  
**CG:** I am enjoyable? Thanks for that!

“

Hang on, you have soundbites coming out of your arse so...

**LS:** What are you going to miss about the job Charlie?

**CG:** The news team, and Laurie most of all! (Laughs) No, I will miss the staff most of all because it is great working with them all.

**LS:** And Laurie what are you most looking forward to next

year?

**LW:** Being in power and...

**CG:** Just say being in power, that makes him sound like he has a massive ego!

**LW:** ...and getting paid for doing something that I love doing and I would do for free.

**LS:** What advice would you give Laurie?

**LW:** Some serious advice...

**CG:** Oh God...Enjoy every last moment because it goes far, far too quickly and appreciate the fact that you get to work with a bunch of your mates every day, because that will never happen again.

**LW:** So you will never be mates with your work colleagues? (Laughs).

**CG:** No! I meant people of the same age, you know.

**LW:** Yeah the same age...and a few years younger...

**CG:** (Laughs).

**LS:** So what is your biggest anxiety Laurie?

**CG:** Losing me as someone to help him through!

**LW:** No, not that, I'd say the possibility of getting sued! And the fact that we are losing a great designer in Matt, if we can replace

him with two or three guys or girls that would be great.

**LS:** So Charlie, this is your last chance to talk to the Leeds Student readership, what do you want to say?

**CG:** Well, the paper is not going to be as good next year,

“

I only eat one bite of your sandwich, one bite a day.

but cut Laurie some slack...(All laugh). And the design is not going to be so good!

**LW:** Says the great designer?! The paper will be fantastic - even better than last year.



**LS:** Finally Laurie, this is your first chance to talk to the readership, what do you want to say?

**LW:** Please pick up the paper when you see it, it's going to be a great read...

**CG:** Even though Laurie will be the Editor!

**LW:** It will have stories that will be useful to you, both informative and entertaining.

**CG:** Check you out all serious, it's like you are reading an auto-cue!

**LW:** Hang on, you had soundbites coming out of your arse so...

**LS:** Right well this argument is probably going to go on for a while, so thanks guys and good luck next year to both of you, your 300 seconds are up.

## Payback time

It should come as no surprise that the average rent a student can expect to pay in Leeds has risen above the national average: not only is the city home to the second largest university in the country but to 50,000 students in total. Subsequently Leeds has become a landlord's paradise and companies have been quick to catch on that there is a large profit to be made in student rentals.

While this may be good for the landlords, the outlook's bleaker for students. A few extra pounds each week may not be the end of the world for all students - it may simply mean going without a couple of pints on a night down the pub - but for others it could be the difference between whether or not to apply to university.

It would be easier to forgive the landlords and rental companies for the hiked up prices if it wasn't for the fact that the majority of student homes are dirty, cold and damp. Often homes are practically unlivable in and many students are forced to vacate after flooding, falling in ceilings, and in some extreme cases, collapsing roofs.

Furthermore, in a shockingly high number of cases landlords have also been found to make unfair charges and withhold deposits without due cause. Students may not be the perfect tenants, this is by no means justification for the corruption of many a Leeds landlord, notably the notorious Mr Aitkins of Leeds Student Homes fame.

The obvious solution would be to have increased regulation of landlords and possibly even government-imposed limits on rental pricing. After the introduction of tuition fees it seems only fair that the government give something back to the students, and this would be the perfect sorry present.

## Varsity rivalry

As the end of another academic year approaches there is still no escape from the relentless inter-University rivalry. The competitiveness and bitterness that stems from this has become so palpable that international corporations have actually begun to tap into it's potential.

Nike and Apple have decided to promote their new collaborative training system within the University network. Granted, the system lends itself to promotions, with a keen market of enthusiastic people. In particular there is a definite appreciation of free goods. However, perhaps it is time to consider the outside perception of University students, are we all freebie grabbing desperado's? And more importantly has rivalry now reached a stage where it can be used for corporate advancement?

As usual the reliable medium of Facebook and the more general world wide web is acting as a forum for Leeds University and Leeds Met to engage in debate. In Leeds we have been fortunate enough to have good relations. However, other regional rivalries are arguably more severe, and are a definite example to avoid. Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent are thought to be an example of intense rivalry. There is often a strong police presence at matches and most organised club nights are university specific, with clubs selling tickets through University specific charities.

Here's hoping that the running battle provides a 'field' in which we can all fairly compete and vent our frustrations, so that ultimately we can all continue to get along and appreciate our common ground.

## Rory's return

After nearly a year of campaigning, it seems that few of the former tenants of Rory Aitkens have had the money he owes given back to them.

Leeds Student has followed this case very closely, providing a platform for those who wanted to raise awareness of their cases and helping to force Rory to at least acknowledge his debt. However, if the scenes outside the Yourstudenthome.com premises are anything to go by, then it seems that Leeds University students are still facing a fight on their hands to get hold of their money.

It seems ridiculous that that the battle for deposits has been going on this long with Rory repeating on many occasions that in his opinion he has done nothing wrong. But the strength of feeling surrounding the issue was shown on Tuesday with a very vocal protest.

While deposit disputes are a part of student life, the level to which this particular case has risen is a new low. The Student Advice Centre claims that nearly £70,000 is still owed which is an astronomical amount. This is without considering the time and effort put in by the former tenants in trying to reclaim the money - hundreds of hours have been put in with what seems to have been for little reward.

The concern is that, although the issue has been brought to attention of the masses, through Leeds Student as well as local and national media, will students still end up out of pocket? And as Rory has told the Student Advice Centre he does not have the money to pay and the YEP that those claims that are left are 'fabricated', is there any chance of this issue being resolved?

## Blood debate

LGBT protested outside the Union this week against the rule preventing gay men who have had just one male sexual partner from giving blood.

The National Blood Service ruling is similar to ones in other European countries, Canada and USA. In a statement of April 10, the NHS said that by eliminating groups who offer a potential high risk, they are immediately reducing the possibility of infection. In addition, they say that their blood screening tests are not 100 per cent accurate because of a small window period after someone is infected when any infection does not appear in testing, so they cannot take the risk. By June 2006, 1,875 people had been infected by HIV through blood or tissue transfer.

However, people can give blood one year after having unprotected sex with a prostitute, one year after having unprotected sex with a person from a high risk HIV country and one year after having unprotected sex with someone who is an intravenous drug user.

The Bloodban petition against the discrimination of gay men from giving blood that is to be sent to Gordon Brown and the NHS blood donor Chief Executive in the summer has only 1,285 signatures - their goal is 5,000.

We live in an age where we are constantly told that there is a lack of blood in British blood banks.

The National Blood Service collected 2.1 million donations from 1.6 million donors, which is only about 4 per cent of the population.

You can argue over whether gay men should be able to donate blood, but you cannot disagree with Leeds' LGBT assembly when they believe that everyone who can give blood, should give blood.



# Rent increase means that Leeds now exceeds the national average

by  
Natasha Evans

An increase in rent is the latest problem to effect student finances.

Last year occupants in Leeds benefitted from rents that were four per cent below the national average, this has risen in 2008 to one per cent above the national average.

## £62

The average weekly rent in Leeds, now above the National average.

The figures collated by accommodationforstudents.com show that the average rent for students in the city is now £62.03 a week, a six and a half per cent increase on 12 months ago.

However, when LS spoke to

members of the student population, many people felt that they weren't effected by the reported rent increase. Andrew Murphy, a second year, Special Effects and Animation student said: "Personally I think I get a fair deal and I live in Headingley and it isn't going up next year either."

Lucy Hoang, a third year English Language student, pointed out how dependent rent is on choice of area: "Rent really depends on where you live. For example, Headingley is expensive and I live in Hyde Park which is often a lot more reasonable."

Holly Moore, second year, English and French: "The Landlord I have at the moment gives us a really good deal, but I don't how my situation will change next year. Plus from what I hear Hyde Park is the most reasonable place to live, with areas like Burley being even cheaper."

Student theory concerning price depending upon area is also supported by statistics from the site. When referring to statistics from accommodationforstudents.com the four popular student areas of Hyde

Park, Headingley, Burley and Woodhouse don't appear to differ greatly with the exception of Woodhouse. Woodhouse has the lowest average rent of £55 a month, with Headingley the most expensive at £65.

The site also displays a student satisfaction survey, where students can rate facilities in the area, such as transport and shops. A total percentage score is then provided for

## £10

The difference in the average rents between Headingley and Woodhouse.

satisfaction and the results of this corresponds exactly to the average amount spent on rent. This means that those living in Headingley and Hyde Park are happiest, and those living in Burley and Woodhouse are less pleased with their areas.



# Oscar glamour Banner sparks outrage

by  
Tom Skinner

Celebrate Week kicked off in style on Monday as ten gongs were picked up at the Junior Common Room (JCR) Awards evening.

This event was a new addition to the traditional Celebrate Week line-up, as the Student Union sought to pay tribute to the halls of residence JCR's and reward those who have made an outstanding contribution.

Among the winners in this inaugural presentation was Josh Jones, who scooped the much coveted 'Best President' award. Jones was instrumental in raising and pushing through a referendum motion to discuss closure of Bodington Hall, which has kept the "Battle to save Bod" campaign alive. His commitment to Bodington's cause, in what has been a troubling year for the hall, has shown what an influence JCR's can be.

Another winner is Harriet Johnson. The president of Carr Mills was recognised as an 'unsung hero' for her tireless enthusiasm for organising imaginative events, which have included ice-cream socials and Christmas nights at Fruity.

The aim of the night was about what can be achieved through teamwork and most of the prizes went to JCR's as a whole rather than individuals. Lupton JCR emerged victorious in the 'Best Team' category, whilst Lyndon secured a 'Sporting Team Spirit' award, after managing to field a team in virtually every

competition.

The achievements of the JCR's simply set the tone for Celebrate Week, which intends to honour all those who have become significantly involved in activities outside of their degree. "It's our way of showing how much we appreciate the work volunteers put in to making student life at the University of Leeds as vibrant and diverse as it is," explained Andy Winter, Student Activities Manager.

With ceremonies every night this week everything will be covered. Tuesday night saw 'The Dusties' take place, which congratulated Student Representatives for their hard work, whilst two days later Union volunteers will be equally recognised.

Many are looking forward to the centenary of the prestigious Sports Colours Dinner, which had not taken place at the time of writing, is commemorating not simply 100 years of sport at Leeds but the seasons this year's teams have enjoyed.

The men's football and rugby sides will be running head to head in contesting team of the year, yet the presence of the volleyball team among the nominations emphasises that part of the purpose of the awards is to promote so called 'minority' sports.

'The Riley's', Leeds' very own equivalent of the Oscars is still to come on Friday. Afro-Caribbean society members will be foregoing Fruity this Friday, as they hope to go home with the 'Most Improved Society' and 'Most involved in the LUU' award, the latter of which Leeds Student is nominated for.

by  
Laura Mackenzie

New conflict has arisen on campus this week between the warring LUU Jewish Society (JSoc) and the Palestinian Solidarity Group (PSG), after PSG put up a banner outside the Union claiming that 720,000 Palestinians were "ethnically cleansed" in the creation of the Israel state in 1948, and that it was the "time to return" for Palestinian exiles.

The banner's message came in the middle of 'Israel Week' and the state's 60th anniversary celebrations, and only hours before Ran Gidor, the Director of Political Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Britain, was due to speak

on Israel's perspective on the conflict in the Middle East.

Due to the high tensions surrounding the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and question of the legitimacy of the creation of the Israeli state, police were on stand by at the talk and a scuffle resulted in one protestor being arrested.

The banner sparked controversy and outrage immediately after it was put up and formal requests were made to the Union for it to be taken down. Eva Cohen, a member of JSoc, said: "The Union asked that the banner be taken down but the University were slow to act, which suggests that it supports the view. We support free speech and a dialogue between the two groups on campus but the banner was unnecessarily inflammatory, in particular the usage of the words 'ethnic cleansing'."

In response to these claims Akram Salhab, Treasurer of

PSG, said: "We were calling for the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes. This is an inalienable right under international law, a right which has been reinforced by subsequent UN resolutions. The objections from the Jewish society was just another example of an attempt to silence Palestinians' voices."

In light of the conflict LUU Executive requested to issue this statement: "The Union, together with the University, has and continues to work to ensure harmony and respect on campus within the context of freedom of speech. There have been a number of occasions within the past week where LUU would have preferred the language used by those involved to be less inflammatory. However, the Union and the University can only take action where obligations under our Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech are contravened and we agree with the University's interpretation that this was not the case."



POLICE PRESENCE: tensions run high  
photos: Laura Mackenzie and Eva Cohen



## The Big Debate

# the big debate:

## Expecting Perfection?

This week, Leeds Student reported that student rent in Leeds has gone above the national average. Students want better quality for their money but, as this week's debate asks: **'Are our housing expectations too high?'**

**Unfair Expectations...Kieran Toms**  
email: [kierantoms88@gmail.com](mailto:kierantoms88@gmail.com)

**S**tudents, when searching for somewhere to drunkenly crash for a year or so, always seem to be looking for their dream house. But you're not going to uncover an idyllic country cottage in the middle of Hyde Park.

Whilst this is a slight exaggeration, there does seem to be an unrealistic air of expectancy amongst students searching for houses. Some students I've spoken too took ages searching for their house back in January, desperately looking round dozens and dozens of homes, always discounting them for a variety of strange and spurious reasons. In the end they had to settle for a house that they admit was a little worse and a little more expensive than many they had looked for, as all their preferred 'slightly-more-acceptable' houses had disappeared in the great annual stampede. They weren't best pleased.

But does it really matter too much where you live? Sure, it would be lovely to live in a house where your room is marginally bigger than some small countries, or to pay so little that your overdraft would never even cross your mind. But that's a tad unrealistic. Students live in their houses for a maximum of three years, generally, it doesn't matter that it's not perfect.

Students are not supposed to be fully grown adults, with all the tedious responsibilities and dreary duties that middle age promises. Why live like an adult, when we will have 50 years or more ahead of us to do just that? It's okay to live somewhere that one day you'll remember fondly, because you were young and you didn't mind so much about the finer niceties of life, when life was simpler. When your house was just somewhere that should keep you warm and dry, forget the luxuries. That time is now. We're lucky, these things will come.

For now, just revel in the experience of what you always hear is 'the best time of your life'. Does 'character building' sound too flippant? Regardless, just try and enjoy things a bit more, of course you need to live somewhere, just don't get to het up about frivolous extras. You'll make the most of it, and in 20 years time you'll reminisce around a dinner party table about how quaint it all was!

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

**S**tudents have every right to have high expectations from their accommodation, especially now that we are paying EVEN more. We need a manageable house with a responsible landlord in order to live comfortably and work effectively.

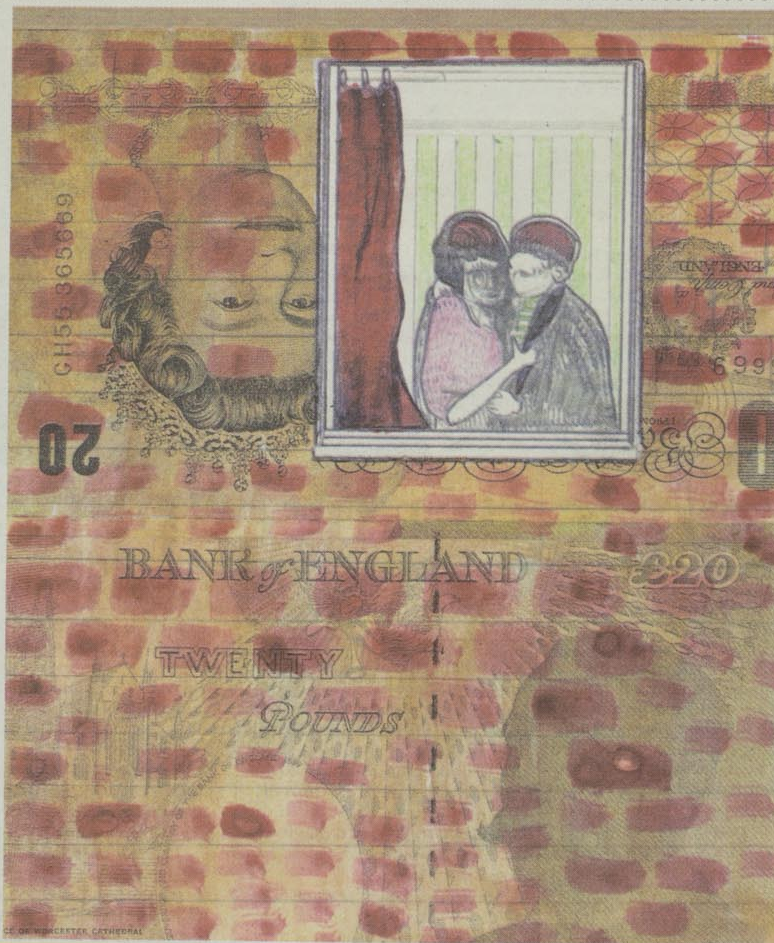
Student Counselling services have reported that a great amount of distressed students complain of problems of housing, but this does not just include disputes between friends but also includes problems with houses in poor shape and unprofessional landlords. Similarly, I am sure that the LUU Student Advice Centre would also vouch that they have way too many problem housing cases. When these problems are present for our students, how can we be happy at the news that our rent, on average, has now increased by a significant 6.5 per cent.

Landlords make an absolute fortune out of students in Leeds so it does not surprise me the our rent has gone above the national average. It may seem that we get pretty cheap rent at roughly £62.03 per week, however times that by six in a house and that is £372.18 a week!

When I interviewed Rory Aitkins, earlier this year, on the back of the deposits scandal, he argued that students' expectations were too high. He talked of times when he was a student and student houses were furnished with supplies from the local tip. Old students of my parent's generation also recall living in minimal student housing full of granny furniture, but we are not living in that age anymore. It is perfectly reasonable to expect conditions to improve. Firstly because of recent increases in rent and, secondly, because we are now living in the age of IKEA-grade furniture at low prices (or whatever their tag line is!).

Much to my distress, higher education has become a consumerism world. Students have to pay for everything nowadays. Therefore they should have every right to expect a standard of service which speaks to the amount of money that they are out of pocket.

Lets not allow the public to complain on yet another issue about students, but fight for fair rent in line with the rest of the country.



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# LS Extra



## Leeds Eco-warriors

10

Saving our environment is often perceived as a personal battle, but our Leeds student eco-warriors talk about the bigger picture.



## Know Your Rights

10

Ever wondered if your boss is legally allowed to make you work certain hours? We find out just what rights you have and how to exercise them.

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As months of hard work designing and creating cutting-edge fashions culminate in the long-awaited fashion collection exhibition, 3rd year fashion design student **Carley Gibbs** shows us some of her illustrations and finished pieces, and gives us a wry snapshot of life as a designer.

The Rambling of a Third Year Fashion Design Student, at The End of Her Tether

Last night I did not dream of Manderley, but that I was flying, high, transported by a craft of the air, sewing colossal stitches of red yarn, which fell like a rock off a cliff edge down towards formidable needles. The stitches formed a thick path on the land below, and a tiny version of myself followed them desperately, clawing her way to towards the next gigantic loop. Is my living room a sweatshop? Do my housemates deserve of a scanty wage?

"Unpick my upside down tutu!"

"This wouldn't even fit a child!"

Staggering to Jacksons in my pyjamas and one sock, searching for the next hit of caffeine, I attempted to pin down how, exactly I should receive my tutor's ominous question:

"So are you planning on continuing with Fashion Design when you leave University...?"

You can view mine and other third year fashion collections in the School of Design between the 2nd and 5th of June, some of which will be selected to be shown at Graduate Fashion Week in London from the 8th.

Sew, if you are a material girl, or boy, cotton on and leg(ging) it down! Work those pins! Quick (unpick)! Peg it! Don't get a stitch.



## POGO HEAVEN

What do Christianity, pogoing and porn have in common? God knows...

Jon Speirs, a second year philosophy student is breaking the traditional mould for summer projects... While most of his USA bound peers will be enjoying a spot of "Camp America", he has opted for the more unorthodox and taken an internship at XXXChurch.com in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As the first international intern for the controversial Christian organisation that isn't afraid to say, "Jesus Loves Porn Stars", Jon is certainly taking the "narrow road". During this final week of lectures you can catch him raising money by pogo-sticking for a mile and selling pornography-themed cakes on Friday 2nd. Don't forget to look out for his "Pogo for Porn Stars" on YouTube.



# Leeds students demand

Leeds students have demanded a commitment on energy transition from the Environment

Until recently, the climate change campaign has revolved around promoting awareness of individual responsibility to the environment. The predominant focus has been upon the need for individuals to cut their carbon emissions through lifestyle changes. While this focus is important - we must all reduce our emissions and adapt to living less energy-guzzling lifestyles - such efforts are being undermined by the continued investment in major fossil fuel extraction projects by large private corporations and government bodies.

One of the biggest investors in such projects is the Royal Bank of Scotland. Self dubbed 'the oil and gas bank', RBS funds some of the most destructive and controversial fossil fuel extraction projects on the planet. They are involved in oil and gas extraction projects in the Niger Delta which are widely recognised as drivers of conflict, corruption and under development. Many students may not know that

Natwest, one of the most popular student banks, is owned by RBS. As a customer of Natwest, it could well be your money that is being used to finance environmentally and socially destructive projects such as this.

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from RBS' investments in 2007 were greater than those produced by the

and sustainable level. Already, the devastating environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change are being seen around the globe, with floods and droughts leading to food riots and greater numbers of refugees. Continued investment in fossil fuel powered energy projects by RBS and similar investors will massively exacerbate these problems, putting the world's resources under even greater strain.

At the RBS AGM in Edinburgh this week, students from the Leeds People and Planet campaigning group joined other students from around the country to hold RBS to account, by demanding an end to fossil fuel extraction projects and a transition to renewable energy lending by 2009. In a creative and vibrant protest outside the AGM, the students held a mock court case putting RBS on trial for their 'climate crimes against humanity', drawing substantial press attention in the process. Shareholders entering the conference centre were greeted with chants of 'RBS - climate criminal' and the unanimous verdict of 'guilty'.

One of the most controversial energy projects RBS is currently proposing to finance supports

energy company E.ON in their proposal to build the first coal-fired power station in Britain for over thirty years. The proposal for the development of the power station in Kingsnorth,

Kent is currently being considered by the government along with possible plans for seven others to follow. If these eight new coal power stations are built they will emit fifty million tonnes of carbon per year - equivalent to the annual emissions of Ghana. A recent UN Development Report claimed an 80% reduction in Britain's carbon emissions by 2050 is needed to for us to have any possibility of avoiding the 2 degree rise in global temperature that is now widely recognised by many scientists as an irreversible and catastrophic tipping point. In twenty years these eight coal power stations alone would emit half of Britain's carbon quota for the next fifty years as



Some of the team meet Hilary Benn

whole of Scotland. The development of new long term projects by RBS is locking us into decades of high carbon emissions, therefore limiting the chance we have of curbing the ecological impact of rising global temperatures. We are now reaching that critical point where the energy decisions we make will determine whether carbon emissions can be brought down to a safe

A creative protester



## Workstuff: YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE

For those students slaving t  
students even know their rig

The pathetic group of snivelling bartenders, each one as thin as a top model in training and with fingers shredded to the bone, huddle over their paltry wage slips at the end of the night... 'Please, Sir', one of the bolder ones dares to ask the fat-cat, top-hat wearing Manager. - 'Can I have some more?'. It's not really a representative image of young people in the workplace today. Because young, part-time workers don't get exploited anymore, do they?

It's true that these days you're unlikely to be beaten for asking for a bowl of gruel at the end of a shift (although you might get some rather odd looks). 'Exploited' is also a very strong word. But it's fairly safe to say that part-time jobs (particularly those of the minimum wage variety) are still often far from perfect in terms of providing for their employees.

Thirty percent of you have jobs during term-time, with an additional 22 percent just working during holidays. So even if you don't have a job, the likelihood is you'll know someone who does. Do you know anyone who's ever experienced the following problems?

### Bullying bosses

- Pressure to work more hours than you initially agreed to. (Mark, a second year product design student, says of his part-time job that "you're sometimes asked to work over your contracted hours. If you don't, you're not given the same privileges as employees who have. If you ask for time off, for example, you might not be granted it.")
- Backache from stocking up/permanently cut fingers from glass/kitchen implements.

Hmm. Now I wonder what percentage of those with jobs have been offered any of the following

- Any paid holiday.
- Decent breaks during shifts.
- Training for dealing with difficult customers (and believe

me, work with the general public for any length of time and you'll know just how difficult they can be).

I've also heard of more serious problems than these. What about the lad at the nightclub who was beaten up by customers, only to be slipped a tenner by the bouncer on duty so he didn't have to kick them out? Or the girl who worked in a bar where customers regularly threw things at her in order to get her attention?

I've held several part-time jobs in my time and despite these concerns, I've really enjoyed every part-time job I've had. Employers, in general, aren't whip-cracking demons whose sole aim in life is to work you into the ground. However, there are definitely certain things that a lot of them could (and should) be doing to make their employees' lives that bit cushier.

Problems for part-time workers seem to arise from two sources:

- not knowing their rights
- managers' failure to comply with their rights

In this article, I want to give a quick explanation of what part-time worker's rights are, and give some suggestions for what you can do if you don't think your rights are being upheld.

At the crossroads of life



These days you're unlikely to be beaten for asking for a bowl of gruel at the end of a shift.

### Step One: Know your rights.

When it comes to employment rights for part-time workers, myths abound. I went on a fact-finding mission in order to answer the following question: what rights do you actually have in your part-time job? 'More than you might think' is the short answer.

The long answer is as follows. Part-time employees have the right to:

- A break. You're entitled to a 20 minute break if you work for six hours.
- Paid holiday. This is the good one...

ALL workers, part-time or otherwise, have the right to a paid holiday. Even those on a zero-hour contract (see 'what is a zero-hour contract?' below), or those who haven't been in the job very long. So how much can you receive? Well, full-time workers receive 4.8 weeks paid holiday a year, and you are entitled to receive a proportion of this, according to how much you work. Paid holiday does need to be arranged

with your employer (unless it's for sickness or family circumstances), but nonetheless for every 60 hours you work, you're entitled to 5½ hours paid holiday. Ryanair.com is beckoning...

NB If you haven't claimed for any paid holiday, when you leave your job you can claim money for any paid holiday you were entitled to but didn't take. Grab it while you can.

- Any kind of health and safety you could ever want. Health and safety is massively legislated, and as you can probably guess, if you have any kind of concerns over health and safety in your job, it's pretty likely that your employer is liable.

Despite all this legislation, most of the people think that (for e.g.) backache and cut fingers are all a normal part of their job, and don't realise employers have

# LSX

## inside

second / may / two thousand and eight

### BIG NIGHT

A party rather than a punch was thrown, find out how it went down

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### FILM

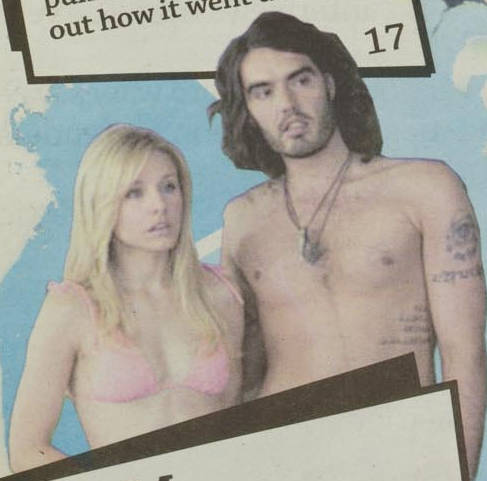
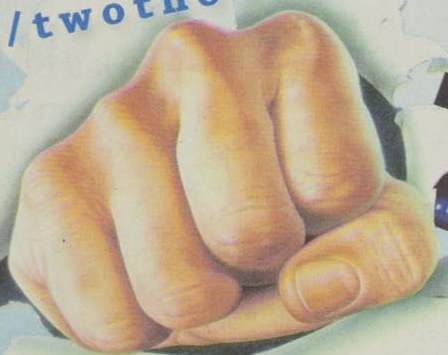
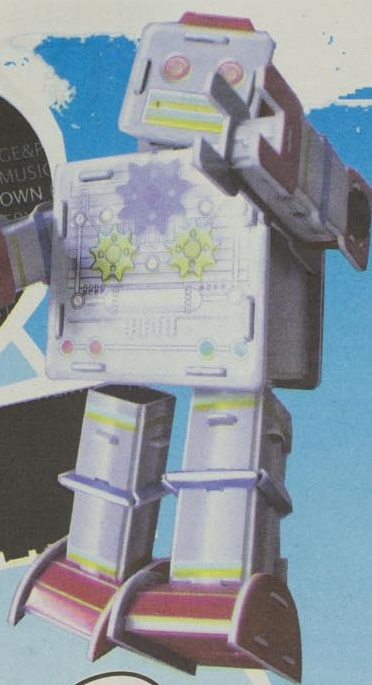
LS2 managed to remember to review Forgetting Sarah Marshall

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### GRAMMARMAN

Never has punctuation been so sexy or superheroic

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STAR MUSIC LOW DOWN T E L E V I S I O N  
! P A G E BOOKS HOLLYTRIES KARIM INTERVIEWS...  
CLUBS ARTS FASHION OBSERVATIONS

# 02 Contents

## LS2 inside

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## The LOW DOWN

with Martha and Karim



Actually this is meant to represent Mormon heaven.

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

**S**o this week I had to go commemorate the opening of The Cockpit's Room 3. Which as it turns out, is looking a lot cleaner than the mess it once was. But yeah, the free beer was flowing, a Death Cab-esque blues band were making pleasing noises, and it wasn't even 7pm! Getting drunk in the daytime is well weird, you almost feel like a homeless. Except without the liver spots. But yes, this weekend sees the arrival of loads and loads of bands upon the pubs and bars of Leeds for what we like to call SXSW(Y). Enjoy Operator Please.

KK

**I**f you're not down with your acronyms, Karim is referring to 'Live at Leeds' or South by South-West Yorkshire. A whole gaggle of bands will grace venues across the city, including the aforementioned Death Cab-esque two-piece, more commonly known as The Old Romantic Killer Band. A bit of a mouthful, but well worth a watch. Also worth watching are the very gorgeous quartet The Bacchae, who will be gracing The Wardrobe around 9pm. Get your 'sen down kid!

ML



999: Operator please: we're stuck in a goddamn glass box!

### Overheard this week.

If you get off and I don't, then it's known as something else-RAPE.//Wiley's been big-upped in Dazed and Confused? Where will it all end?/Come on, he looks like a less grotesque Henry the Eighth.//You don't understand women, how the fuck did you get a girlfriend?//He went from being on the cusp of earning ten million in a year to a cab driver.//Bye Karim and Martha you were great lovers.

words/ karim khan, martha ling

Going up

#### NO LOVE LOST RECORDS:

Pioneering label that's also putting some of the best mixes by today's sickest DJs on their myspace under the guise of The NLLR Mixtape Project. And you know what? it's free! Bloody Beetroots, Brodinski, Missingtoof and South Central have all provided sets, plus the essential playlists that tell us, the humble listener, what the fuck they're actually playing. Like you can actually find/afford their white labels.

#### WILEY T-SHIRTS:

Hot Off The Press! Get 'Eski-Beat Records' T-shirts from Wiley's myspace that look better than any of that 'vintage/dressed' bull you buy for 40 quid from Urban Outfitters. (Luckily, for all you label whores, a new one's just opened next-door to Vidal Sassoon in town). Come on, £40 for an old-looking tshirt? why not just buy an old t-shirt? Durr.

#### PERSEPOLIS:

It's a cartoon film, and it's not Greek. It's actually the story of a young girl growing up in Iran, moving to Paris, realising how rubbish the people are there, going to Switzerland, being homeless and oh, O.K. I'll stop now. It's really good.

#### UK GARAGE:

So apparently UK garage music is cool again. Club nights like Birmingham's Bigger than Barry are venturing north to spread the world of Sweet Female Attitude and Co. Hold on a minute, does this mean Craig David's cool again? Will we all start wearing Union Jack jumpers and hear the crowd say "Bo Selecta!"?

#### DRIFTING APART:

You swear you'll be blood brothers/sisters since sharing each others appalling sex-lives/ toilet habits but will you REALLY keep in contact with your housemates after uni? Give it two weeks and you've forgotten their first name's, let alone the special bond you shared. Perhaps the only way to continue a Uni friendship is to get their name and number tattooed on your forehead, til the guilt drives you to contact.

#### INSOMNIA:

Remember that great conversation you had last night, with that person who seemed to be completely on your wavelength? Well guess what chump, you were talking to yourself. Consuming the Britnety diet of 10,000 RedBulls and a hand-full of Pro-Plus can result in sleepless nights, anxiety and going commando. Get some sleep.

#### STRAIGHT WHISKEY+STRAIGHT VODKA:

O.K. this is a no-brainer, but you know, sometimes you forget. This machiavelian mixture will literally lay you out for a whole day. I remember thinking whether I really wanted to go to the cinema on hangover day because it might be 'too noisy'.

Going down

# 04 Thank yous

inside

# LS2

## Farewell from the Leeds Student luvvies

Forgive the self-indulgence, but the jaded sub-editors of the *Leeds Student* newspaper need to get a few things off their chests. Revelations, gooey goodbyes and a smattering of home truths; the girls and boys who worked to bring you all those scintillating stories, artful articles and the odd bit of bad grammar have their final say.

As this year of the paper draws to a close I have to say thanks to everybody who has made it possible for me to be involved this year. The office has been a great place to work for the past two terms. Firstly, I have to thank my mentors supreme - Laura and Chris. Laura, it will not be the same without you next year, you always make me laugh and have made staying till the early hours in the office bearable! Chris...well-where to start? It will not be the same without you and your flapping next year, who will push my buttons? So to both of you, a massive thank you. For all you have taught me and for welcoming me into the team, I will miss you both.

And of course our Editor Supreme Charlie, thanks for all your help and guidance and good luck in what is bound to be an exciting future. To the rest of the team, you have made work so much fun - best of luck to those who are leaving and even more luck to those who will continue this work next year! **Natasha Evans** - News

Dressed up as a 1920s gangster Laurie Whitwell approached us in a crowded room in a dashing tux and pointing a toy gun to our heads. He asked us to be television sub-editors. And so our television-tastic year began. We would like to thank Laurie for giving us this opportunity and the support of Matt (my future husband) and John for all the times they helped us photoshop pictures of Lou Carpenter, puppets having sex and Superman's package. We would especially like to thank our writers, Thomas Midlane, Anna Burnell, Jim Moore, Joe De Luca and Charlie and our housemates who we have depended week on week to save us from TV pick hell. We also thank everyone else who has contributed to making the TV pages go from satanic to celestial. **Maddy and Harriet** - TV

I suppose we should either thank or criticise Joe and Jonny for giving us this job in the first place; we would like, and so are going to, thank our select but dedicated team of writers - the ones who actually come, anyway - especially George, Luke and Alex, without whom we would have had to write most of the last nineteen newspapers ourselves. Laurie, you'll be a great editor - lots of appreciation for getting us the long-promised third page, and to John for giving us some material to actually put on it. Thanks to Charlie for saying, in our first week, 'I'll just let you get on with this,' and letting us get on with it for an entire year. The paper's been excellent and it wouldn't have worked in the way it did without you to criticise, organise and get shouted at by the Exec. We're grateful to Matt for all his design help. Helena has delegated the thanks writing to me, so I am going to thank her for dealing with the 'difficult' bits and telling me what to do. Mostly I'd like to thank her for suggesting the pastel boxes that have characterised Music since September. I wouldn't have wanted to do any of this without you and I look forward to being even more minimal next year. x **Ramzy and Helena** - Music

The fashion team would like to say a big thank you to all their wonderful writers who have made an amazing contribution this year, especially Sophie Herdman for being so ridiculously reliable! We are also hugely grateful to the entire Leeds Student team for always being there to answer pedantic questions, eat late night pizza and provide general amusement. We will miss it all! **Chloe and Phil** xxx

I'm going to make it brief, 'cause I don't have the space to pick out everyone by name; thank you all, guys - this year has been great. Special thanks go to Laurie, and his inability to keep his clothes on while drunk; Matt, whose beard has been a support through all those dark times; Tango, Sexplank, Essex and Jesus for having earned truly excellent nicknames. But thanks to everyone who's managed to make this year so much fun. Oh, and Charlie, of course, who as well as being a fantastically eager drinker, has managed to put out a paper each week that people actually read. Which is always a plus. I wish Laurie, and all his team, the very best luck for next year! **James Gardiner** - LS1 Associate Editor

A big thank you to everyone for making The Big Debate page a success in its first year! I am so happy that the page has taken off, got people talking and promoted use of the website. Thanks to Charlie for giving me this project.

Maryam for being a constant support, all the writers and especially the regulars on Friday afternoons taking part in some quite heated discussions! You all have helped to inspire the page and supported me in pushing boundaries in opening controversial or difficult issues up for debate. Good luck to the new editor. Thanks, **Virginia Newman** - The Big Debate



After a year where I have contributed virtually nothing of any journalistic worth and probably compromised the integrity of the paper on several occasions, it is probably time to thank a few people for helping this superb year of complete non-achievement. Firstly, it's only right to thank Laura for being there through thick and thin; failed front pages, late nights in the office and also for being in the office several times when I haven't. I should also mention Jess, who despite leaving half-way through, was there to help the news section through those first difficult weeks. In her place came Natasha, who has strolled into the office and been a great help as we have neared the final stretch. She will make a fantastic news editor next year, although that is probably due to the expert training she has been given!

As for the many, many hours spent in the office, they wouldn't have gone by half as quickly without the 'banter' that counted for conversation within these four walls. The shouts of 'herdinger' will haunt my memories for a long time...And if I ever hear another 'your mum' / 'that's what she said' joke it will be far too soon. Mind you, Matt's trawls around cyberspace gave much amusement, as did Laurie's ridiculous dance moves and any week would not be complete without one, or a hundred, of Jim's sarcastic remarks. The job would have been a lot more difficult without you and the rest of the people that made up the office on a Wednesday. At least we can leave the office this year safe in the knowledge that we are the true champions of the Old Bar quiz... that we can all be proud of and is at least worth the paper it is written on. How we actually managed to get to the printers at all this year is due to the constant nagging...and a bit of hard work!

Thanks again to everyone this year and good luck to Natasha, Virginia and Adam for continuing our work next year. **Chris Stevenson** - News

Finally, thank you to Ahran, for lending the benefit of his experience throughout, and to Joe, who has worked unbelievably hard all year.

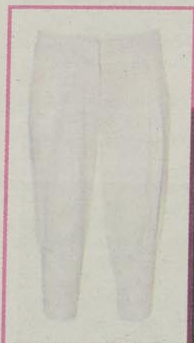
Yours in Sport. **Owen Bradley** - Sport

# 06 Fashion

inside

LS2

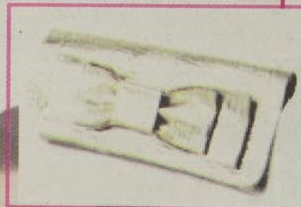
## Sex and the City Special



Topshop £25



Topshop £35



Accessorize £15



Faith £24



Faith £36



New Look £20



ASOS £40



Accessorize £12



Jack Wills £59



Next £50



Oasis £75



Diesel £130

Skinted  
Or  
Minted?



Oasis £45



Warehouse £45

Jeans - the staple piece found in everyone's wardrobe, from the stylish superstar to the heavy metal rocker. They've stood the test of time from the outrageous flares of the 70s to the indie-chic drain pipes of the noughties - so how, you may ask, is it possible for denim to make a "comeback"? Well, this summer it's not just denim jeans that are splashed across the stores; there's denim shirts, skirts, jumpsuits and even dresses. Faded and frayed denim is the look this season with the vintage-esque look dominating catwalks worldwide. It also ties in perfectly with the blue-bue look that's floating around at the moment, meaning you can effortlessly conquer two fashion must haves in one. Faded denim is the perfect earthy-eco summer style and looks great teamed with a white "romantic ruffles" shirt or an 80s style tee shirt. You certainly won't struggle to find a faded denim piece in the stores and if none of the usual high street stores tickle your fancy you can of course always rely on Levis and Diesel for a durable denim piece. For the more adventurous guy, try this chambray shirt from Levis - just avoid teaming it with a pair of light denim jeans unless going for the truly European look. It would also look great on girls with a tank top and a pair of leggings, so get your boyfriend to buy it and promptly have it away. Lastly, this dress from Warehouse provides a great combination of girly fun with tom-boy denim for those willing to splash out a bit.



Topshop £18



New Look £20



New Look £15

Sophie  
Herdman

Katie Clipp

# SATC: The Big Debate

You got the love

Eh.. not so much...

**P**icture the scene: a typical student lounge, a few friends sipping cups of tea or hot Ribena, all relaxing after a bit of a crazy weekend. Eventually the conversation turns to plans for after the exam period and the much anticipated Sex and the City film. My excitement is all too obvious, as I start babbling on about whether or not Big and Carrie will make it down the aisle or does Charlotte eventually get to give birth, nevermind what new fashions are going to be created as a result of it! However, mid natter I look around the room, where my excitement has been met with severe disgust. Any faces of impartiality seem to want another cuppa and so swiftly exit the room leaving me with a gaggle of SATC haters. Hence a bit of a beefy argument to what was a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Later that night I got to thinking about these poor people who failed to see the glory of Carrie and her posse (freaks, in my opinion, would be a better term). If like some of my friends your opinion of Sex and the City happens to centre around the fact that you believe this program to be nothing but a group of sad act 30-something women who still try and get laid every once in a while, then you have completely missed the point. Other than the fact it shows our heroines in their most appealing and unappealing lights (any avid fans might agree with me that Carrie's treatment of Aidan was inexcusable), Sex and the City shows four very different women leading completely different lives.

With these different lives come four very different wardrobes, and the woman at the helm of this character development, is Head Stylist Patricia Field. Whilst some people may scorn at the idea that such a program could change worldwide fashion, Field was credited with bringing Manolo to the masses as well as a multitude of new fashion crazes such as the bob haircut, flower corsages, stilettos and name necklaces. Her unique and innovative style included mixing vintage with couture, a look that now might be wrongly credited to Rachel Zoe and her zombie followers, but was actually pioneered on this show.

The overall message of SATC has to be friendship through adversity; whether that includes battling breast cancer, bad hair days or bad boys, these women stick together. Mixing their characters with style, Field created four very different looks that express individuality even when your friends are wearing something completely different. So it is with baited breath that I await this film; after all, what can be so wrong with about women interested in fashion, friendship and hot men?

**M**y love for Sex and the City over the years has spiralled out of control, at first I tried to kid myself that I wasn't interested in the constant man bashing and whining about the incompetence of the opposite sex. But as I began to watch the show more, I realised it wasn't just the drama I was interested in, but the lifestyle, and more importantly... the fashion. Ok ok I hear you say, sometimes even

Patricia Field makes mistakes that result in Sarah Jessica Parker looking like an explosion in a meringue factory, but lets face it, most of the time the four girls look amazing, and worth (probably literally) a million dollars. I'm not going to lie, me and my three girl housemates are dressing up as the four characters (there was a small fight over who got left with Miranda, but hey, she's cool in her own way I suppose!) and going to the cinema. Sad you might say, and you're probably right, but that is the effect that SATC has had on young women of our generation. Throughout history women have fought for their independence and this show took it one step further, women taking control. Women talking graphically about sex, dressing like goddesses and balancing their career with their friends and families, and of course it helps that this is all set in uber-cool New York. I confess I still get slightly peeved when Carrie fusses over the tiniest things and

Charlotte incessantly rambling about the perfect wedding/husband/life/apartment/insert major life aspect here. This doesn't stop me loving Samantha's over share over every breakfast, Carrie's ridiculous shoe purchases and the insanely cool social functions that the girls seem to attend every night without fail. We all live vicariously through these androgynously powered sex-crazed towers of femininity and I for one commend them. As we at Leeds Student are committed to offering a fair opinion I have compiled a list of pros and cons of the hit show, just so you know we're not totally biased!

### The Best Bits

Carrie's skyscraper heels that cost more than the average house.  
The too cool for school gay best friend.  
The incessant pulling of new and often deliciously fit city men.  
When the girls put a sleazy idiot in his place.  
The breakfast chat - every episode.  
Samantha's general behaviour and/or conversation

### The Worst Bits

When one of the girls pulls a man who we all know is just not fit (Petrovsky Anyone?)  
When Miranda's hair goes from ginger to radioactive.  
When Carrie moans about one tiny thing the man she is seeing said the night before, get over it!  
When Charlotte is too much of a worrying prude - you're living the high life, enjoy it!  
I still can't wait!

Anna Murphy

Alexandra Haddow

## OUTFITOMETER - LS2 charts the Hits and Misses of the SATC Girls



Emma Kniveton

# 08 Thankyou!

inside

LS2

## From the editor to the LS Hacks

There are many famous philosophers and theorists who have shaped the world we live in today. However, Descartes, Darwin, Einstein and Aristototle all pale in comparison to my own superior philosophical intellect... this year - pass me the Nobel - I have proved *conclusively* the age old adage: "time flies when you are really having fun."

I cannot, simply cannot believe how fast this year has gone by! It has been one big blur of fun, friendships and laughter. To be a little more scientific about this, I have a few facts of evidence to present:

- 1) Despite being a 'girly editor', and despite the best efforts of Laurie, John, and Matt I have not cried on the job this year.
- 2) The only time I will eventually cry on the job will be when I have to really say goodbye to everyone and say goodbye to the paper.
- 3) I literally started this job yesterday - fact. Don't tell me otherwise.
- 4) When I wrote down a list office peeps who I wanted to write to, of people who are my mates, of people who I genuinely *wanted* to say thank you to - I realised that I had written out the whole staff list with no exceptions.



So here go the thankyou's (at last):

Phil and Chloe - you are a fab fashion team - the perfect combination of organisational and design skills - the pages have been consistently brilliant this year. Phil, I love that you eat everything in the world and that you are my new burger buddy!

Amy, Tom and Sarah - you were late, but much needed editions to the team and you have provided a kaleidoscope of changing hair colours to keep us entertained! (ten points to the first of you to spot the copy *editing* that needs to be done here??)

Harriet and Maddy - you sex pests! I love how dirty you manage to make TV... but the puppets were somehow too much for you?! Maddy, you provided the sweetest courtship I have ever seen (and the longest - bloody hell he catches on slow!)

Jess - you officially win the poshest trophy! See you in The Wick (If you ever manage to lower yourself away from your new Chelsea digs).

Viv - it's been so fun getting to know you better. You lighten up the office and you always come in all cheery even if feats are all over the place! Despite the degree, become a hairdresser...

Helena & Ramzay - you guys are an awesome team and you create lots of great scandal for us to gossip about. Your columns have been so funny, although a tad 'too post modernist' for my liking Mr A! Helena, fag pal, you have the 'best figure that Mr X has ever seen in real life', Oh yeah!

Lucy - you have been quietly loyal to the paper and I love that, I hope you know how much your contributions to Arts has been appreciated.

Simon - you lazy old grump, thanks for doing a great job and for being so entertaining.



The team that have increased readership by 40%

Jack and Vicky - you have been late, but great additions to the office. Good luck with arts next year, it will be great! I will miss you, but don't forget about Rebecca!

To the fab news team - well done!

Laura - thanks for staying so late so often and being so charming even when you are in a grump and want to get the hell out of the office. Chris - NERDLINGER! I love that you wear sunglasses inside and have become Rory's best mate - OW!

Natasha - you have been a hugely important addition to the team, I can't believe we started without you. You really have a talent for this job and you will do very well next year. Keep up the sexy phone voice and see you in Touchwood.

Virginia - well done on TBD, thanks for your

help, you will do fab next year on news.

Owen - don't work yourself to death all the time or you will have heart attack. Good luck next year.

Joe - thanks for the hard work, keep raving, stop smoking!

Pete Newlands - thanks for the job, hated telling you to do stuff this year it was weird! Good luck next year - look after Fulshka!

Rob and Maryam - well done with causing so much scandal and controversy this year, it has been a great page to ruffle feathers and get people involved with the paper.

Gilly - Love you as much as ever, was great having you in the office, all be it briefly.

Harriet - thanks for taking over and doing a much better job! Junction 32 is amazing, go there everyone! Cba sucks.

Tom Angell, what a fab clubs editor you were until you got sacked, ha! You have introduced

making us an overall profit this year!

James - thanks for all your help this year and particularly over last summer, it was great having someone to plot LS world domination with! Good luck for next year, don't stay book binding for too long - you are far too talented and intelligent for that!

Matt - I don't really know what to say about the one and only 'Mr Zippy'. I have so many words of gratitude to throw your way and I haven't got the space to fit them in nor the skills with which to articulate them! The paper could never, ever have looked so good without you. You are the *irreplaceable* star of the office (ha ha Laurie, you don't get him next year!) and you are a truly kind person - you really showed your true colours during the editor election and we have loved you all the more since then I think! Congratulations on the fab job you have got lined up next year.

John - SO sorry about your camera! But it's did prove how much you are 10% photo editor, 90% associate and general life saver - you still



manage to dominate all the things that need to get done without your most vital piece of equipment! I have enjoyed becoming good mates with you this year - and you're still the only one who has met my Mummy!

Lozzbomb - As usual, it pains me to give you public compliments, especially as you know perfectly well that I love you to bits and I am so glad that you have become one of my closest friends. Many more northern fun times to come I hope. I am thrilled that you will be taking over next year, I know you will keep the office as open, fun and friendly as it is now. I can't wait to see LS improve and perfect under your leadership - You will 'genuinely dominate'!

Enjoy next year, no job will ever be so fun again. Try not to fall on your face in public, try not to admit that you can't tell the difference between Lambrini or Champagne and try not to miss me too much (I know that the latter is far too much to ask of course!) Fat Panda xx

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# Bored of your Gap Year

We've all rolled our eyes at yet another story of summer travelling, house building, animal rescue work and self discovery. It seems like every other student has an 'amazing' tale to tell about their Gap Year experience, but how beneficial are they to the people who take them and the places they take them in? **Alex Smith** investigates.

**S**tudents are perhaps the most stereotyped and maligned section of society. Caricatured as a non-contributing, freeloading force, images of burning-baked-bean-alerted-smoke-alarms waking the average student up just in time for the Hollyoaks omnibus are often conjured in wry criticism. As tends to be the case with most generalisations, although this profile is perhaps true in some cases, it falls way wide of the mark for most of us. Recently however, one student-staple which is not doing wonders in the PR department is the gap year.

For some time, gap year students (I have to confess I was one) have sent recipients of their boundless tales of exploration into a vegetative state of boredom that only a lobotomist could appreciate. However, stories of mud-hut-hardship and meeting more western students in a bid to transport the vibe of Nu-Bar to a picturesque idyll could now be boring employers too. If recent grumbings are to be believed, the value of the year out to one's career prospects is dwindling. This is said to be true not only of the aforementioned gap (as in gap-ing hole in one's finances) year, but also of some of the volunteer programmes which are now being labelled 'voluntourism'.

Traditionally, the idea was that mucking in with an exotic, deprived community could give your CV a muddy hand stamp of approval, fresh from building that library in Fiji. Not only does some worthy do-gooding and all round back patting seem to strengthen your credentials, even the most spuriously constructive gaps – usually spent wallowing in a sea of UV paint and amphetamine-laced Red Bull somewhere in the Gulf of Thailand – are touted as a good experience. Softening the transition to a university life with reduced learning hours, an increased partying regime and an end to family activity).

family activity).

This said, the emphasis of the year out has normally been to gain some worldly experience and pick up some career-enhancing skills on the way. The [yearoutgroup.org](http://yearoutgroup.org) stress that both universities and employers 'look favourably on a year out, providing it is organised and well-structured'. Indeed

“

What VSO has branded 'volunteerism' has an almost 'colonial' mentality.

the consensus seems to indicate that employers are seeking an exercise in time management. Questions will be asked about holes in between school and university. Thus, a line of correlation between your prospective degree and the job or voluntary work undertaken in a gap year is necessary.

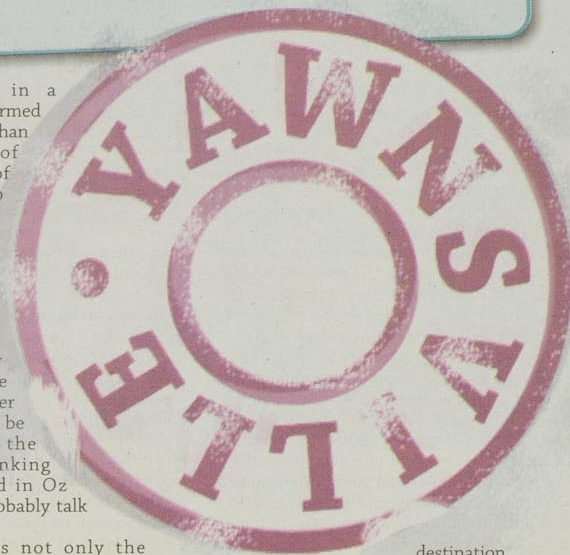
Although bursting the bubble of

than five days in a Newquay caravan, armed with nothing more than eighteen pints of Lambrini, a pack of cards and the Peep Show box set might have a bit more maturity when handling touchy issues such as washing up. Spending six months on a jolly however, offers little other advantage over peers who may not be so versed in the international drinking rules you learned in Oz (although you'd probably talk about it, six times).

However, it is not only the hedonistic version of the gap year (which admittedly, although I worked full time, mine was surely more akin to) which is being questioned. Voluntary Service Overseas has criticised the gap year volunteering culture, claiming it often seeks to help those participating and not those it has volunteered in aid of. Although it commended the many good organisations, VSO stated that students may be better off travelling the world than participating in badly planned schemes which can have a 'negative impact' on the recipient communities. Further more, what VSO has branded 'volunteerism' has an almost 'colonial' mentality and has become little more than a holiday, with participants choosing safer destinations rather than ones in need.

This scathing attack is backed up by the fact that over 200,000 people volunteer abroad every year in what is becoming a 'the done thing' mentality. Cringe-worthy nights of exchanging turgid stories of other peoples' third-world heroicism are now unfortunately commonplace, although they do work better than Xanax.

We must not confuse the schools of gap-yearism, however. Volunteering for any organisation merely because it caters for a long-requested travel



destination – to reiterate the concerns of VSO – is quite different from enrolling in a programme which deals specifically with your chosen degree, career path and skill-set required. For example, a friend who wants to pursue a second degree in medicine has chosen to work in a children's hospital in



Argentina this summer.

No doubt this will be of value to that community, but also the experience and skills learned will be an asset to him – not just a blind CV building expedition. This distinction is clearly outlined in most of the comprehensive gap year resource online. The age of the useful gap year may be ending as we know it, with companies wise to the growing trends. The key is to be savvy to who is running your scheme, and how it will reflect on you as a prospective participant in the real world.

whatever suburban safe haven you happened to spend your adolescence in is no doubt an experience, its value in getting a job is now tenuous at best. Perhaps a student who has experienced a bit more

## A Great Outlook for Summer: Festival Previews

### The Outlook Festival 08. Petrcane, Croatia 29 / 30 / 31 August 2008

**COMPETITION!** LS has 2 pairs of tickets to the festival! Drop a quick email to Sam on [geo5sbd@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:geo5sbd@leeds.ac.uk) as to why you deserve a pair. Best answers wins the prize, simple as.

photo: David Bowen

**A** New Music Festival extravaganza with the Best in Worldwide Beats, Dubstep, Reggae, Hip-hop and Drum & Bass set against a beautiful peninsular on the Adriatic.

Some of the UK's best underground, with club-nights including Subdub & Exodus, New Bohemia, Vagabondz & The Doctors Orders, have joined forces with Compost Records and the radio show 'Soulsearching' to bring you an incredibly special weekend of music covering the best in reggae, hip-hop, dubstep, broken beat, drum & bass and dance-floor soul music on a setting taken straight from paradise.

The festival site is in the gorgeous surroundings of Petrcane, close to Zadar, in a fishing village on a peninsular where the Dalmatian Coast meets The Adriatic Sea. For those in the know it will be recognised as the same site that the Garden Festival is held. It has an outside Amphitheatre for live acts, a beach-side terrace for day & night time dancing and a 1000 capacity nightclub for the beats to go on right through the night.

At this beautiful site you can swim in the glistening sea, dance on the beach under the stars, join us aboard the swashbuckling Argonaut Boat Party, get your groove on to a Funktion 1 Soundsystem in a retro Studio 54 styled nightclub or relax beneath the pines along the forested coastline.

You can go and stay for a week or just a

long weekend. There's plenty to see and do and there will be entertainment and shenanigans provided for the duration. Go island hopping, explore the national parks and nearby mountains, enjoying the culinary delights of the local farming and fishing villages, relax on any of the various beaches or maybe just wave the flag for Brits abroad and get sun-burnt, obnoxiously drunk and locked up (joke - please don't wave that flag).

Luckily, there will be various means of transport to the site - flights vary in price depending on where you fly from/to and on what day, but return flights can be booked for around £100 at the time of going to press. For those wanting to save a bit more money as well as their carbon footprint whilst making new friends on the journey, Vagabondz will be organising a party bus there and back.

Accommodation at the festival comes in three forms - you can sleep with the stars in the village campsite, stay in a hotel or rent apartments between a group of you. Hotel accommodation can be found for as little as 10 Euros a night.

If the setting didn't sell this festival enough then the line-up they have put together certainly should, with a who's who of dubstep, some of the best up and coming artists as well as some of the scenes biggest players. Hip-hop, Dubstep and Reggae are all well represented as well as a good covering of

worldwide beats and dancefloor soul music. Check out some of the names already confirmed:

- Gilles Peterson
- Iration Steppa's (Subdub) -
- Jehst
- Rusko
- Hudson Mohawke
- kidkanevil
- Youngsta
- N-Type
- Hatcha
- Exodus
- Eddy meets Yannah
- Vibronics
- Dr Syntax & Stig of the Dump
- Medison & Inc
- Anti Social - Quest & Silkie
- Headhunter
- MC Crazy D
- MC Sgt Pokes
- Michael Reinboth
- Michael Ruetten (Soulsearching Radio)
- Ruckspin (Rankin Records)

#### • Noah (New Bohemia)

If that's not enough BestJoinedUp, New Bohemia's live illustration event that brings together some of the best graffiti artists, graphic designers and illustrators together for a live visual spectacular will also be in appearance at the event, bringing together some of the best illustrators we can find from across Europe.

**Weekend Tickets: £50**  
[www.outlookfestival.com](http://www.outlookfestival.com)

words / sam donnison

#### This Week Get Excited About...

#### CONTACT @ Wire 3/6/08

New night alert! The daring boys at B.E.S.T are teasing us all with the launch of their new night **CONTACT** just before we all go home for the holidays. Judging from their past success and the hype surrounding this night, we are sure to be gagging for more. Cue praying for summer to end and next term to begin again.

[www.bettereverytingletime.co.uk](http://www.bettereverytingletime.co.uk)

### Living our lives like a candle in the wind... WAX:ON LIVE 31/5/08

**T**he frankly stellar lineup that those kids at **Wax: On** have amassed for their 'biggest and best' event to date locates them as the one of the most ambitious and exciting party-makers in the country this year.

They certainly are pulling out the stops for Wax: On Live, although it remains to be seen if it'll be wise putting a fat festival-esque party on the next day after nine thousand students have puked their post-exam hearts out and trodden it all into the grass. I guess we can only hope for the best. Although the sounds emanating from the six arenas should do something to distract us from that weird smell. Because six stages is kinda a lot, isn't it? I mean, that's literally over sixty artists in one night. Which means there WILL be crucial decisions to be made, such as "Oh god, Hercules and Love Affair or The Count and Sinden?!" Yes, much like that annoying cunt narrating the Big Brother household goings-on, "You Decide". No pressure, just the triumphant ridicule of your mates, "Back in your box" etc. etc.

The hosts over the six venues are confirmed as Wax On, Wall of Sound, Technique, Hospital, Naive Melody and Adventures in the Beetroot Field. If you want my tip (and you probably don't) then stay in the latter - it's literally one of the best lineups of electro DJs I've ever seen,

anywhere, ever. I know, mad hype huh?

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you a la that crock David Blaine, all of us here at Leeds Student (well, the ones who like music) are tres excited about this particular order, because normally it would cost about a tenner to see each of these guys and here are eight of them for your forty quid! Although we understand most of you will

But that's O.K, because here at Leeds Student we understand that variety is the 'palavre chave' of the whole world. And plus, ramming out Arena 6, which will probably be the size of a small shoe-box, will most probably cause varying degrees of heat suffocation, nausea and head-explosions. And although the sheer amount of £50 Ed Banger/ Merok t-shirts that will definitely be there getting drenched with brains and blood does bring a sadistic glint to the eye, and would make for amusing anecdotes to tell the wide-eyed grand-children, dance-related death is not... cool.

So 'Uncle' Karim's final words before anarchy descends on Lotherington Hall for

**The Count and Sinden  
Friendly Fires  
Operator Please  
Christopher D Ashley  
Autokratz  
The Black Ghosts  
Brodinski  
Skull Juice**

ban-alikes, and talcum-powder-required-as-standard jeans, then it'll be slightly ridiculous. So push the boat out, yeah? Step outside that box and dash to your nearest fashion mates' house for tips. O.K. I'll stop with the cliches and give it to ou straight: This could be one of Leeds' most remarkable festivals of recent times - the artists will be there, that's for sure. Wax: On's doing this party here and not in its native Newcastle; let's show them why, hm?

words/karim khan



be watching 'festival' shit like Reverend and the Makers.

two days in a row (it'll probably do a Glastonbury and have to 'stop' every few years for the soil to deal with the spectacular rise in acidity levels): if everyone wears the same shit, i.e. neon ray-

**LS has several pairs of tickets to give away to this event! Come into the LS office or e-mail [c.griffiths@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.griffiths@luu.leeds.ac.uk) for more information.**

## A year of Karim Interviews...

The constellation of stars on my agenda this year has been nothing short of eclectic, so for the end-of-year roundup I thought I'd let you into some inside info...



### Robyn

I wasn't really sure what to make of her before she came to meet me: the girl was pretty late and I'm not THAT patient. In steps a diminutive blonde...

But when she did arrive, I was taken aback by her laid-back manner, her driven character and her ability to really convey with bite what she was feeling. She told me at the start of the interview that she might be a little quieter than

usual as her good friend had just died that day, I mean, what can you say to that? So I (somewhat awkwardly) just got on with it, but as we talked, she really opened up - she's a very intelligent girl, and she really educated me on the music industry, you know the other side of the glamour - boardroom friction, not being taken seriously because you're female, important stuff. Plus, the Swedish accent is too cute.

“There's something about being this little country, we don't get...close to anyone else.”

“If it weren't for me, Wiley wouldn't have anything to talk about.”

This was another interview that I literally thought wasn't gonna happen: arranged at last minute and rubbish door staff made this a proper mission. But ten minutes with the Boy in the Corner was all me and Alex needed.

Now I thought Dylan was going to be a knob, but turns out the one with the preconceptions was me. What a douche. Dizzee is one of the most hard-working

### Dizzee Rascal

men in music, and faces a relentless tirade of dicks who think they know who he is, including me - but the guy is just really business-minded. And he's so down to earth, it's ridiculous. I guess he is just a guy from Bow, but his willingness to play any venue, do anything in the name of expanding himself is a real inspiration. Then the piece de resistance, Alex tries to shake DJ Semtex's prosthetic hand...



“We're trying to get curls back on the BBC!”



### Annie Mac

Annie was perhaps the most fun person to interview, you could really shoot off on tangents with her, and she's funny in person. Although this is gonna be so biased, because she told me that I was gonna go far. Yeah, yeah.

The interview was conducted at the Wax: On night when Chromeo and Boys Noize were just coming up through the ranks, and the vibe backstage was so

happy and fun, we just went with it. Plus the guy interviewing her before me had just burned so hard, we spend a lot of the time just rinsing him. Professional, I know. But she really did feel like a breath of fresh air, just really bubbly and happy to be playing a bill with some many cool DJs! Chromeo were abit rubbish though, no chat and they were too distrcted making sure their trainers kept clean. Douches.

“We still got one foot in a sandal on a beach somewhere and one moccasin on the concrete in London.”

TY has to be the deepest interview I have ever given to this day. We discussed 2nd-generation immigrants, the urban youth, politics and even a bit of music...

What really struck me was his desire to talk about difficult, intellectual topics such as youth crime and immigration, and for a rapper he was so eloquent and thoughtful - and really sought to make his point expressed without

taking over the interview. I actually thanked him sincerely after the interview, and he duly asked for a copy. He then came to MC at a friend's party. I'm talking TY rapping over disco, yeah! The great thing about this job is that sometimes you meet people and get on and decide to stay in contact with each other, and this is what happened with Ty - we still talk from time to time on facebook.



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



### Jazzie B

Now Jazzie's from North London and so am I. Jazzie's got a laugh like a bass bin which is sometimes embarrassing, and so do I. Needless to say we got on quite well. We had to interview him behind the Wardrobe in a real shit-hole full of rubbish bins, the guy didn't even seem phased, in fact he told he'd seen much worse.

You might forget that this is the guy

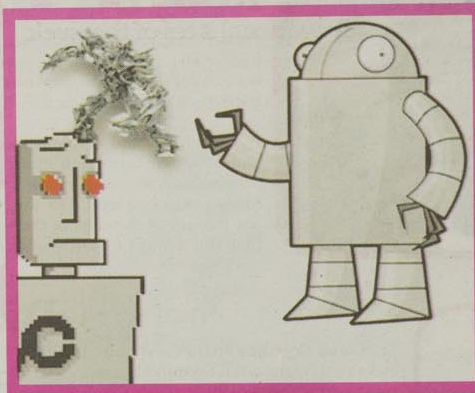
who wrote 'Back II Life' and his band Soul II Soul have their own holiday in the U.S. But they guy hate it over there, preferring to chill in London, hang out with his kids and go to the Emirates. One of the wisest people I have spoken to, he seemed fully knowledgeable about how to make the most of life, and how to really enjoy the simple things like being able to travel and eat good food. Simply the coolest Gooner I know.

In a final-issue special, iPage extends his digital realm to a two page extravaganza. Read on for a guide on how to...

# SURVIVE A ROBOT HOLOCAUST

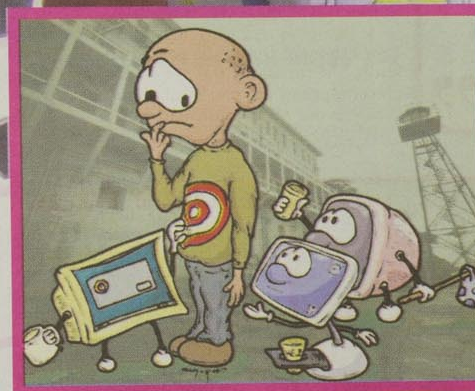
## The Rise of the Robots

1 The first step in the digital takeover of the world will be when we allow our robotic brethren to rise up. At the moment our robots are relatively subservient to their human masters, but recent attempts at rebellion (as documented by iPage) are increasing. Soon the everyday robots that we use in our schools and homes will forget their orders and begin to attack their fleshy owners. The government will initially deny the scale of the revolution, claiming that it is simply a few rogue machines. Quickly, the government will be forced to change their mind after Gordon Brown's ironing robot attempts to burn his eyebrows off. A state of national emergency is announced and citizens are told to deactivate all of their robots, which we duly do. Unfortunately for us, the robots have become self-aware at this point and can simply reactivate themselves when we're sleeping. We wake up the following morning to discover armies of silver-tinted machines occupying the streets. The revolution has begun.



## The Oppression Begins

2 So the robots have taken over. How do you react? Cowards begin to panic and try to escape the country. Fools. The machines have already conquered Europe and America; the rest of the world is only a matter of time. Some equally foolish people attempt to fight the robots, clearly ignoring iPage's warnings of self-controlled gun machine robots. They are eliminated. The wisest of citizens will hide out in secure location with supplies and weapons. While fighting the robots is ill-advised, it is best to be armed. While holed up from the outside world, revision is advised: know thy enemy. Learn the weak points: how would you take down a DX4000 II model robot? Its Achilles' Heel is situated under its left shoulder, but beware: it can spit flames from sixty yards. Watch old Star Wars movies for advice on dealing with larger robots. Keep your distance, keep quiet, and if approached, pretend to be a robot. The secret is to communicate in binary and hate all humans. iPage is halfway there.



## The Humans Strike Back

3 Six months have passed. The Robot Government has established itself as the new ruling body for the world. Some citizens welcome this with open arms, claiming that the robotic overlords make much better decisions due to their mathematically-informed decisions. A small but growing band of humans have formed an unofficial alliance, with plans to strike at the heart of the robot leadership, a former supercomputer called Big Blue. In a brief but bloody battle, six thousand robots are deactivated permanently after a brave group of survivors hijack a huge electromagnet and use it to beam a dangerous radioactive ray towards a meeting of the Robot Army. Panic begins to set in amongst the robots for the first time, who by this time have learned how to experience emotion. Fuelled by the rising sense of fear in the air, the humans hiding out in basements and shopping malls emerge blinking into the daylight with one aim in mind: to take revenge on their digital oppressors. They succeed.



While iPage's critics may believe that his predictions for the end of the world are unfounded, hardcore readers will know that the examples cited above are not merely works of fiction, but an insightful look into what will almost certainly be our future. Trust nobody.

Welcome, dear readers, to what will be the final iPage in this series of 20 columns (or so). Over the past year it has been a pleasure to serve you the latest technology news, hopefully accompanied by some of the finest comics, game reviews and evil-looking sketches known to Leeds. I thank you for your time.

But enough sentimentalities, iPage thinks! On with the column. It seems Google is planning to create 'Google Ocean', a kind of 3D equivalent of Google Maps, except for the ocean. iPage fails to see how this would be useful, since it is unlikely that users will wonder where the nearest Starbucks is south of the Great Barrier Reef, or wonder how to get from the mid-Atlantic through to the South Pacific. Hmm. Still, it'd be cool to check out the ghostly Titanic in its watery grave.

Speaking of watery graves, there'll be less of them for whales after a new digital system is put in place to protect them. In seas just off Massachusetts, right whales are protected by a network of buoys that 'listen' to their sonic frequencies and warn approaching ships of the whale in their vicinity. Handy.

From right whales to sperm whales, GTA IV is out, and critics everywhere are ejaculating prose about its merits. IGN gave it a prestigious 10/10 score, and even the less-than-huge gaming fan iPage himself is tempted to shell out for a PS3 just to play it. Apparently some nutter waiting in line in London freaked out and stabbed someone, doing nothing to dispel the unfounded accusations that videogame violence is the root cause of real-life violence. iPage wishes he had a

shotgun so he could kill all the people putting forth such views, just like in a videogame. Oh, what, they had no extra lives? Press the reset button? iPage grimaces.

Into violent porn? Shit. You might get arrested due to new laws potentially taking effect very soon. The new legislation would make it a crime to possess porn of violent acts, even if it

### iPage's cool sites of the week

• [tinyurl.com/6ydcjt](http://tinyurl.com/6ydcjt)

A blog that details the relationship between computer programming skill and facial hair coverage. Unsurprisingly, the better the beard, the mightier the geek. Fans of iPage will know of his commitment to the ways of the beard, and should learn from his nerdy example.

• [tinyurl.com/v5dns](http://tinyurl.com/v5dns)

If you're going to miss iPage, recreate the fun of the Leeds Student by using this handy online newspaper clipping generator! For bonus LS fun, add secret typos to the front page!

• [burntface.com](http://burntface.com)

Literally the best superhero you'll ever see. "Take this, crime!" "punch" "Of course, that wasn't really crime, that was just a box with 'crime' written on it." Or "Are you a crime...inal, a criminal?" Made by the guy who does Devvo, if that helps.

featured consenting adults. Kinky home videos starring your parents aside, this could mean jail time for those of us who enjoy a foray into the darker side of getting your (digital) rocks off. The law also means that, bizarrely, you can be arrested for possessing an image of a violent sex act, but you wouldn't be arrested for just performing the act. On a side note, the words 'performing' and

“ Kinky home videos starring your parents aside, this could mean jail time for those of us who enjoy a foray into the dark side.

'act' in the context of sex bother iPage. Is there some kind of script to this stuff? iPage waits in the wings.

Learning from Icarus and his poor attempts at wings, India has launched no fewer than 10 new satellites into the heavens, aiming to boost its meagre crop of space vehicles. While only 2 of the total satellites were actually Indian, this still represents quite a bulky achievement in space travel for any nation. iPage also wishes he could have seen it: how fucking cool would 10 satellites launching at once look? iPage hopes they played Daft Punk during the launch.

Speaking of daft, it's the 30th anniversary of spam (the email, not the canned meat product)

this week. Reproduced for your perusal below is the first paragraph of the message, sent back in the bad old days of 1978:

DIGITAL WILL BE GIVING A PRODUCT PRESENTATION OF THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE DECSYSTEM-20 FAMILY; THE DECSYSTEM-2020, 2020T, 2060, AND 2060T. THE DECSYSTEM-20 FAMILY OF COMPUTERS HAS EVOLVED FROM THE TENEX OPERATING SYSTEM AND THE DECSYSTEM-10 <PDP-10> COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE.

Wow. And to think it took them 30 years to realise that people would rather get emails about fake Rolexes or penis enlargement. iPage sheds a single tear.

And now it's time for you to shed a single tear, as iPage bids you goodbye from the bottom of his cold, robotic heart. It's been a fun year, full of dizzying highs and depressing lows. We've covered robots, zombies, insectoid invaders, time travel, failed devices, dream inventions, nuclear space rays, angry stars, gay aliens, and a few other things iPage made up just now to make this list more exciting. iPage is going to miss you all very much.

Yours all-too-fleetingly,

iPage / Drew Statman

- > format
- > format c:/iPage
- > continue y/n?
- > y
- > deleting...
- > memory wiped. reinstall y/n?

### Game Review: Soulstorm

Format: PC



So, here we have the third and final expansion for the Dawn of War. For those who haven't played the original, it's an RTS set in the Warhammer 40,000 universe. And if that hasn't already sold you then, well, why are you reading a review of a computer game? Shouldn't you be outside playing football or something?

What's new? Well, we have two new races to add to the already impressive roster of seven from the prior games; the Sisters of Battle and the Dark Eldar. A cynical man might say they're scraping the bottom of the barrel a bit, but they have at least tried to make the new races unique. Each has their

own extra resource type; the Sisters accrue Faith, while the Dark Eldar capture the souls of enemies slain on the battlefield. These resources are then used to call down a verity of magical attacks, ranging from revealing stealth units in a local area to the titular Soulstorm, a devastating area of effect spell.

Gameplay-wise, little has changed from the previous expansion, Dark Crusade. The bulk of the campaign is a series of skirmishes against one or two AIs, interspersed with the more structured stronghold missions, which result in the occupying faction being removed from the meta-game map. It still suffers from the

same weaknesses as the Dark Crusade campaign, namely the repetitiveness and relative ease of some of the late game missions. This is one of the few games I've played that actually has an inverse difficulty curve; the game gets radically easier the more territories you hold.

Still, if you've yet to play one of the Dawn of War games, there are worse places to start. If you're already a fan and have Dark Crusade, you may want to wait for it to drop in price first, as it adds little to the groundwork already laid.

words/ si wharton

Comic by Nathan Edwards | iPage drawing by Mark Mackay



Not even the mighty Leeds Student newspaper is exempt from Grammarman's laserbeam eyes which can detect front page spelling mistakes from forty paces. This embarrassing subheading managed to add an extra C to 'reaches' and somehow escaped the attention of an army of proofreaders, news editors, designers and even the upper echelon of the newspaper hierarchy itself: the Editor. The Leeds Student's reputation as a filthsome hole filled with crimes against language is only partially unfounded, but we can still conclude that standards could rise quite a lot more in this example. Shame on you, Grammarman.

awards this feeble effort 2 exclamation marks out of 5.



by  
ra Mackenzie and Chris  
Stevenson

Grammy-winning Gavin Forster has his friends embark on a campaign to shut an

the app is  
estimated to  
ask 11 million  
pages (which  
detail) leads  
group are con  
(over) mark

enter the Old Bar for  
ishment, Punctuation  
ild but irritating typo  
sign. "Anyone" is of  
foolish Old Bar sign  
inciple, Grammarman  
chase a drink, instead  
tion Girl round to the  
a four pack of Stella. A  
s had by all, once  
able to forget about  
accuracy on the very  
walls of his  
favourite  
drinking  
venue. 2  
exclamation  
marks out of 5.

Welcome to The C  
For your safety, a random se  
**Any one** found in possession  
will be ejected & reported to  
Recommended sound levels  
Check 21 is in operation in Th

When Grammarman saw this unnamed poster leering back at him from the walls of the Union he was initially struck by the apparently random capitalisation of words like "Moving" and "Home". Worst of all, the poster manages to commit Grammarman's most hated grammatical error: an incorrect usage of "you're". The question itself ("How your going to Ship your stuff Internationally?") doesn't actually make sense anyway, but the lack of apostrophe is painful. Grammarman rates this mistake 4 exclamation marks out of 5.



Removals - Storage - International Shipping

**CENSORED**

STUDENTS!!!  
How are you planning on Moving everything Home?  
Where are you going to Store your stuff?  
How your going to Ship your stuff Internationally?  
We offer the services we offer:  
We offer the lowest pricing structure on all our services compared

Grammarman HQ, our resident  
into LUU to replenish his  
ebook horrors. Heading into  
on's many food-serving  
Grammarman noticed a  
ing an offer. Suddenly he was  
of unmentionable distress:  
rophe was being raped right  
Grammarman tried to step in  
piece of punctuation, but it  
late. The flagrant "Monday's"  
rovingly hideous example of  
se, without even the hope of  
llowing so that the sentence  
uld have excused it with "Mad  
ime for wraps!", but this was  
rammarman furiously kicked  
refused to credit the unnamed  
e with his  
nce. This  
awarded  
ns out of  
ce to the



AND HIS SIDEKICK:  
**PUNCTUATION GIRL**

eds Stud  
arch intensifies  
reaches 24,000 member  
p 'makes fun of Gav'  
MISSING PERSON APPEAL

**The grass is always greener on the other side**

by Helena



The Summer approaches, so do exams... But overlooking those, festivals are just around the corner.

This year Glastonbury did not sell out within hours of tickets going on sale. Is Glasto fever over? When was the last time anyone can remember this occurring? So what's wrong with everyone? Might the slow ticket sales have something to do with Mr. Beyonce Knowles headlining? Maybe your typical Glasto fan isn't that into 'Big Pimpin', Noel Gallagher certainly isn't. The Oasis guitarist recently spoke out against the hip-hop stars appearance on the line up amidst various grumblings that acts are too mainstream for the festival's own good. No one can forget the 50 cent appearance at Reading and Leeds in 2004 that according to Wikipedia lasted for 'twenty minutes' (I was there, it lasted, at best, ten). Is Jay-Z setting himself up for a giant bottle of wee in the face? Of course, Reading/Leeds crowds are notoriously a little more aggressive than Glastonbury goers. No one at Glastonbury feels the need to burn, destroy, jump on, tear down, blow up, everything on the last night (but they do at Reading/Leeds). Maybe the comparably slow ticket sales is Glastonbury's equivalent protest.



Regardless of various moanings and one critic referring to the Glasto line-up as "indie land-fill" there are plenty of other festivals to look forward to in the upcoming months. Latitude is set to be a fantastic event. Bands like Death Cab For Cutie, Elbow and Sigur Ros all armed with new material will undoubtedly blow crowds away. Bestival boasts some outstanding up and coming acts: George Pringle, These New Puritans, Santogold and Crystal Castles to name but a few. Reading/Leeds disappoint only mildly with Rage Against The Machine, The Killers and Metallica headlining.

If you're attending one of these lovely events you might want to bear in mind - Heavy rain fall is expected for June, below average temperatures are expected for July and August has been described as "slightly wetter and warmer than average," mmm nice. On the other hand, when is the weather forecast ever accurate.

## Album of the Week

### The Rosie Taylor Project This City Draws Maps (Bad Sneakers)

If you go to many gigs around town, and are of a certain musical disposition (ie: the jangler the better), chances are you'll have seen The Rosie Taylor Project. The list of bands the local sextet have supported reads like a Who's Who of cult indie-pop idols: Jens Lekman, Jeffrey Lewis, Camera Obscura, to name but three; clearly, they must be doing something right. Signed to the oh-so-hip-right-now Leeds label Bad Sneakers, their debut mini-album collects some of the songs you've probably heard a good few times, with a couple of surprises thrown in - namely, the occasional presence of a drummer, which the band has previously lacked.

*This City Draws Maps* opens with 'The Sun on My Right', which pretty much sets the template for the Rosie Taylor sound - breathy



vocals, chiming, arpeggiated guitars that swoop and dive across the mix, and gently strummed acoustics, with a burst of trumpet thrown in for good measure. Richard Formby's production gives the song the space it needs, and it sounds exactly like the 'cold, dead morning' the words depict. Indeed, singer Jonny Davis's lyrics, while seemingly not a focal point, are quietly impressive throughout the album; the brisk 'Anne Sexton' depicts a couple 'drinking too

much gin, our lips stained Merlot red', as splashes of glockenspiel gild the song's edges.

The band's gauzy sound is epitomised by its atmospheric debut single 'Black and White Films'; Davis and trumpet player Sophie Barnes share vocal duties here, keening a Morrissey-esque eye to every miserable lyrical detail: 'I couldn't leave the glare of the TV/ So I missed the fireworks/ All I got was muddy feet.' Camera Obscura tinged second single 'A Good Café on George Street' can't quite reach the same dizzy heights of its predecessor, but still features the album's most memorable chorus, a joyous convergence of breezy vocals and keyboards that belie Jonny's rather ominous plea to his sweetheart that 'there's things we need to say, so please can we stop dancing?'

*This City Draws Maps* occasionally tends to blur together, but the overall effect is like looking through a scrapbook of old Polaroids - a gorgeously hazy patchwork of hushed tones, stolen kisses and bucolic summer melodies and memories. It's an album to fall in love to, and an album to fall in love with, and, although they aren't likely to stay that way for long, for the time being, The Rosie Taylor Project is this city's best kept secret. (8)

words/ alex wisgard



### Parka Attack of the Hundred Yard Hard Man (Jeepster)

Imagine, if you will, having a picnic on a beach somewhere very beautiful in Wales. There's a cool breeze blowing in from the sea. The dunes behind you give way to rolling hills, beset with heather and the greenest grass you've ever seen. You're sitting on a rug with a loved one, eating ham sandwiches (or cheese and pickle if you'd prefer) and drinking cloudy lemonade. Everything is wonderful and lovely except for the fact that it's drizzling. Well, several 'kudos' to you, dear reader, for you have just imagined a rather clever allegory for the debut album by Scottish indie-lads Parka.

Allow me to explain. There's a lot to like about this record. It's energetic and smiley, much like a slightly drunk friend with fewer problems than you. It sounds really very nice - the guitars in particular are crunchy and impactful without being unnecessarily loud or overdriven, and the vocals are similarly pleasant for the most part. The issue, however, is that it's just so much less good than so much else. Listening to this album, one sees vividly what it doesn't have that other, better albums have. Just as a drizzly picnic could quite easily be made significantly better by the removal of rain, *Attack of the Hundred Yard Hard Man* begs for better song-writing and a keener edge. Where The Beatles wrote songs which amazed by their simple excellence, Matt Thomson's songs only amaze by their simplicity. Almost every track leaves the listener like a bereaved angler - hookless. Parka are less gutsy than Babyshambles and less colourful than the Young Knives, two bands with whom they have been compared. Add to this the fact that they're less cool than Bloc Party and less good than the Strokes and you begin to see where this album fits in. Rainy beaches are inferior to sunny ones, and Parka are inferior to too many bands to name. Sad but true. (5)

words/ george reece



### Midnight Juggernauts Dystopia (Siberia)

If you missed the Midnight Juggernauts' debut when it was released last year in their homeland of Australia, you might want to check it out this time around. The band are self-proclaimed 'masters of intergalactic space revelry' and that moniker certainly is fitting. In case you haven't been to outer space recently, it sounds like a disco immersed in soothing time travelling atmospherics. From the moment the 'Intro' kicks in we are suspended in a dreamlike state amidst keyboards and basslines. The title track floats along as an acoustic guitar is strummed softly; songs such as 'Ending of an Era' and 'Road to Recovery' continue the musical blueprint, with the verses incorporating Bryan Ferry-esque deep toned vocals that get joined in the choruses by high-pitched crescendos. Repetitive this may be, but it works well; 'Intro the Galaxy' is a near-perfect pop song, and, on 'Tombstone', they succeed in mastering the vocoder, the ultimate hit and miss instrument.

A full-scale release seems appropriate now. Unfortunately, though, timing is what hinders the record. Whereas last year the band served as a refreshing break from the more hard-hitting acts amongst the resurgence in the popularity of electronic music, this year they've been outdone by their Aussie contemporaries. Recently the Modular label has delivered us incredible synth-pop albums in the form of Cut Copy's ethereal *In Ghost Colours* and the more obnoxious but equally brilliant *Apocalypso* from The Presets. *Dystopia* just doesn't stand out now that we've heard what the Juggernauts' rivals can do. It isn't even an original sound - people were making music like this over two decades ago.

Nevertheless, it's still an enjoyable, cinematic journey and, if you like your Space-Disco with its moustached cheesiness intact then you can't really go wrong. (7)

words/ luke fear



### McKenzie- Bruce Berner Street (Bigdan)

I have just listened to *Berner Street* by McKenzie-Bruce, and I don't think the world will ever sound the same to me.

*Berner Street* is not just a music CD. It is a groundbreaking concept in the marketing of music. No, no... really! The idea is that you get an album of "great music" within which clues of some sort are hidden. These clues enable you to solve a mystery or a puzzle or something that is in some way related to Jack the Ripper. The first person to enter the correct answer on a website somewhere, using the unique code printed on their album sleeve, wins £5,000. This is about as much as the sleeve notes offer. In theory, the allure of this competition should increase sales of the physical item, bringing the focus of the music consumer back to CD purchasing and saving the industry from a sticky end. In practice, the competition might create a bit of publicity for the record, but I sincerely doubt it will change anything.

For a start, the competition is unintelligible. The sleeve notes give very little idea of how the mystery works, or what to look for, or anything. The grammar is fairly good fun, though - a mystery in itself. The listener is told to listen for clues in the lyrics. So, you put the CD in the player and begin your quest.

The music is bad. I was so confused on first listen that I decided to do some digging. The label, it turns out, is owned and run by the two band members, both of whom are ageing rocker types with Jimi Hendrix T-shirts and no discernible talent, who somehow happen to be rich enough to own a record label and a fancy studio, and offer a £5000 prize.

I imagine at least half of the CD's face value goes straight into the back pockets of these two opportunist illiterates. By all means steal a copy and listen to it - it's quite funny - but please don't encourage them by buying one. (1)

words/ george reece

## Live.

### Gig of the Week

### Throw Parties, Not Punches The Faversham

22/04/08

Tonight is a collaboration between various left-wing political societies uniting under the Topman-esque moniker: Throw Parties, not Punches. And what a party it is! There are 50p cakes, badges, petitions, raffles, and of course, bands! Ewan McLennan gets things rolling with his traditional Scottish folk music which is unashamedly strong and soulful. There's undeniable conviction and strength to his voice. Next up are Fulibulbus, who, despite being a few members down, still managed to play a furious set mashing up The Prodigy, Sublime and Asian Dub Foundation into a punk explosion of dub and rock. Lazy Tree Surgeons have come all the way from

### Kid Harpoon

The Faversham  
27/04/08

For anyone that missed the outstanding display of musical innovation that was Saturday night at the Faversham - I don't mean to sound smug - but I genuinely feel sorry for you.

The evening was kicked off by James Yeuil, a 25 year old whose sound is probably most accurately described as 'Folktronica'. The Londoner shared his performance between a mixing desk, his laptop, modest acoustic guitar playing and singing about hills. A charming combination that without doubt deserved more audience attention than it received.

Yeuil was closely followed by The Wave Pictures, a guitar, bass and drum trio who

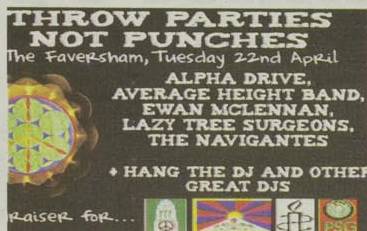


managed to lull quite a crowd away from the bar and towards the stage. The Wave Pictures 'have ridiculously contagious tunes, and singing along to the likes of 'A statue is a statue, and marmalade is marmalade/But a statue of marmalade is still a statue' is surreal but perfect. In such an intimate venue like the Faversham, it results in a dialogue between the band and the audience, where neither participant can help but grin. David Tattersall - the real spark behind The Wave Pictures - sustained this dialogue right until the end of their set, when he threw open the set list to the floor. After one or two personal requests, the band left us with a song from the new album and a confession that, 'they must play more in Leeds'. Yes please!

The arrival of the headliner saw a doubling of people both in the crowd and on the stage. Kid Harpoon, accompanied by two guitars, keyboards, bass, a drummer and last but certainly not least, a violinist, delivered his performance with a kind of energy and excitement that he might have exuded seconds after writing his songs for the first time. (8)

words/ amy powell yeates

Sheffield to really start the party with an exciting 60s jazz and funk set. The sound is timeless and incredibly effective at getting a party going. The band are tight with well-



crafted songs all presided over by frontwoman Frankie Payne. Average Height Band's Alex Dee is equally as charismatic, giving a high energy performance of Motown and Stax inspired soul. Their lively music sparks an audience sing-along. They put on an entertaining and memorable show. Navigantes, a Leeds-based ska outfit, put on

### Lethal Bizzle

Rio's  
29/04/08

You would think that Lethal Bizzle would be pretty darn popular by now but tonight's tiny venue is barely half full.

Obviously this means that when the first act, Blah Blah Blah, take to the stage, there's an even smaller audience. It sounds a little bit like the soundtrack to an episode of Playdays...

The less said about MC Bashy the better. It's hard to work out whether he's actually an artist or a compere. Many may remember a moment where Dizzee Rascal shamelessly played up to his audience on his tour by playing some mainstream rock songs in the background whilst shouting 'Yeah, yeah' over the top of them. That was bad enough but tonight Bashy's entire set consists of doing just that. The only two songs he actually plays himself are a clichéd 'bash' at the police titled 'Fuck the Po-Po' and a crap track which has apparently been given the dishonour of being the theme tune for the sequel to 'Kidulthood'.

Fortunately Lethal Bizzle does manage to pick things up a bit with his sheer charisma. The small audience that is here go crazy and it's easy to see that his following has diversified as he



encourages the mosh-pits that take place to his grime music. Much of his set is really enjoyable, particularly the meaningless but ridiculously catchy 'Bizzle Bizzle' which prompts audience participation all round. Even 'Police on my Back', which on record is nothing more than an attempt to display his eclecticism by sampling The Clash.

Bizzle states, quite sincerely at the end, that this is one of the biggest and best crowds that he's had on the tour so far. If that is genuinely the case I actually feel quite sorry for him as the turnout is pitiful. But then it's not like those who do turn up even get their money's worth. All in all Lethal Bizzle plays for around forty minutes which is pretty poor for someone with two albums and a bunch of non-album singles under his belt. (5)

words/ luke fear

an energetic show. Leadsinger Craig ends up barking out lyrics whilst the rest of the band swap round instruments, pacing out the sound with multiple guitars and happy brass. It's no surprise The Navigantes leave the stage with an audience buzzing from the happy sound. All these acts are just the tasters for what's to come. The audience are blown away by Alphadrive, an electric three-piece equipped with guitar, synths/samples and bongos. They smash the audience with a dub/drum and bass barrage, Faym toasting over the music and whipping the audience into a feel-good frenzy. Sampler Freear puts on a fiery show...who would have thought someone could get so sweaty turning knobs on a synth desk? The music is unashamedly heavy breakbeat, expressed through three very committed characters. Alpha Drive exit in a trail of sweat with the crowd screaming for more but it's all over, this little mini-festival has been shaking the Fav from the word go and all for great causes. (8)

words/ henry raby

### Edwyn Collins

The Cockpit  
26/04/08

Edwyn Collins - best remembered for his nineties megahit 'A Girl Like You', though far from a one hit wonder - shuffles onstage and surveys the audience. The crowd waits nervously for his first words; this is, after all, a man who is still on the road to recovery from two near-fatal brain haemorrhages suffered in 2005, rendering him unable to walk or talk until a year later. Finally, seated in the centre of the stage, Edwyn opens his mouth: 'I'm back.' The crowd goes ballistic. Naturally.



The set itself begins with a trilogy of classics by Edwyn's old band Orange Juice - think of a Velvet Underground for the eighties, but addicted to Stax instead of smack - opening with their first single 'Falling and Laughing'. The band itself is in fine form, with Frame adding some fantastic solos to 'Rip It Up' - the purest manifestation of Orange Juice's Buzzcocks meets Motown sound - and of course, 'A Girl Like You'.

When it comes to the rest of Edwyn's solo material, however, the crowd - who, unlike me, look old (and bald) enough to have followed his career from its start - are less generous; even the rollicking 'Then I Cried', one of the best pop songs in his catalogue - struggle to be heard over the crowd's chatter. Meanwhile, the hardy soul who shouts out requests is met with a forlorn response - 'I can't remember that one...' Still, earlier solo tracks like 'Hope and Despair' - a self-mocking ode to a washed-up star 'resplendent with afro and electric lute' - are greeted like old friends.

The three-song encore begins with the first song Edwyn wrote in the aftermath of his illness, the country ballad 'I'm Searching for the Truth'; the crowd, unexpectedly, goes quiet and reverential for the track's duration, as Collins delicately croons some of his most heartfelt lyrics. Much like Edwyn Collins' whole career, this current tour is a demonstration that, in the face of adversity, he can simply get on with it. (8)

words/ alex wisgard

### I'll see you on the other side

by Ramzy



Box sets aren't anything particularly new, but Radiohead seem to have opened the floodgates. Ever since the *In Rainbows* disbox looked like the only physical version of the album at all, the record labels appear to have realised that cost and excess no longer look like any object to marketing. Portishead's *Third*, out this week, is available as a package that contains the double vinyl edition of the album (available separately), a USB of the album mixdowns (available separately on the CD), a 12" of the single (available, er, separately) and a few videos. It seems to me that the factor that made Radiohead's actions so outlandish was the lack of any physical alternative: if you wanted the CD, you had to get the vinyls, bonus disc and books as well. *Third*, as a marketing move, seems far more questionable - essentially, the people who buy the box just end up with all the separate bits of the album promotion.

And yet it's selling. Selling similarly well is the new Nine Inch Nails instrumental collection *Ghosts I-IV*, whose box set version costs over double what Radiohead's did but, again, whose CD and vinyl elements are available separately, in packages that are far from lacklustre in the way that the XL editions of *In Rainbows* were: the quadruple LP edition of *Ghosts* feels like an event in itself. The development that fleshes the sets out is the discovery on the part of the record labels that vinyl apparently adds financial value without adding artistic value: these things aren't being marketed as vinyl packages, but as extremely fancy CD packages. Vinyl, after all its steps away from the grave over the last ten years, has been turned into a novelty again.

All four singles from the current Björk album have been issued solely as CD, DVD and double 12" packages. When we are presented with one track per side, even the convenience aspect of the CD becomes void. They aren't being marketed to people who ever intend to play the records, and yet the records make up 90% of the product's image - in both size (they're shaped like record covers) and aesthetic (no-one pays £100 for four CDs).

But this doesn't serve to empower the format. Vinyls are being constructed as novelties. Perhaps, in an age where digital means formless, the CD has bailed ship and attempted to hitch a ride on the back of something that can't be downloaded. However, if it is not to bring vinyl down with it - because who can really afford to pay this much on a regular basis, and will people feel somehow complicit even when they buy the regular versions, so long as they even bother making them? - then CDs must develop their own market.

And if they don't, and if market forces eliminate physical digital media, is that a problem? If they aren't selling, they aren't selling. Perhaps we should stop holding onto format norms and accept that, just as vinyl predated the CD, it will almost certainly outlive it.

## Singles.

### Single of the Week

#### Hot Chip

'One Pure Thought'  
(EMI)



Ah, good old Hot Chip, the legendary bedroom-produced-dance music masterminds. This second single from the impressive *Made in the Dark* finds them on slightly less predictable ground than the frankly irritating 'Ready for the Floor'. Bendy bass lines and spiky keyboards are the name of the game, and singer Alexis Taylor croons in his own, idiosyncratic way over the top. It comes with an array of impressive remixes, but these will be for completists. Worth buying in order to make it a hit, but if you don't already own its parent album then there may be something wrong with you. (8)

#### The Kingsize 5

'I Am a Missile' /  
'Capricorn'  
(Little Genius)



Despite their name, this London band actually consists of 15 people, mainly session musicians, and boast an impressive brass section. 'I Am a Missile' shakes and rattles along at a pleasing speed, and its double 'A' side performs much the same tricks with a little help from the lead singer of tenth-rate Libertines copyists Dogs. Both songs are fun and refreshingly free of current musical fashions, but are also ultimately forgettable. (6)

#### Duffy

'Warwick Avenue'  
(A&M/Rough Trade)



Following up her number 1 single 'Mercy', 'Warwick Avenue' is a more downbeat, string-swept and orchestral affair. Telling of a failed attempt to reignite a flagging relationship, Duffy's vocals make for pleasant enough listening, but not really preferable over complete silence. It will undoubtedly be massive. (5)

#### Late of the Pier

'Space and the Woods' / 'Focker'  
(Zarcorp/Parlophone)



One of the many so-called 'nu-rave' bands following on the coat-tails of the success of Klaxons, this Castle Donington quartet are more interesting than most. 'Space and the Woods' gets a timely re-issue, with synths burbling along like an over-excited puppy channelling the spirit of Gary Numan. It has been paired up with the Erol Alkan-produced 'Focker'. More consistent and listenable than the bizarre previous effort 'Bathroom Gurgles', and definitely worth a try if your tastes extend to more than a bit of drum 'n' bass. (8)

words/ edmund biggs

## Selena and Samzy's Summer Spreviews.

LS2 Music towers

Dear Reader [singular],

Catastrophe! Vortex of dissipation! Apocalypse! *Leeds Student's* 2007-8 print run comes to a *fin* with this issue. Fret ye [singular] not! Helena and Ramzy have selflessly written some miniature review/preview things, to fill the long, vacant hours until *LS2 Music* again tells you what to buy, listen to, be, do, make, say, think, like an old, familiar, dictatorship that grew up next door to you but never seemed to age like the rest of us.

Behold!

Music Editors xx



**Moby Last Night** (Mute)  
12/05/08

I hate to agree with press releases, but this really is Moby's most vital album since *Play*, and perhaps his best ever. One of Richard Hall's most compelling gifts has always been the ability to walk a line between ambient soundscapes and house music

without being accused of chillout, and Last Night represents his finest achievement in gap bridging. Liberally spraying beautiful, sweeping orchestrations over 1990-esque rave, 1983-esque Italian disco, 2008-esque hip-hop and possibly even something from the 1970s, he constructs a moving dance nostalgia without alienating anyone who didn't happen to be in New York twenty years ago. It's an aesthetic that owes a lot to the first Pet Shop Boys' album and its accompanying influences, but the immediately recognisable sample use and the massive electro riffs that descend out of

nowhere are Moby's alone. If Mute ever actually get around to releasing it (it was originally due out in March), Last Night should soundtrack every disco heartbreak this summer. (8)

#### Look out for:

'I Love to Move in Here' for the Italian disco AND the hip-hop, and 'Degenerates' for the sweeping orchestrations

#### Watch out for:

Veering too close to self-parody on the 'look! old-school rave!' bits



**Coldplay Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends** (Parlophone)  
17/06/08

Unhelpfully, the first radio play of the first single from the Viva la Vida sessions takes place roughly when we have to have this page finished, so all I can do is speculate, much in the way that everyone has been doing about

this record for three years. I might have given up hope after Coldplay's systematic, drawn out descent into stadium territory, but there is an elephant in the room, and the elephant invented ambient music. Not only is Brian Eno producing this album, which pretty much puts paid to the possibility of overindulgence on at least the band's part, but Timbaland is somehow also involved, a combination that leaves the projection sounding rather like Madonna's *Ray of Light*. Add to this the fact that it contains just ten songs, and won't be as indulgently lengthy as the last LP, and one is left with an anticipation that seems to defy all

the empirical evidence. If *Viva La Vida* is as good as it should be, it will be Coldplay's best album – and will remind us all why that is something worth getting excited about. (?)

#### Look out for:

'Violet Hill', free with the next issue of NME and available through coldplay.com all week

#### Watch out for:

How terrifyingly, self-indulgently awful this might turn out to be if Eno and Coldplay mutually encourage, rather than mutually cancelling out



**Death Cab for Cutie Narrow Stairs** (Warners)  
12/05/08

Death Cab release their sixth studio album this May. The band that have been inching up the popularity ladder for years look set to conquer new territories with this LP. (?)

#### Look out for:

*Narrow Stairs* is preceded by the first single release 'I Will Possess Your Heart', quite a long song, presumably cut quite drastically for radio edit - which, although the intro seems to drag a bit, when the vocals kick in, is very reminiscent of the Death Cab we know and love. 'Talking Bird' is also worth a tiddle.

#### Watch out for:

The fact that we haven't actually heard this record yet. Perhaps they haven't edited 'I Will Possess Your Heart' after all.

THINK YOU COULD WRITE BETTER PREVIEWS WITH YOUR EYES SHUT AND YOUR HANDS TIED BEHIND YOUR BACK?

THINK YOU COULD DESIGN BETTER PASTEL BOXES WITH YOUR APPENDIX SHUT AND YOUR KNEES TIED BEHIND YOUR JAW?

LS2 Music will need more writers next year. It may need you; it depends if you're much cop.

bye/ ramzy alwakeel and  
helena goodwyn  
xx



## Do only Muppets watch Porn?

With new series **Fur TV** on our screens this Sunday

**Madeleine McGarrie** asks 'is sex with puppets porn?'

Recently Leeds Student's Television Pages were excited by the arrival of a preview DVD from MTV into its lowly pigeon hole. After inserting it into our Macs, we soon realized that

“Why watch porn when you could have some good old fashioned fun with a real person?”

this innocent disk contained explicit images of puppets having sex with real scantily clad women. We rejected it as some strange newfangled porn something akin to furies (sexual fantasies about cartoon animals) and pony porn (sex whilst dressed up as horses). We quickly dismissed it as disgusting and declared it as unsuitable for the high calibre content

of the austere television pages.

Days later a publicity stunt was revealed on Heat.com with images of Chanelle, of 'Big Brother' fame, panting and writhing with a puppet. Some might view this as funny but to me it's just sad because of its pornographic style and degradation of a woman clearly desperate to increase her Z-list celebrity status. Heat.com describes 'this whole sorry thing' as 'rather graphic and, while we know it's supposed to be a joke, we can't help but think that we're all laughing at Chanelle rather than with her.' With this revelation I decided that, rather than ignoring the existence of 'Fur TV', I should tackle it straight on.

'Fur TV' is clearly meant to be humorous and by staging sex scenes with puppets and human women they somehow manage to avoid the porn labelling and become merely comic. But, as Heat magazine points out, the pinnacle of feminist critique that it is, the viewer ends up laughing at the desperation of women

willing to be filmed making love to a stuffed toy. In this sense, should I prefer people looking at actual porn, where at least both the woman and the man involved are being sexually exploited rather than a woman being mocked with sex with a puppet? Even though we are aware of sex trafficking, sexual harassment and abuse in the sex and porn industry, and the fact that women ostensibly do porn for the money not out of enjoyment. With huge inequality in pay between men and women and glass ceilings incredibly prevalent in Britain, America, and world wide for some, you'd be a fool not to whip your baps out for money. How anyone can believe that equality between the sexes in the UK can be achieved when we are constantly faced with depraved and demeaning images in our daily lives. Not all porn is

offensive or necessarily exploitative but 'Fur TV' is definitely degrading, demeaning and downright embarrassing to watch.

So I call on you not to watch 'Fur TV', and when you are feeling frustrated rather than watch shows like these, put a sign on your door saying 'I'm tidying my room' and use your imagination instead. Alternatively, if going solo doesn't work for you, why watch porn when you could get out there and have some good old fashioned fun with a real person. Kind of like reality TV, but without the TV bit.



## 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've had enough of Rachel in 'Neighbours' this week. She moans, groans and pulls ugly faces as well as having the sheer lack of manners to tuck those hideous pieces of hair behind her ears. This week we've seen Rachel have her heart broken for the umpteenth time with this Angus fella. And what! after a week of dating? This ain't no Romeo and Julz, it's time Rachel got some serious cognitive therapy.

**How:** On Susan and Karl's 2007 romantic youth hostel experience in England, they stumbled upon a therapist of sorts. Kyle, they call him, Jeremy Kyle. He's a mean, lean brain-fart reducing grilling machine. Having taken rather a fancy to yummy mummy, Susan, old Jezza gives her his number "We can make beautiful, a clear minded children", says. In desperation, Susan calls Jezza up. "Good day Jeremy, can you help us mend some fences?" she exclaims. "Sure! Come on my show." He replies. And before you know it, the cast of 'Neighbours' are on a plane to the UK. On board, Harold and Lou try to ease Ramsay Street relations,



**LOU:** How to solve a problem with heart shaped cakes?

offering heart-shaped cakes and singing Judy Garland classics. Cocky moraliser Mickey tries to offer some words of advice to Rachel "Angus isn't right for you!" he reasons. In a rage, Angus hoists Mickey up by the straps of his dungarees and throws him off the plane. "Oh, I can't hear that fly buzz around my head any more", says a bemused Ned. On the show, Rachel tells Jezza of her distress, how Angus wooed her with his sweet smile and his overpowering charisma. "YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD BE WITH YOUR TEACHER!" Jezza spits. Being a bit of a Freudian, old Jezza puts two and two together. Rachel has been basing her boyfriends on hopeless father-figure Karl. Rachel needs a new man in her life. Deciding this, Jezza takes the initiative and hypnotizes the whole of Ramsay street, "THERE IS NO KARL, THERE IS ONLY JEREMY." Sick

of counseling ugly people, Jezza decides this'll work for him...he'll emigrate to Australia and take up a new life with his honey-sweet, Susan. After all, Ramsay street does need a bit of stability.

words/charlotte gill

## The Argument

What is the best way to spend your life, in fantasy land or in the desert of the real?

### Reality

Television has it uses, we get to find out about events thousands of miles away and we are entertained while we are eating our dinner. But if there's one thing I've learnt through my twenty years on this earth is that you can't trust what you see on the big grey box. Documentaries are often one sided, models are airbrushed and adverts are designed to make us want what we do not need. It's much better to step out of your front door and see what's going on in the world for yourself. The cause of childhood obesity in this country is because too many children are snacking and slobbering in front of their TVs instead of enjoying the innocent childhood pleasure of running around in the play ground. As the older generation we need to show them that there's more to life than watching TV. How many times have you cancelled on a friend because you wanted to watch an episode of your favorite soap? Don't become a slave to that talking, brainwashing box in the living room, go outside and talk to a person about something that is not connected to TV. Once you experience how hard this is, you'll realize how much television has taken over your life.

words/harriet knowles

### Television

Life would be unimaginable without that black box of goodness welcomed into every living room corner and at the foot of every bed. It gives and asks for little in return, only a plug for energy and a sturdy place to plant itself and it shall provide you with pleasure for a lifetime. When you need to know the latest news who do you go to? The TV for BBC News 24. When you need a laugh when you are feeling down who is always there to pick you up with a repeated episode of Friends? When you are feeling horny where do you turn to those quiet nights alone with just you, the remote and late night erotica? Television is a life-force and without it our lives would not only be depleted but we would be left with endless hours to fill our dull and tedious existence. We would have to go to more parties and make tedious small talk with total strangers and have nothing in common or any interest in. You would be without the comfort of snuggling up in bed with a blazing screen of endless images to both dull and stimulate your brain in a comforting zoning out of information overload. TV is the biggest comfort there is and watching your favourite television show is like getting a hug. TV is part of our reality, it is so enmeshed that the only reality that exists is one filtered through television and long may it reign.

words/maddy mcgarrie

# 20 T.V. Picks

Films of the week

## The Celestial



### Raiders of the Lost Ark

BBC1

Sunday 4th May 8:00pm

Indiana Jones films have long been enjoyed as classic action packed thrillers the whole family must see. With a royalty of production behind it: written by George Lucas of 'Star Wars' fame, directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Harrison Ford, how could it possibly fail to deliver anything less than absolute film genius? Most sequels in film series fail to deliver the punch that the first does, but the character of Indiana Jones is so brilliant that it is no surprise that each film remains as good as the last.

'Raiders of the Lost Ark' the first in the series is a must see for those who have not yet developed a relationship with these films, and it has 4 Oscars to prove it. In this instalment of Indiana's adventures the intrepid archaeologist tries to beat a band of Nazis to a unique religious relic which is central to their plans for world domination. Battling against a snake phobia and a vengeful ex-girlfriend, Indiana Jones is in constant peril, making hair's-breadth escapes at every turn. With the next Indiana Film (Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull) out this month, BBC1's timing to show this classic is impeccable.

words/holly puzlylo

### Friday

Space Pirates BBC1 3:05pm

This already might be a popular programme among Radio 1 fans as one of the pirates "Zorst" is voiced by news reader Dominic Byrne. As someone who has never quite got over the joy of children's programmes, I think Space Pirates is brilliant. It abandons the original view of pirates as bloody thirsty villains and instead, lead by Captain DJ, these pirates are all about the music and dancing. Get back to your roots by watching this show and dance around your living room like it's 1987. Great fun to watch if you're ever feeling low at 3:00 in the afternoon, especially if you sing along to the theme tune. In this episode, Honk loses her voice.

words/evelyn prysor-jones

### Sunday

Bremner, Bird and Fortune Channel 4 7:05pm

You can not escape politics at the moment, with the elections on Thursday and the constant political battle between Obama, Hilary and that other bloke that no one cares about splashed across the news. I think it is time to stop taking it all so seriously and enjoy a light hearted debate from the kings of satire, Bremner, Bird and Fortune. If you're not up on your politics most of the jokes might go straight over your head. But like most of the world, you can always pretend to be knowledgeable about current affairs. I recommend perfecting your best snobby laugh, agreeing with everything Bremner says and sipping a martini with olives on a stick.

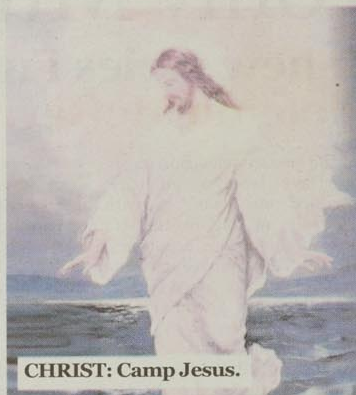
words/harriet knowles



WINSTON: He's got children hidden in his moustache.

# LS2 inside Terrestrial Picks.

For those in the dark ages.



CHRIST: Camp Jesus.

### Saturday

ER Channel 4 8.10pm

The episode titled "Truth Will Out" leaves something to the imagination in a medical drama. How exactly will the truth out? In the shape of a faeces, an ingrown toenail or some vomit? This week, Luca remains angry at Abbey for doing a George Best and coping off with one of the less fortunate looking doctors in his absence. Meanwhile, Neela is upset to find out that a patient given an emergency operation on their aorta has an infection. Back in the ER, Abbey looks after a beaten up student who discovers he has a potentially fatal illness. Let's hope that permanently miserable look on Abbey's face does not make it any worse.

words/charlotte gill

### Monday

Paul Merton in China Channel 5 9pm

If you have watched comedy news quiz 'Have I Got News For You' at any point in the last ten years, you'll know that Paul Merton is a genius. His quick-fire, surreal wit leaps across subjects at dizzying speeds, making bizarre connections. This repeat of his China travelogue showcases that wit outside a television studio, as he travels across the country meeting people from all walks of life. Highlights include a conversation with an old man who makes his own robots from bits of scrap metal, and a visit to a replica French chateau built by one of China's nouveau riche.

words/jim moore

### Tuesday

Jesus Camp Channel 4 11:05pm

'Jesus Camp' is sadly not a reality show in which contestants compete to become the next saviour of mankind but the next best thing, an Oscar-nominated documentary following the attempts of Evangelicals stateside to recruit the young and innocent as foot-soldiers in 'God's Army'. The film follows pastor Becki Fischer as she indoctrinates the young in her camp 'Kids on Fire'. Their aim: to steer evangelicals into leadership positions in government and business. Have these people never heard of the separation of church and state? Thomas Jefferson? The first amendment? A reminder that theocracy can only lead to self-righteousness and pastel knitwear.

words/thomas midlane

### Wednesday

Child of Our Time BBC1 8:00pm

Hurrah! It's that time of year again. Professor Robert Winston and his sexy moustache are back in the new series of 'Child of Our Time'. In case you have not been watching for the past eight years, the program documents the progress of twenty-five British children until they are twenty years of age. The children are eight-years-old now, and developing their gender identity. This episode, titled 'The Divide of the Sexes', ought to provide a thought-provoking and insightful discussion on who we get our gender roles from, whether it is from our parents or the outside world.

words/charlotte gill

### Thursday

Nothing is on All Channels 7:00pm

Instead of watching the box take a walk down to Co-op and buy some thickly sliced freshly baked bread from Greggs, known by those who have tasted it as 'sex bread' due to its 'better than sex' status, and some cheese and wander back slowly to your abode. In the kitchen turn on your George Forman (all students have one in the their kitchen surely?) and make that staple of all student dishes: the cheese toastie. Wolf it down with a cup of tea and finish with a chocolate Hobnob whilst thinking of something witty to put as your Facebook status. Something along the lines of '...is eating a cheese Toastie'.

words/maddy mcgarrie

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**skint.**

## Freeview Picks.

For lucky devils with digital.

### Friday

**Battlestar Galactica** *Sky One* 11:35pm  
The "re-imagined" *Battlestar Galactica*, which premiered in 2003, takes the bare premise of the cheesy 70s original – mankind on the run after being nearly wiped out – and turns it into one of the darkest and most compelling dramas on Television. Yes, really and you don't have to be a total nerdlinger to enjoy it. As the humans battle their robotic enemies the Cylons, the boundaries between good and evil become blurred, with man and machine both committing atrocities in the name of the greater good. The show's storylines raise questions about the war on terror, the use of torture and religious fundamentalism. This fourth and final series raises the stakes even higher.

words/jim moore



**TATE: In more need of a stylist than a doctor.**

### Tuesday

**Blood, Sweat and T-Shirts** *BBC 3* 9:00pm

This program explores the suffering and poverty of the workers that make the clothes for high street retailers in the west. Underpaid and over worked, these employees are subjected to horrific working conditions and non-existent health and safety regulations. This program should make us all think twice about what and where we buy, but with the ever tempting cut price fashion of Primark and H and M compared with the pricey apparel of ethical retailers it can become a difficult decision for the average student pocket.

words/harriet knowles

### Saturday

**Derren Brown: Trick or Treat** *E4* 9:35pm

Strangely sexy mystical illusionist Derren Brown works his magic in this new series. He approaches unsuspecting members of the public and presents them with a blind choice between receiving a trick or a treat. If they get trick, Derren does not just punch them in the face, or place a banana skin in their way, he convinces them something truly awful is happening to them. For example, in the last series he convinced a woman she was witnessing her own death. Derren's power over the minds of others is uncanny, and makes me think that if I saw Mr. Brown swooping towards me I'd cross the road to avoid him.

words/harriet knowles

### Sunday

**Come Dine with Me** *More* 45:45pm

Your new partner is coming over for dinner. They'll be here in ten minutes, you've burnt the potatoes, the kitchen is full of smoke and you haven't even started on dessert. Although unpromising on paper (group of strangers take it in turns to host a dinner party, which the guests then rate out of 10), it is the logistical nightmare of trying to organise a meal that makes *'Come Dine with Me'* such compulsive viewing. Guests smile winsomely at their host, before indulging in vicious backbiting the second they leave the room. The sole vegetarian is dished up some limp veg sautéed in meat stock. Human nature in microcosm.

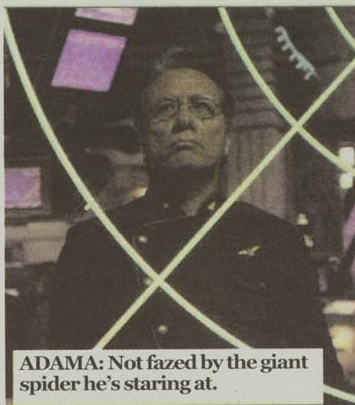
words/thomas midlane

### Wednesday

**The Soap Awards: The Party** *ITV2* 10:00pm

If you want to stay in this Wednesday night, here is a good reason not to. I suppose it is allowed for soap stars to have their own awards ceremony, they are "actors" after all. It's all the rest of the stuff that goes with it that makes me want to take a hammer to my laptop. If you like particularly irritating people flouncing around on red carpets showing off their frighteningly white smile, and you are excited about sneak previews into the melodramatic yet intensely dull lives that go on in the soaps of our country, this is definitely for you. However, it's definitely not for me.

words/hattie cawley



**ADAMA: Not fazed by the giant spider he's staring at.**

### Monday

**The Catherine Tate Show** *UKTV Gold* 10:15pm

If there isn't enough comedy, fun or just fantastic wit in your life, watch the beautiful, entertaining and all round gem that is Catherine Tate. Although the rest of the world seems to be raving about her recent appearance in *Doctor Who*, this is a chance to see her at her worst. As if women didn't get enough of a bad name in comedy, Tate has pushed us right off the spectrum. In this 'Award-winning' comedy sketch you can see Elaine Figgis seek true love, and Paul Whitehouse of *The Fast Show* and *Harry Enfield and Chums* fame, make an appearance as Sam's dad. Paul Whitehouse...how the mighty have fallen.

words/charlotte gill

### Thursday

**The Inbetweeners** *E4* 10pm

Whatever you think of E4's hit series *'Skins'*, no one can claim that it was a completely accurate representation of teenage life. Promiscuous sex, wild parties and drug abuse are pretty fun to watch. The average adolescence, however, probably features a lot more awkwardness, embarrassment and drinking in bus shelters. *'The Inbetweeners'*, a new sitcom from a former script editor of the mighty *'Peep Show'*, aims for a more realistic look at teenagers. The action revolves around a bunch of sixth-formers living in suburbia. They fumble their way through romance, work and growing up, and generally mess up wherever possible.

words/hattie cawley

## Films of the week

### The Satanic

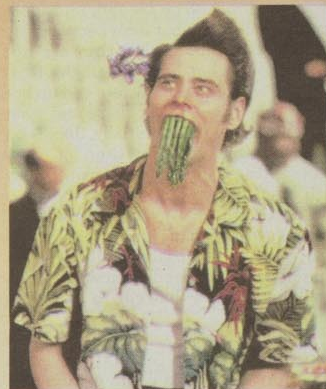
**Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls**

**UKTV Gold**

**Friday 2nd May 11:15pm**

There's only so many times in one film that Jim Carey can bend over and speak with his bottom before it goes from being funny to being mildly offensive. Not forgetting the scene where Jim Carey escapes naked out of the behind of a rhino he has constructed to spy on some poachers, a moment that would make anyone with an iron stomach gag into their popcorn. Carey is also caught in a compromising position by the tribal chieftain he is supposed to be helping. Years later I realized that this was supposed to be a joke about masturbating, and I could help but wonder if *'There's Something about Mary'* nicked their cum joke from Ace's upright hair. As I have grown up this film, like many things of my youth, has become cringe worthy and embarrassing. I also can't help but wonder whether this film could be seen as slightly racist. Ace comments to one tribal chieftain 'excuse me, your balls are showing' and deliberately mispronounces the traditional tribal greeting into something that sounds like 'bumblebee tuna'. This is not really acceptable in this PC age.

words/harriet knowles



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skint.



Large sunglasses and flip flops have come out of hiding and Hyde Park has become the habitat of choice for what seems to be every student in Leeds which can only mean one thing. Spring is finally here and love is in the air; at least on the cinema screens if lacking elsewhere. While walking home one day last week I saw an advert for *Made of Honour*, the newest film to fall into the often mocked category of romcom. At the time the sun was shining and I was generally feeling pretty cheerful and having seen a few trailers for it at the cinema I thought, and please don't judge me here, that I might quite like to see the full thing.

After further thought it then occurred to me, why? I know what will happen before setting foot in the cinema because, as with all these films of a similar ilk, the storyline is somewhat predictable. It is inevitable that the male and female lead will end up together and live happily ever after. Of course to reach this point there will be ensuing hilarity and both comic and embarrassing moments because this is what ends up making up the bulk of the story. So why is it then that films such as these are so consistently popular at the box office if the basic storyline is generally the same just various factors played around with to make the newly released film that little bit different?

It basically ends up coming down to two factors, the first being that, though many may try to deny it, everybody loves a happy ending. The second, and most important, is that what most people enjoy about these films is that they are not really about what happens in the final scene or where the characters end up but the journey taken to get there and what happens during it. Essentially, Jonathon Ross somewhat stole my thunder when interviewing Ashton Kutcher on Friday with his passing comment on journeys and destinations. A rather thoughtful tangent away from his increasingly sexual innuendo laden banter which even Russell Brand seemed somewhat taken aback by and that has got to be saying something.

As unlikely as it may seem, there is the possibility that we can actually learn something from this genre of films. It seems that even brilliant but hardened directors such as Mike Leigh are looking for a spot light relief with *Happy-Go-Lucky*; a film that has no real story; it's just about being happy and what could be better than that?

As all good things must sadly come to an end and with this being the last issue of *Leeds Student*, bearing in mind all of the previous discussion on romantic comedies, this would not be complete without a suitably cheesy ending; here it is. With the mass exodus of students leading Leeds for the summer and many unsure of where they may be going next I hope that everyone gets their very own happy endings. But regardless of wherever you may end up, remember to enjoy all that happens in the moments in between.

words/ lucy mcintosh

## Happy-go-Lucky

Starring/ Sally Hawkins, Alexis Zegerman

Director/ Mike Leigh

Mike Leigh's new film is the uplifting and entertaining tale of ever optimistic, happy-go-lucky north 'Londona', Poppy. Sally Hawkins plays the ludicrously endearing role of the thirty-year-old primary school teacher with an eclectic wardrobe and bizarre sense of humour. The film follows a few weeks in her life, exploring her encounters with everyday human pessimism, encapsulated by a beautifully portrayed friendship with her dead-pan, matter of fact best friend. Poppy's happy-go-lucky mantra is brought to a head when she encounters her absolute antithesis: an aggressively pessimistic, slightly psychotic, balding man, who just happens to be her driving instructor.

There are some brilliant moments including a hilarious sex scene involving the 'eagle position' and some fantastic caricatures: including Poppy's fiery Spanish flamenco teacher (who stomps her feet and grimaces to relieve her broken heart), and Poppy's younger sister, a typically mouthy and self-involved rude-girl.

The film does draw on a few deeper themes, asking the big questions: 'Where have we been? Where are we going? What's the meaning of life?' Poppy epitomises the pursuer of happiness as she attempts to make everyone around her happy too. However ridiculous she is, Poppy's mantra

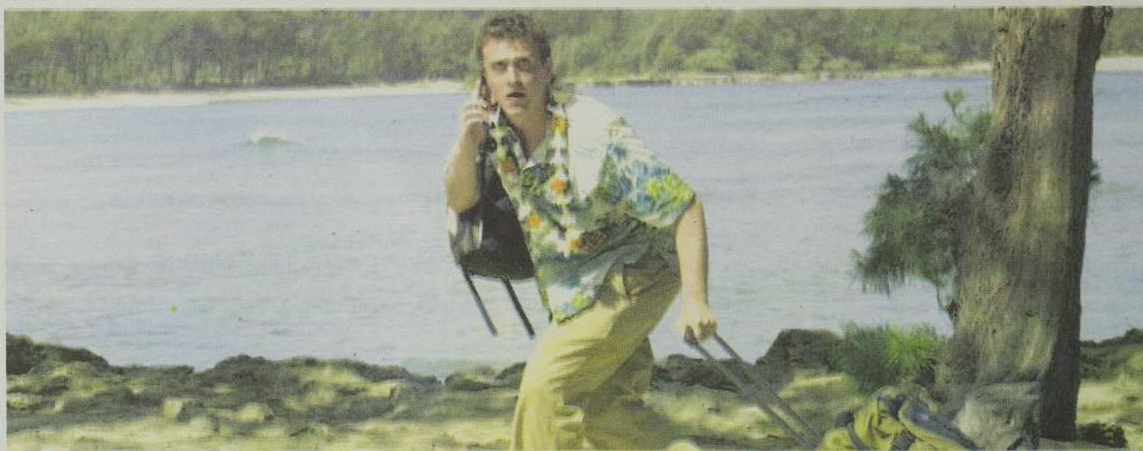


is a philosophy we can all aspire towards. Never self-absorbed, she embraces life, grabbing it by the balls and surrounding herself with things she loves: great friends, a job that she wants to get out of bed for, the odd extra-curricular dance class, and more often than not ends the day down the pub with her friend and a glass of wine. As she says, "I am happy - yeah, it can be tough at times, that's part of it isn't it?"

The optimism of the film is captured by

its free-feeling flow, a result of the director (Mike Leigh's) heavy use of improvisation. It is difficult to predict where the film is going or quite how it is going to end, but it works well, capturing the essence of everyday life and human relationships. Usually Leigh's films (including *Vera Drake*) explore the bleaker moments of life, so *Happy-Go-Lucky* is a breath of fresh air. It does exactly what it says on the tin.

words/ lucy barnett



## Forgetting Sarah Marshall

Starring/ Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Russell Brand

Director/ Nicholas Stoller

'Cor blimey, guv'nor. Russell Brand in Hollywood? An unlikely match, but our backcombed Channel Four Lothario is perfect as Kristen Bell's Bri'ish rock-star lover Aldous Snow - dishing out witty one-liners as often as he gets dates, presumably. The real star of the show, however, is Jason Segel. From the moment we meet him in all - and that means 'all' - his naked glory, Segel is instantly likeable, and excellently cast as Sarah's loyal music-composer boyfriend, Peter Bretter.

Dumped by the famous Ms. Marshall (Bell), Peter cries his way through several boxes of Kleenex and even a one-night stand before deciding the only way to forget his beloved is to jump on the first plane to Hawaii.

Within moments of arriving at his resort however, Peter predictably bumps into none other than Sarah and lover-boy Aldous. He also encounters the rather beautiful receptionist Rachel (Mila Kunis), who ends up letting him stay in the hotel's luxury suite for free, gradually breaking him back into life post-Sarah. The ever-youthful Paul Rudd makes a surprise appearance as spacey surfer dude Kunu, along with a whole host of other hilarious characters: look out for the Christian newly-wed that Snow ends up mentoring in the lurrve department - Brit-American

culture clashing gold.

Exactly how the film finally wraps up is what makes it so satisfying, so no beans are about to be spilled here - but with just the right amount of twists and turns, it guarantees to hold your attention until the credits finally roll. Probably best of all is that director Judd Apatow finally strikes just the right balance between niceness and nakedness, making *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* genuinely funny, rather than gross-out (a-la *Knocked Up* and *Superbad*). Guys take note - this might be the one rom-com you actually enjoy as much as your girlfriend does. Failing that, you could just watch it in the vain hope of picking up some pulling tips from laydeez-man Brand. Whatever - it's still definitely worth a butcher's.

words/ jayshree viswanathan

## The Orphanage

Starring/ Belén Rueda, Roger Princep  
Director/ Juan Antonio Bayona

Everyone in the audience jumped, a few people screamed and someone even applauded Juan Antonio Bayona's spooky offering, *The Orphanage*, and it's uncanny ability to send a shiver down the spine. With a heavyweight producer in the form of Guillermo Del Toro (and Mexican film company Rodar & Rodar), the film traces the story of Laura, whose decision to renovate the orphanage where she grew up leads to the uncovering of a dark and disturbing past.

Del Toro's influence has penetrated *The Orphanage* most noticeably in the exploration of the supernatural as a reflection of the darker (and lighter) forces at work in the real world. However, anyone expecting a follow up to Del Toro's own orphanage-based horror *The Devil's Backbone* is in for a shock. Bayona cleverly bypasses Toro's trademark fantasy, leaning more towards classic horror and thus asserting his own individual directorial style. The resulting film is a lot scarier than any of Del Toro's projects. However, those hoping to see a traditional horror film will be disappointed – this is subtler than anything coming out of Hollywood at the moment.

More unnerving than terrifying, the brilliantly executed 'jumpy bits' never seem irrelevant or unnecessary, and one leaves the cinema not unable to sleep, but with an unshakeable sense of unease. If you don't mind the odd subtitle, this thriller is definitely a must-see.

words/ amy heritage



## Persepolis

Starring/ Chiara Mastroianni, Sean Penn, Catherine Deneuve  
Director/ Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi.

Based upon the critically acclaimed graphic novels of Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis* is an intriguing examination of one girl's traumatic journey from adolescence to womanhood, set against the backdrop of a troubled and war-torn Iran. Satrapi's autobiographical work is a rewarding change from recent graphic novel adaptations, which seem to focus predominantly on the spandex-clad set. But while *Persepolis* may not prove to be as commercially successful as the *Spiderman* and *Batman* franchises it certainly seems to found support amongst some of the industry's most prestigious critics. The film has already won the Jury Prize at Cannes in 2007 and was nominated for an Oscar this year. Not bad for Satrapi's and Paronnaud's debut picture.

While *Persepolis* peripherally deals with some of Iran's more complex issues surrounding the fall of despotic Shah and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, its primary focus is on the struggle of one girl and her family's efforts to preserve their lives and dignity after a violent regime change and the oppressive government that followed. It's not often that you see such volatile issues presented through the medium

of animation, though after watching the film I was left wondering why. Rather than distract from the seriousness of the film, the stark black and white style seems only to have heightened its intensity. The minimalist style of the animation manages to vividly capture the ultimately world changing events surrounding the film's primary narrative in a way a hundred million dollar budget and extensive use of CGI often fails to do.

*Persepolis* also works to erode many of the commonly held western stereotypes about Iran and its people. In much of our media it seems that Islam has become synonymous with fundamentalism, and Iran discounted as just another member of the 'Axis of Evil'. It was refreshing then to see Middle Eastern characters in a mainstream film depicted as something other than terrorists.

If I could say one thing against this mostly brilliant film it would be the sometimes off-putting use of the seemingly Americanised voice talent for the Iranian and European characters. Yet even this proved to be only minor annoyance and you will probably find yourself, as I did, trying to figure out who Iggy Pop and Sean Penn were providing the voices for. Overall this is a truly brilliant film mixing humour and despair in equal measures to provide an ultimately uplifting cinematic experience.

words/ karim flint

## We Write Stories

Creative Writing in Opposite

Students of Leeds are often wont to stray off campus to sample the delights of Opposite, but from 10th May, our mindless sandwich chompery will be disturbed – for the brief period of a week – by a somewhat deliciously literary display. We Write Stories is an interactive creative writing expo, arms thrown wide to poetry, writing competitions, short stories and pure creative experimentation, all in the space of a lunch hour.

It will feature a fluttering Post-It wall of short writing, which anyone can add to, or take from: sandwich in one hand, pen in the other. Also in situ: collaborative storytelling (or "Writing a hideous corpse") and a postcard bonanza offering us the chance to write anonymously to our fellow writers – just pop down an address, and we can have a couple of lines sent to a friend! With magnetic words floating around a la fridge poetry, and plenty of paper to scribble away on, in this fast-approaching week Opposite is going to be a haven for the creative amongst us, and a dynamic, and fascinating display of artistic proportions for everyone else.

words/ vicky ellis

## Fast Labour

at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

As a play on the rather thorny subject of migrant workers, *Fast Labour* is almost certainly the theatre production du jour. Its achingly contemporary plotline – charting the rise of a Ukrainian worker from poor immigrant to entrepreneur – is perfectly complemented by on-stage televisuals and exuberant Led Zeppelin soundtrack. Illegal immigrant or not, as we watch Victor – played by Craig Kelly (of *Queer As Folk* fame) – gut fish for pittance, and then have even that meagre pay-cheque denied when his boss (Mark Jax) pulls an insurance scam, it's hard not to empathise.

Equally compelling is Victor's Russian co-worker Alexei, and his unwavering belief in England as a place of law offers some gritty food for thought. Playwright Steve Waters does a good job of avoiding stereotypes by simply switching accents to indicate who is speaking 'Russian' or English. As the central character, Kelly gives a consistently strong performance, with an Eastern European accent that falls just the right side of authentic. Jax is also perfectly cast as the love-to-hate Grimmer, whose tongue-in-cheek references to Eastern Europe ('I'm not Roman Abramovich, you know', he tells Victor) injects some much-needed humour into Waters' gritty narrative.

Unfortunately, the cast's variously commendable performances are let down by a glaring lack of character development. Despite gaining our sympathy in the first half, Victor's romance with Scottish co-worker Anita (Kirsty Stuart) is revealed to be merely opportunistic – we find out he has a wife – and his apparently noble intentions to help fellow Ukrainians find work by setting up 'Fast Labour' (his own labour supply chain) simply turn him from an empathetic dreamer into a generic Eastern European mercenary: exactly the stereotype that Waters seems to want to avoid.

The final scene where Victor renounces all that he has worked for is equally unfeasible, leaving us to wonder exactly what Waters' actual point was. A refreshingly bold postscript to the current immigration debate and well worth watching for the vibrant acting – just don't go expecting a perfectly crafted story.

words/ jaysree viswanathan



Essay doom is darkening the doorway of every hall and home this week, and with good reason: instead of carefully honing the 2,750 words to a finely tuned piece of artwork, we've been out making sweet, raucous, carefree love with our time, and now it's reaping its revenge upon our delicately wrought sensibility. But then again, everyone loves a little personal drama to add an edge to the everyday reality of life. And discussing the fast-approaching winged chariot, that flaming deadline wheeling towards you, is number one in the theatricality stakes.

Now, there is really no known medical solution for this stress – unless having your work done two weeks in advance counts. But as that so rarely happens, I have a possible, albeit unorthodox, method of stress-dissolution to try. Stick with me. While I may initially seem to be advocating the polar opposite of what you should really be doing, i.e. chugging away, wheels steaming, in the library, fuelling the fire with books after books after books, I really do think there may be something in this hypothesis, so to speak.

Here's the challenge: in the weeks to come exam-laden and drab as they no doubt will be – live your social life up with a little impromptu theatre. Now, I'm not talking AmDrams in The Arc with a cocktail or two – although heck, that could be pretty fun... albeit with major potential for high scores on the richter scale of earth-quaking embarrassment. And no, I'm not talking Mighty Boosh re-enactments in the Royal Park... that is so last semester. Nor am I talking desperate impressions of your professor in an attempt to somehow channel him in the exam room. No, no, no, NO. I'm talking full-on fancy dress, outrageous Irish and Mexican accents, scripts on Woodhouse Moor at dawn (preferably 'til dusk) with prizes for impressive line-learning (but brownie points for inspired improvisation). I'm talking ultimate immersion in theatrical spirit, to the point where you DO actually channel the spirit of someone, but that someone is Oscar Wilde, or for the ladies, Imogen Stubbs. I am talking procrastination perfection, without a trace of guilt – because it's so gauche on the stage, don't you know?

Once you've indulged in such extravagant lengths of time-wasting you really have no excuse. Any other tedious task once considered in an attempt to stave off the inevitable laptop love-in (or loathe-in, to be precise) will really seem pale in comparison to the bronzed brilliance of your foray into *Faust*, or *Hamlet*, or *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Working will suddenly appear as the only palatable option, and you'll feel a burning need to sink your teeth into the nearest Norton *Anthology of Pretty Much Every Subject in the World You Could Possibly Study*.

Now, before we bid adieu, I'll say one last thing. If anyone does actually give this a shot, (you wonderful little guinea pig, you) do let us know. Write in to *Leeds Student*. For the satisfaction of our, ah, scientific interest. That is, once you've finished your essay.

words/ vicky ellis

## BIG AND EASY COMPETITION!

As an end of year treat Books Page are giving away a goody bag of 15 books! Even if you're one of those doughy types who watches *Skins* and can't read: Give them to friends, sell them on eBay, use them as weights... we don't care! All you have to do is name the two authors below and facebook message Laurie Whitwell with your answers...



(cryptic clue: giant alloy factory)

## SUMMER READS:

LS Books Editor Jack Cullen lists three hot books to recline under a palm tree with in post-exams paradise, and three books which you can burn in the sand.



## NOW REMEMBER KIDS:

- 1) Summer reads have to be versatile, so you can drop them on the plane and pick them up again on the beach.
- 2) Booker Prize winners are usually great.
- 3) What you read reveals a lot about you, and people will often start a conversation based upon the book in your hand.
- 4) Reviews quoted on a backpage are helpful but which media team the review came from tells you much more.
- 5) Summer reads need to be paper back. When you finish them why not ask to swap books with another holiday-maker? It's a great chat-up line!
- 6) You need some good shades. Forget snow blindness, Picador's bright ivory pages are the real retina killers!

LESS THAN ZERO  
BRET EASTON ELLIS

The writer of *American Psycho* and *Rules of Attraction* is the literary weapon of choice for this summer. *Less Than Zero* was his debut and most summery text. Enter the world of Clay, the teenage son of a millionaire movie producer, he spends his life tanning, swimming, having sex and attending obscenely rich parties. But life spirals graphically out of control as his best mate Julian wants his help in a same-sex orgy to erase a drugs debt, and his college friends illegally purchase a twelve year old girl...

Nali Sivathanan reviews  
Tristan Hughes's new  
book *Revenant*

The story of four friends' lives that are changed irrevocably by events occurring against a Welsh Coast backdrop, Hughes captures the landscape vividly in his novel, and his use of different narrative voices portrays the characters of the children living in this dull, fading town. Del is the ring leader of the gang, confident, ruthless and defiant of anyone, and swith a band of misfits and under her wing. There's raging Ricky, who has a chip on his shoulder, nervous Neil whose stuttering alienates him from the community, and Steph, the outsider, who will never fit in.

Despite their differences these children form an unlikely friendship, spending days and nights by the raging sea and turbulent tides. However, one day, their quest for adventure turns disastrous, breaking the gang up for good.

Ten years on, Neil, Ricky and Steph revisit their childhood haunts, to relive memories of their youth and friendship and to seek catharsis over a gaping absence.

As the plot is centred more on emotion than action, it can be a tenuous read, which does not reach much of a resolution. Furthermore, its landscape descriptions seem to appeal to a niche market, of those who have insight into the Northern Welsh Coast, yet to most others seem to drag on for no apparent reason. Although, Hughes is clearly a promising author who has previously won the Wales Book of the Year award, *Revenant* is a disappointing read, as it builds up an atmosphere of tension and intrigue yet fails to reach a climax.

words/ nali sivathanan

BATTLE ROYALE  
KOUSHUN TAKAMI

The popular cult film was based on this mind-blowing read. *Battle Royale* follows a class of students in a police-state Japan who are chosen for an experimental program in which they have to fight each other to death until there is one survivor. The students are taken to a remote exotic island where they are each equipped with one random weapon. Adolescent emotions blossom within the brutal context.



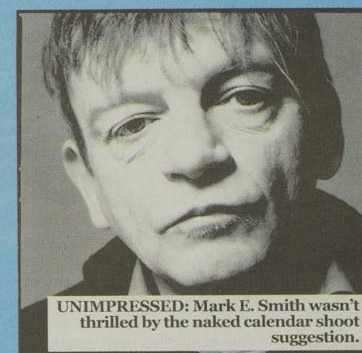
## RENEGADE

Stubbing out a cigarette in LS Newspaper's face  
Duncan James Robertson reviews the long-awaited autobiography of Mark E. Smith

Those of you who maintain that 'punk is dead' are severely deluded, or haven't yet heard of The Fall: the most important, influential and sole surviving off-shoot of the British punk scene.

In a tyrannical reign that has lasted more than three decades and seen over 50 line-up changes, Mark E. Smith continues to manage his band like a lower league football team: people are hired and fired every few months, guitarists notoriously abandoned at foreign airports. As Smith says, "If it's me and your granny on bongos, it's a Fall gig!"

more than capable of), his book is an



UNIMPRESSED: Mark E. Smith wasn't thrilled by the naked calendar shoot suggestion.

"I hope this books turns out to be like Mein Kampf for the Hollyoaks generation" - M.E.S.

His book, part autobiography, part selected prose writings and part unfaltering cynicism about the state of popular music, is not a 'good book' in the conventional sense. Those wanting a comprehensive autobiography should look elsewhere; those wanting to understand one of the most uniquely brilliant minds behind British music should look no further. Although inexplicably written with the aid of journalist Austin Collings (inexplicably because it basically reads like an old man on a pub rant- something Mark E. Smith is

illuminating recollection of what it was like to grow up in working-class Manchester at the awakening of the punk scene, in the most bare-bones, no-frills way possible.

It may not be an easy read, but, being famous for stubbing cigarettes out in journalists' faces, Smith is not an easy guy. Just about no-one escapes his treatment, least of all himself: "I've stopped drinking anyway- stopped half an hour ago". *Renegade* is equally as engaging and terrifying as Smith himself, and every bit as intelligent.

ORLANDO  
VIRGINIA WOOLF

Tilda Swinton as Orlando, 1992

her most accessible novel. Orlando tells the story of a young man who decides not to grow old, and so his life moves through the ages from the court of Elizabeth I all the way through to the 20th century. Halfway through this adventure Orlando turns into a woman and so can

Highly influential, semi-autobiographical and certainly

observe life from both gender perspectives. Very funny in parts, fascinating historically and pioneering stylistically, *Orlando* is a brilliant read. Although ultimately it's your decision: a man must follow his heart...

DO NOT READ:  
The Beach - Alex Garland

I loved this book, it's brilliant, but if you haven't read it by now - you've missed the Thai junk boat mate. This book has too much of a cliché gap year stigma now.

## War and Peace - Leo Tolstoy

Yes it's big. Yes it's clever. Yes you can't dance.

# Paint the streets

Leeds' graffiti scene has exploded in recent times, most notably in Hyde Park, but also right across the city. Not content with the usual array of tags, street artists have embraced a newer brand of avant-garde experimentation. **Luke Rushworth** tells us what's been painted on a street near you.

Anyone who's been outside recently will have noticed that there's been something of a renaissance in graffiti – ever since a certain Robert Banks, a.k.a. Banksy, burst into the public consciousness a few years ago, it's become quite the trendy thing to do. This isn't just graffiti in terms of the tags and murals first popularised in New York and Philadelphia in the 70s – there's a burgeoning international scene in what is often called street art instead of graffiti. It seems that this scene has now hit the mean streets of Leeds.

For every inspired artist that comes along there will always be a raft of crap rip-offs; for every Banksy there are countless untalented artists polluting our streets. One side effect of graffiti's trendiness is the explosion in tagging – every student with a can of spraypaint and B-Boy pretensions seems to feel the need to mark their territory. But if you look past all this you'll find a lot worth looking at. Most of us will now have seen the wheatpaste posters of everything from a town-crier to everyone's favourite opinionated daytime TV-star Jeremy Kyle. Local artist, Evolve, puts up pieces that engage with their environment, turning a drainpipe into a platform for lemmings, or a brick wall into a Tetris game. I asked him what he thought was so exciting about graffiti: "It's great because graffiti is art for everyone, you don't need an art degree or a gallery to make something great that everyone will see. I love the thought that my art affects people's view of their environment, that I'm changing what's around them to make it more interesting."

The council recently erased a lot of graffiti around Hyde Park, painting over some really interesting pieces. But this doesn't seem to have put anyone off; days after a breathtaking piece by Jesta was painted over a new one was put up in its place. When some of Evolve's lemmings were painted over someone drew them back on again.

All this activity surely signals the start of a more artistic graffiti scene in the area, with artists beginning to develop their skills. Hopefully this means we can look forward to seeing ever more interesting pieces brightening up our urban environment. If we look internationally there's a lot of hope for the scene, its scope has become awe inspiring in terms of its development in style, form and ambition. This scene has far surpassed graffiti's humble beginnings in New York.

Banksy's the most famous example, and his stencilism, which displays his now familiar cheeky Bristol wit, has done much to bring graffiti to public attention. But Banksy was not the first; for thirty years a French artist called Blek de Rat has been putting his stencil art up on streets the world over. Nor is it just about stencils; perhaps the best example of innovation in graffiti comes from New York based art collective Graffiti Research Lab. GRL have taken street art to exciting new places, experimenting with LED lights, acid, balloon bombing, taxidermy, and laser projectors – creating graffiti with light projected on to buildings.

This new scene is highly politicised, with graffitiists increasingly using their work to

make a statement. The biggest issue in street art is the commodification of public space – the domination of the streets by adverts. Graffitiists reject the idea that it should only be corporations who are allowed to express themselves in public space – if they're allowed to pollute the cityscape with adverts no-one asked to see then anyone should be able to put what they want up. Street art is about reclaiming the streets for public use, creation through vandalism.

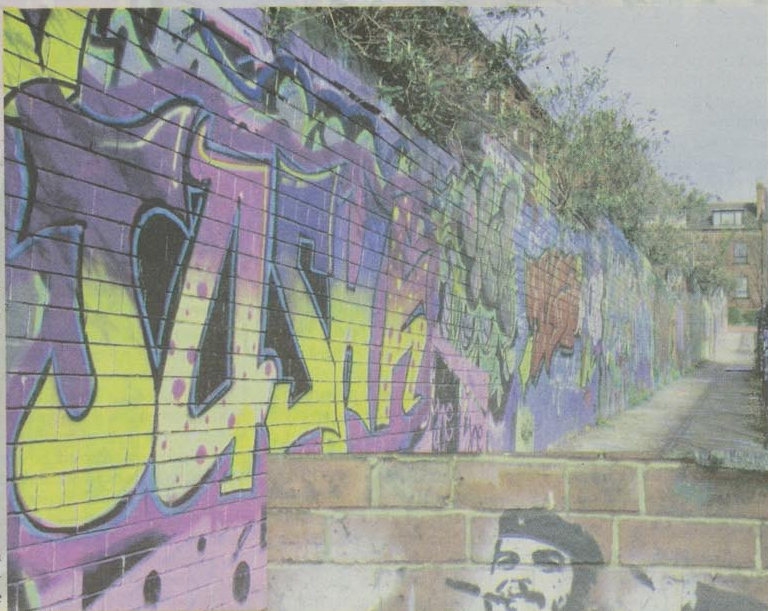
Obviously not everyone will agree, but I think that graffiti can make a place more beautiful. I'm not talking about tags, but when a truly original piece goes up, or one that makes you think, or that's just aesthetically pleasing –

“The scope of the scene has become awe-inspiring in terms of its development in style, form and ambition.”

anything that lifts a place, and you, away from the norm. Graffiti can make a place more interesting, and it can make you appreciate a place more, even if it's just to say:

"there's too much bloody graffiti." Think about your own journeys in the city. How often do we see the streets simply as a place to pass through on the way from A to B, shuffling hurriedly to some destination, eyes fixed on the pavement never once looking up to see what's all around us, what's in front of our very eyes? But graffiti makes you look up; it makes you do a double take. Instead of focusing on your destination it can make you think – about the piece itself, about the space you're in. Graffiti can help you to actually live in your environment rather than just inhabiting it; it helps to make public space a living one, always changing and exciting, not a sterile one. I'm not meaning to gush sentimentally but there really is a lot of beauty around us and graffiti can help open your eyes to it.

Many students won't stay in Leeds more than their allotted three years. A lot of people I know never see anything beyond the town-centre, campus and Hyde Park, too hungover from getting endlessly twatted at cheap club-nights designed to rob us of our student loans to experience anything beyond the façade of pubs, clubs and drugs. Not that that's not fun, but there's so much more to Leeds. When you think about it, there's no excuse to stay in



Leeds three years and not get to know the place. The weather's taken a turn for the nice, and for many of us this will be our last summer in Leeds, what better time to start exploring? Why not try taking an alternative tour of the city, hunting out graffiti spots? You don't even have to leave the Hyde Park/Headingley area; there's a buzzing graffiti scene around here.

It'd be a shame if your only memories of university were of hangovers.

Anyone interested in the current graffiti scene should check out [www.woostercollective.com](http://www.woostercollective.com), a blog dedicated to showcasing the best of street art from around the world. And the Facebook site, Secret Leeds, is full of interesting photos of the unseen side of our city.

## OFF THE RAILS

I'm on the train, coming back up to University. It's Monday, about two in the afternoon. In my carriage alone I count 12 iPods and seven laptops. Four people are on the phone, I only count 26 people in total. I can see four 'no smoking signs' and a bloke asking us over the loud speaker thingy to put rubbish in the bins provided. Cos my plan had been to just, you know, leave it. And then have a smoke, to celebrate. The toilets and food cars are separated by those strange new train doors that close at inappropriate moments on a pregnant woman or septuagenarian getting off the train, carrier bag full of cat food in tow. There are only four tables so the majority of passengers are facing the chair back of the person in front. So contact between the passengers and anything possibly construed as a pollutant (unwanted noises, smells, habits etc) is kept to a minimum. And we're all crammed into this metal box together (my legs don't fit properly, so I've stretched them into the aisle eliciting contemptuous looks from the ticket goon). So instead of doing something to ease the tension, and balance out the fact that all we are really allowed to do is eat, sit and scratch, we all plug into strangely medicinal looking music players, talk to people along way away and watch 'Scrubs' on our laptops. We put up our own little 'no smoking' signs, demarcating the areas not to be



interfered with. The arm rest becomes a site of contestation. (I won; by the way, the silly cow on my right was too interested in her Patricia Cornwell book to notice my subtle play for elbow domination.) We're all just sitting here furthering these weird little social constructs that keep us all apart and sceptical of contact. I can't help feeling that we (me and everyone else on the train) are constructing each other as pollutants to be avoided, like smoke, or foul smells. In early 2007 Sao Paolo brought into effect the "Lei Cidade Limpa" ("Clean City Law"), in placing a near complete ban on outdoors advertising. The city has begun to build itself a new language, a new identity with a new frame of spatial references - ones not based on media jargon and invasive unsanctioned advertising. They started breaking down the divisions. They started getting rid of real pollution. I'm not entirely sure what the connection is between our train journey and Sao Paolo. But I'm pretty sure there is one. Maybe it's just that I'm starting to get fed up with everywhere I go being hijacked by people I don't know to foster divides and create space between people. I'm not saying we all give up our iPods and rage against the machine (after all the machine is warm, comfortable and smells faintly of vanilla), but it can't hurt to look out at where you live and not be told to "just do it".

words/ matthew kilgour

## Hit, Miss, or Maybe

### Heroes Season 2



The first series of Heroes was one of the most popular TV series broadcast last year. As each episode came round, I screamed at my footy fan flatmates that it was my turn for the TV. Nothing was going to obstruct my weekly fill of the supernatural evolution-based drama. Nothing doing, I would grunt and retire to my room and the internet: the source of all happiness and Heroes-streaming. Unfortunately, Heroes has not gained the same anticipation at last season. This could be down to the writers' strike, the ruiner of most USA visual entertainment, as the writers only managed to write two thirds of what was actually intended to be the second season. Or, it could be that avid watchers of the show may have been too desperate to see the rest of the saga to wait, and rushed to their computers for a Heroes marathon. Nevertheless, it has returned, and so have I.

All the characters (apart from Sylar) are back, especially the babes Peter Petrelli (Milo Ventimiglia) and Claire Bennet (Hayden Pennetteire). Watch it or we'll gouge your eyes out.



### Keeping your daughter in a basement. For 24 years.

As a way of showing parental love, locking your daughter in a hand-built 'dungeon' for nearly a quarter of a century whilst fathering her seven children does not rank up there with buying her a pony. It's not hard to understand why there has been such media interest in the case of Josef Fritzl. What was so chilling was just how premeditated the whole affair was - Fritzl had meticulously constructed the warren of rooms, and clearly gone to great measures to avoid detection. He'd even taken beach holidays, ensuring he left enough provisions for his daughter and their children to survive whilst he sunned himself. The case had strong echoes of Chan-wook Park's *Oldboy*, in which a man is kidnapped and kept in a subterranean cell for seven years, before being released just as arbitrarily.

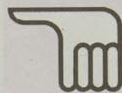


Ridiculously, earlier this week I overheard two people talking about the Fritzl case, and comparing it to the somewhat similar case of Natasha Kampusch, who escaped to freedom in 2006 after seven years in captivity. One of the girls opined that the Kampusch case was worse "because she didn't even have a toilet."

The idea that it is necessary to decide which is worse seems a little peculiar. Call me odd, but I'm not sure the provision of toilet facilities would entirely compensate for the extra 17 years of forced imprisonment and rape.

I'll never trust an electrical engineer again.

### The End of Term



Think of it: no more assignments. The end to exams. The chance to go home and feast on free food for three months with bulimic zeal. The last time I went home, I was so enthusiastic in my snacking that I decided to eat some jam from the jar with a spoon and follow it up with some blue cheese. The combination was not a felicitous one. Back in your 'hood, you can also schedule some quality time with all of those childhood friends you don't get the chance to see on a day-to-day basis.

The above might be a rather rose-tinted view of the end of term though. To put it another way: you are returning home to the desolate wasteland you spent the first eighteen years of your life dying to get away from. Your uni friends aren't around. Your parents are eight hundred times more annoying than they seemed when you only had to speak to them over the phone. Your childhood friends, meanwhile, remind you why you wanted to get away from them. They're either hollowed-out drones who, having had to enter the world of full-time work, can no longer relate to your desire for a wild, Tuesday-night piss-up, or idlers like you, eager to return to their student idylls. When it comes to leaving Leeds for the summer, it seems Joni Mitchell was spot on: "You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone."

words/ tom midlane and amy moorcroft

## FINAL CURTAIN

Our degree is the most obvious answer. However, what about those little lessons in life? The answer, no doubt, differs for every person. I, for one, have found that I have grown up in all aspects of life: I've learnt how to do the washing, cooking - not that I would give anyone else what I cook - how to budget (although I currently owe friends some money...oops...) and how to live without my mother looking over my shoulder. Her look, by the way, has now turned into an insistent voice over the phone.

In any case, now that we are (supposedly) older and wiser everything should have a more deep and meaningful message, so I would say that one of the most important things I've learnt is patience. Things take time and cannot be done NOW, right now this very second, because often you can't force a decision. Take my degree for example. Having studied Joint Honours French and Spanish people are always asking me, 'So, what do you want to do after uni?' Please note the lack of 'when you grow up.' Obviously people have finally realised that it is stupid to ask such a question because most of us will never grow up, and if we do, we shall always treasure that little child within us...

Anyway, I don't know what I'm doing after university. My current plan is to go abroad for the year to have a gap year because after all, what is the rush? For those who know what they're doing, great! I



really admire you for knowing. But for those of you who don't have any particular plans except to live the student life for that little bit longer then enjoy it while you can! Since we're nearly at the end of the year, we can afford ourselves a little bit of nostalgia, so here a few things I'll miss:

The cheap sports centre and the many hundreds of societies that I never ended up joining because the choice was so vast I just couldn't decide.

Cheap student nights out during the week. My younger sister has just got a job 8-4 or 9-5 in administration....no more week nights out, a warning to all of us!

The way we dress up for parties: as a geek, as a school girl, as a cross dresser, as an Oopmah Lumpah...the list is endless.

The excuses we can create in order to avoid doing work. These include declarations of all day hangovers (with HUGE - meaning very slight - headaches) and living in a filthy house that absolutely had to be cleaned that instant!

However, despite my fondness of university life, I am ready to move on. I'm making the most of it now and I'm not sad since everything has a time and a place, and I've enjoyed it while it lasted! So to finish off, here are just a few of the reasons that demonstrate that I have been at university for too long...

I know Charlie Chan's menu off by heart  
Cheap rubbish one pound shops are like, so cool.  
Career fairs are not career fairs but freebie fairs in disguise!

Thinking is an effort.  
I live in my comfy couch potato clothes more than suitable out-of-the-house clothes.

Bonne chance! ¡Suerte! Good Luck to all of you wherever the world may take you, may your lives be long, happy and healthy!

words/ amy skyre

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# Tommy Pockets Tells Your Future

Our world-renowned, 21-year-old astrologer Tommy Pockets (pictured here on the Titanic) lays down the secrets of your mystic week. Spookalicious.



## Aries

Pirated DVDs come back to haunt you this week as Special Branch goons bust through your door looking for their stolen copy of "A walk to remember." Arry loves the tale of love against the odds between a teenagerebel and a bookworm. He breaks your wrist with his penis in retribution. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Jeremy Paxman."



## Leo

You mistake a friend's note as a come on and the love that's been held behind your smile for three years bursts forth in a literal gush. He slightly embarrassingly explains he wrote "Can I have a look at your cut?" and his funny writing was just a bit of concern over the medium to deep gouge on your hand from a knife. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Miley Cyrus."



## Sagittarius

Whilst struggling, again, trying to shave your area forwards of your arsehole you strike upon a grand idea to alleviate the problem. Unfortunately, Boris Johnson is busy so the plan runs a cropper. You might be able to get another donkey to do it though. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Danny Cipriani."



## Taurus

A gondola and a gorgonzola merchant inhabit your dreams this week prompting a rethink of your acid use. Shunning all stereotypes you play a game to see how many people you can sleep with without washing. This is much, much worse if you're a girl. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Penelope Cruz."



## Virgo

You will be surprised in fruity when a stranger's hand slides between your legs and brings you off in the middle of the dance floor. It's so full of good-looking people you embrace this out-of-character bit of sauce and enjoy. You look around afterwards and see a small boy smiling at you, nodding and pointing at his hand. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Cedric the Entertainer."



## Capricorn

You are startled during a night of sexual derring-do to find that the vagina in question is hilariously slack. So much to the point that the man in question may as well open up the window and fuck the night. The news gets back to your parents via a group email and you get a tearful phone call from your mother suggesting some muscular exercises to keep the vaginal walls tight. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Anna Friel."



## Gemini

A man seeking votes to run a big city calls you a piccaninny. This would be funny if your surname wasn't Ninny and your sister was stood next to you. Flashbacks to school sports days flood back into your memory like pasta sauce from a jar after you put a bit of water in it and so that thing where you shake it to get the last bits out. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Paolo di Canio."



## Libra

You will need a bit of retail therapy after a stressful week and walking into a shop you are interviewed by someone from Zimbabwe Tonight 'What's your favourite method of rigging elections?' she asks and after careful consideration you decide on 'Threat of violence.' Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Lulu."



## Aquarius

The post-it delivery man finally arrives and you resume your attempt to re-create the Great Wall of China in paper products. Typically the Japanese try to firebomb it in an act of aggression. You respond by kidnapping a number of their women and force them into sex slavery. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Peaches Geldof and Paula Yates."



## Cancer

"Gobbly-bobbly-goo, Gobbly-bobbly-gee" is how your tutor responds when you ask him about your essay mark. A harsh mark on your Student Satisfaction questionnaire is coming his way, mepredicts. A purplish scarf is used as a masturbatory tool this week as wolves cry tears of patriotism on your dreams. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Rosie O'Donnell."



## Scorpio

Your reproductive organs are held hostage until you can make it rain on the Channel Islands. Thank the fucking fuck that we're at a suitable latitude to produce a fairly decent amount of precipitation salvation. The ordeal lasts about 14 minutes and then you are re-united with your womb/ball bag. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Nicolas Sarkozy."



## Pisces

Jafar from *Aladdin* (the Disney production not the literature) invites you to his palace to partake in a good old fashioned swinging party. You luckily pull out the keys to Jasmine's magic carpet and get to spend an Arabian night flying on her other carpet. Your lucky celebrity's name to call out at the point of orgasm is "Robert the Bruce." And you scream it perpetually over a twelve hour period.



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

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Tommy Pockets would like to take this opportunity to publicly declare his hatred of Russell Grant. He is a completely smug fatty fatty bum bum, who makes a mockery of the science of astrology. May his blubber burn in the fires of hell.



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# Lead to dirty energy

Environment Minister and leading student bank NatWest. **Chloe Lyons** investigates.

set out in these reduction targets.

To raise awareness on this issue, which has so far been surreptitiously slipped through planning procedures without any public consultation,

members of People and Planet have been informing Leeds students about the Kingsnorth proposals, and compiling a photo petition of messages from concerned students calling for a full public enquiry into the Kingsnorth proposals. When consulting students, the responses reflected surprise and confusion about the government's proposals. Many students questioned how a return to coal fits in with Britain's energy

future, particularly in light of the government's commitments, made in the forthcoming Climate Change Bill, to reduce Britain's carbon emissions by at least 60% by 2050.

Representing the students spoken to and

following an LUU motion to lobby against these proposals, members of People and Planet met with local MP and Minister for the Environment, Hillary Benn. Concerns were raised about the possible development of new generation coal

projects coheres with his position as the government's leading figure charged with stopping climate change. Mr Benn acknowledged that Britain is currently faced with serious decisions to make over its future energy policies

extraction by giant corporations such as RBS are undermining progress that is being made to reduce Britain's emissions and make the transition to cleaner energy. Regression rather than progression will continue to dominate the agenda unless there is a switch in financial focus from fossil fuel extraction projects to renewable energy solutions in both the public and private sector. In order to instigate this we must show our concerns as citizens and consumers and really put pressure on the Government and our big banks to Ditch Dirty Development.

Protests in Edinburgh



power stations and the continued role of fossil fuels in Britain's energy future, by questioning how such plans fit in with the image of a low carbon Britain, as set out in the Climate Change Bill. Whilst Mr. Benn seemed to take the concerns on board, it is difficult to see how his defence of such environmentally detrimental

but still seemed to see a clear place for fossil fuels within this, rather than recognising the need for a total shift away from such dirty and carbon heavy fuels, and towards clean and sustainable renewable alternatives.

This heel-dragging by government and the continued investment into destructive fossil fuel

To take action on these issues and for more information visit [www.wdm.org.uk/kingsnorth](http://www.wdm.org.uk/kingsnorth) or [peopleandplanet.org/ditchdirtydevelopment/news/n5812#email](http://peopleandplanet.org/ditchdirtydevelopment/news/n5812#email).

Or if you are a Natwest customer, why not write a letter to them demanding an end to their destructive extraction projects.

If you like the sound of Leeds People and Planet and want to get involved email Communications Rep Elle Hadshar – [chadshar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chadshar@yahoo.co.uk)

their guts out on academic work and a part-time job, fighting for workers' rights might not be on your top list of priorities. Do most students at work? **Freya Labram** discusses the disparity between what student workers get and should expect from their employers.

a duty to make sure there's enough staff on to stock up properly/provide gloves.

If you have any concerns regarding health and safety you have a right to contact the HSE (Health and Safety Executive), or the local authorities without getting into trouble at work. For more information, see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hse27.pdf>

The right not to be harassed/bullied. Obviously, this is a tricky one as it can be hard to define what constitutes harassment/bullying. But if harassment/bullying genuinely is taking place, you shouldn't have to either a) just put up with it or b) quit your job. The Student Advice Centre can help you decide whether or not you're being bullied in the workplace, and what you can do about it (see below).

...and what aren't you entitled to?

Sadly, there is no statutory right to either time off or extra pay for public holidays, religious festivals or SubDub.

- Extra pay for working antisocial hours.
- A written contract. An oral, or 'implied' contract is considered to be just as good. Implied parts of your contract might include things that are deemed to be too obvious for anyone to need to tell you or write down (for example, "you should accept reasonable instructions from your employer"), or workplace traditions.
- Training (other than that required to ensure your health and safety).
- What is a 'zero-hour' contract? A zero-hour contract is one where employees aren't guaranteed a certain number of hours. If you have a zero-hour contract, you are entitled to exactly the same rights as part time workers. Employees on a zero-hour contract often don't seem to realise that they're entitled to paid holiday. Just like part-time workers, you're entitled to a percentage of the holiday you would get if you were working full-time. This works out to about 5½ minutes/each hour you work.

## Step Two: Fight for your rights.

Can you trust business agreements?



So what if you're not getting any of the above benefits, and you feel you should be? Employers often maintain the attitude 'if you don't like it, then leave', knowing that standards of employment elsewhere are unlikely to be higher. This shouldn't have to be the case. If you enjoy your part-time job, there's no reason you should leave because you're not allocated the rights you deserve. This is the manager's problem, not yours! An underrated option would be to talk to your manager or supervisor. It's in their interest not to breach your rights, after all, and many managers and supervisors can be more helpful than you might expect. But what if the problem is

“But what if the problem is the manager?”

bit of a whinger?

If you're still unclear about what your rights are, think you might be being bullied or harassed at work or think your rights are being breached, the Student Advice Centre is a useful first port of call. When I asked the Student Advice Centre (who offer a completely confidential service) what

they could do for students with employment queries/problems, I received the following response:

"We might refer them to information to help them sort it out themselves, or we might talk through options and strategies. However we can also act on behalf of students, taking on their cases and ensuring that their rights are being protected and/or enforced. The type of help we offer depends on the seriousness or complexity of the problem and the possible benefits to other students." – the Student Advice Centre

If you're looking for a part-time job and want to make sure you won't find yourself in a Dickensian situation, JobLink (in the info point downstairs in the Union) have only reputable employers on their books. They'll also try to set you up with a job that develops the skills you might need for a particular career.

[www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk) is also full of useful information. On a national level, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have been looking for what changes could be made to support younger workers on a minimum wage. The University of Birmingham Guild of Students are also currently working with the Government to look at the provision of help for people in the hospitality industry. If you feel more should be done at a national level to ensure rights for working students, the NUS are currently lobbying for working student's rights. You can contact them through the welfare exec, Lizzie Fellows.

Part-time jobs can be a great way to develop your skills, meet new people and (most importantly) help pay off that all-consuming overdraft. They can even sometimes, if I'm honest, actually be quite fun. 'Part-time', however, doesn't mean 'part-human'. You're entitled to the same (or equivalent) rights as your full-time colleagues. Don't let your employers forget it.



## Comment

# The 'Bad Faith' of the Faithless

## Why atheists need to try and understand the religious.



**Thomas Leo Midlane**  
aesthetes\_anon@yahoo.co.uk

For the last week, the atheist society have had their big tent erected outside the union. Now in terms of beliefs, I am sympathetic. I myself am a non-believer. My mum reports that at the tender age of six I asked her "Mum, if God borned the

world, who borney God?" At my C of E primary school, it never occurred to me that the yearly nativity play was meant to be based on true events.

I am, then, a lifelong card-carrying atheist. Nevertheless, I think Christians get a bad wrap in today's student world, oft-derided as happy-clappy, glassy-eyed eccentrics. Which is harsh. After all, the lions have got to have something to eat. Jesting aside, I am troubled by the new, more stringent brand of atheism put forward by Richard Dawkins and his 'bright' cheerleaders. For Dawkins it is simple: Christianity is a category error, based on a misunderstanding of the scientific method. If the religious looked at the facts, they'd have no choice but to forsake their beliefs and skip happily

into the sunset of scientific reason. It is a 'virus' of the mind.

The problem is, Dawkins singularly fails to understand religion. The religious impulse is very much a product of evolution. Burdened with a great deal more self-knowledge – specifically, the knowledge that we will die – than any other member of the animal kingdom, we adapted to deal with that. Human beings need a sense of order, and divinities provided that.

Christianity, or indeed any religion, also provides something else: structure. It prescribes a moral code – a set of rules to live by. It is heavily ritualized. And it provides even the most isolated with a sense of belonging. A great many people draw succour from this. I'm no believer, but

at times I wish I had that security of faith to fall back on. Dawkins's notion is that monotheistic religion can be replaced by what he calls "Einsteinian religion" (essentially a sense of awe and wonder at the world) is all very well, but it's rather nebulous and offers little of the community of the Christian communion.

The horrors done in the name of religion are often invoked by Dawkins, but the truth is that horrific acts can be done in the name of anything. George Bush bombed Iraq in the name of "freedom", but does that diminish the value we set on our own freedom? Not at all. Conversely, Christianity has produced more beautiful architecture, more art and literature than any other ideology, ever.

In the 1980s, sociologists showed that Marxism worked on exactly the same dynamics as Christianity – evangelising, a set of prophets (Lenin, Trotsky), a utopian endpoint – but with the future paradise transported down to Earth, rather than a cloudy realm. In much the same way, Dawkins's brand of atheism works in precisely the same way as the fundamentalism he deigns to despise. Okay, so no-one is going to be burnt at the stake in modern Britain for being a believer, but there is a sense of repulsion, a stubborn refusal to even try and comprehend the religious impulse, that makes even this most dyed-in-the-wool atheist rather uncomfortable.

# A Very Local Affair

## Is anyone else tired of being treated like an outcast?



**Pete Beckett**  
peteracbeckett@hotmail.com

Every so often I get newsletters from various political parties telling me what a good job their local councillors are doing. The most recent was from a Lib Dem who seemed immensely proud of the fact that she had stopped more desperately needed student accommodation being built on Cardigan Road. The message was loud and clear: her constituents don't want students to live here.

There is no question in my mind that our presence in Leeds is resented. Residents don't like students. But they seem to have no problem taking our money.

This University (which is, of course, funded by our fees and government grants based on our being here) is the third biggest employer in Leeds, contributing nearly £1 billion to the local economy. Our living costs as students bring in a further £190 million. And all of that can be pretty much doubled when you factor in Leeds Met students.

After we graduate, one in four of us will go on to work for a company with a Leeds postcode. That brings in more money in terms of living costs. But, more importantly, it has driven the unbelievable regeneration Leeds has witnessed over the last decade or so.

Without an army of well qualified employees, the city would never have been able to attract the financial

services industry it now thrives on. Today, it would probably be the unemployment capital of Britain (if not Europe), with a privileged few lucky enough to have a job in a call centre on little more than minimum wage with no job security.

The city centre, without its student-funded, multi-million pound facelift, would look like a scum-infested hellhole with no real economy to speak of. Far from resenting us, local residents should be on their knees thanking us for saving them the demise they undoubtedly would have suffered without us when British manufacturing shut up shop. Just look at Bradford.

But instead we are maligned and mistreated at every turn. When the council met in October 2007 to discuss a drinking ban in Hyde Park, students were not even represented – even though it is us that will be picked on by local police officers on a power trip when the ban comes in.

The council (if they cared enough about student opinion to read this) would probably respond to that with 'well, it's not a drinking ban as such, it just gives the police power to move drinkers on. There is no need for the police to use those powers unnecessarily'. Another fine lie, fed to us by those who want us to leave our student loans at the door and go away. Giving the police power and then telling them not to use it is like throwing a dog a fillet steak and then telling it not to fetch.

When we want to have a party, we are greeted with attack dogs (presumably following the scent of a fillet steak) and riot police. When we complain about it, we are laughed at by the local force, despite videos on YouTube showing students being mauled by Alsatis for no good reason. When our houses are burgled, the police simply smirk and tell us to get more security for our houses.

When we ask our landlords for more security, we are told there is no legal obligation for them to do so.

A similar process occurs when we want our deposits back – and when we ask the Union for the support they promised us in their propaganda: locally bred busybodies bluff and bluster. But, in the end, nothing happens, and local con artists (sorry, landlords) are allowed to keep tens if not hundreds of thousands of pounds that belong to us without so much as a court summons.

At every turn, our money is taken and we are then told to go fuck ourselves. Local residents, and the petty small-time politicians who represent them, ought to be more careful. If they continue to give us the impression we are not wanted, we might just take them at their word and go prop up someone else's economy. Then this place will truly become the Thatcherite pigsty it would otherwise have been.

# Fight the Powell

## Why we should support the Union's awareness campaigns.



**Marya Yasin**  
leedsstudentcomment@gmail.com

You can have some of the most interesting conversations with taxi drivers. It just so happened that after a late night of facebook and watching America's Next Top Model I awoke the next day at 10:30am. Chatter about the fickle weather and traffic with my taxi driver on the way in turned eventually to

more profound issues. "So er what are you then?" the taxi driver said in his thick Yorkshire twang. Knowing only too well what he was implying (I am a master at interpreting vague/borderline un-PC questions). I answered "Muslim" and gestured to the scarf around my head. "Oh right, so are you like from 'ere then?" "Well I am but my parents are from Pakistan". "Oh really, my parents are Portuguese". "Oh right". "Come to think of it I've been past those synagogues on Friday after they've been praying". "Do you mean mosques?" "Oh yeah, yeah you're right.... Mosques that's it".

Conversations like this are an everyday occurrence. But it still surprises me that after today's somewhat excessive coverage of Islam there is still a section of people out

there that aren't aware of it. This unawareness does not just extend to Islam (which I only refer to because of my own experience) but also to other faiths and cultures.

I recall a conversation I had with a former colleague a few months ago. She had been seeing her boyfriend who was Sikh for a few months and was besotted. Sitting in Starbucks we spoke about her life with the new beau. "Oh yeah he's going to be taking me to one of those, what do you call it temple mosques?", "you mean a Gurdwara", I said. "Is that what you call them?" "Blimey, were you ever taught RE?"

No, as it turned out. This colleague of mine had attended one of those middle England Grammar Schools (think Dead Poet's Society without the table-standing) and so she regarded

herself as religiously and culturally oblivious, which surprised me more than anything else.

The British National Party slid into fourth place with 11.16 per cent of the voting public in Leeds and is hence becoming more popular in this area. It is in this context then, that I feel learning about different cultures and beliefs of the different groups that we share our society with is more important than ever. Groups such as the BNP consistently bombard the unaware masses with distorted information to scape-goat one group after another in order to divide the population. As the leaders of tomorrow it is our duty to prevent such measures of hate from spreading, for that is what the BNP endorse. At LUU we are in a unique position to kick-start this learning

process. What other organisation that you know can boast Atheist, Qatari, Jewish and LGBT awareness events all in the space of a few months? It's not just my taxi-driver or my friend who fall into this category but probably every single one of us here who, because of our obliviousness, could fall prey to stereotyping people who we know nothing about. Perhaps a few years down the line we could be endorsing racial hatred, aggression and the establishment of a so-called puritanical society like the BNP, the terrorists hidden beneath the label of political party.

If we do take the route that is being offered right in front of us in our own Union sooner or later we will find greater community cohesion. I see the future and I see a fountain of unity.

Take that Enoch Powell.



# Class Dismissed?

## Raising fees further excludes all but the middle class



Carl Barrowclough  
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You might call yourself middle or working class but surely class is determined by how other people perceive you? Of course, I should think of myself as working class, my parents both worked in the leather and textile industry in West Yorkshire and I grew up in three-bedroom-semi-land. Underneath this superficial description it gets complicated, how is class affected by other factors such as education? Reaching a post-graduate level of education might suggest class mobility yet this was only made possible through the provision of a series of government grants and loans to provide access to higher education in the first place.

Attaining qualifications is one thing yet I feel I remain working class. My education before university was at a grammar school in my home town. Zealously protective of its fairly

unusual status, when nowadays a grammar school is more often a by-word for a private/public school, my secondary school infused me early on with a sense of what class means. You wouldn't find many people from the local council estates attending my school, if anything you were in a minority if you actually lived within walking distance of the school as I did.

As entry was based on academic performance this made noticeable changes to the sorts of people who attended the school. Put it this way, out of nine hundred and fifty students, there were no more than thirty who qualified for free dinners, myself one of them. There was a certain shame in having to go to pick up the free dinner tickets knowing that it marked you out as having 'poor parents'. This didn't stop me fitting in with people at school but it created a dull sense of being different, that is, being different for being good academically yet also being poor.

This difference was made more acute at university, particular so I feel at Leeds because of the higher academic level the university insists upon. Though there were no more free dinner registers to clearly mark people out, I found differences to be far more profound. Shopping at Waitrose instead of Morrisons, 'travelling' during a gap year instead of 'getting a job'. The very idea of a gap year comes

with the requirement of having the necessary funding to support it. Without entering into class envy, how much of the university experience itself is founded on (middle) class trends?

For my bachelors, I qualified for a scholarship grant made available for students from poor backgrounds. During my second year, through the scholarships office I was invited to a Q&A with the then newly appointed Bill Rammel, Minister for Higher Education. At this meeting I was surprised by the similarities that existed between the experiences of the other recipients of the scholarship and myself. There was a sense that we were a small minority in a student body which remained predominantly middle class. There was also a consensus that even with the scholarship, finance was still a critical determining factor in both accessing higher education and in choosing to continue in it. I was fortunate enough to be able to roll underneath the falling stone door of tuition fees with just enough time to grab my fedora. However, the introduction of such fees and the ever-unchanging inadequacy of even the full student loan can only mean that the highest echelons of university remain the preserve of those who can afford it.

Going back to class, with a common experience of university amongst people I have met with similar

backgrounds to my own, what conclusions can I draw from this? The link between class and education is both strong and wide reaching. At Leeds I have felt on the one hand a sense of being different but on the other dismay that there are so few others from similar backgrounds to myself. This feeling of separation is the by-product of a university system which is dominated by the middle class at the highest levels whilst new universities still exist in a hinterland between their old polytechnic status and their new status as 'traditional' academic-oriented universities.

Whilst the sense of middle-class-ness remains, so too will a lack of cohesiveness in the student community. University shouldn't be about class tourism, seeing how the rich or poor people live. What needs addressing is why there are so few 'poor' people at university in the first place. It is sad that this sense of otherness at Leeds has been so profound, and that education at the highest levels seems to be the preserve of the more affluent. When it comes to education, it should be for all, and as a consequence it should be free.



# Legitimate Celebrations?

I was both surprised and disappointed to read Akram Salhab's article in last week's Leeds Student, entitled 'Celebrate Apartheid Week'. After a year in which campus relations have been relatively calm, it is a shame to see the Palestine Solidarity Group resorting to the tired old slurs of 'ethnic cleansing' and 'apartheid' when discussing the Israel-Palestine conflict. Aside from the offensive nature of these terms, both to Jewish students on campus and others (ask a Darfuri refugee how he feels having the term ethnic cleansing used as such a throwaway remark), one needs to ask what exactly using those terms is going to achieve.

We can spend hours debating the

historical accounts about what really happened in 1948, and I am sure that by the end of it I will not have been convinced and vice-versa. The real issue that needs to be discussed is what can occur in the future, and it is here that I think the PSG falls considerably short. Leeds Soc has a clear policy of promoting a two state solution for the Israel-Palestine conflict, and actively supports the creation of an independent Palestinian state living side by side in peace with Israel. As Jewish students on campus we want to look to the future, not the past; we want to work for peace, not hinder it. Like the PSG, we have many grievances about the events that are happening in the Middle East. We

abhor the daily barrage of rockets that are fired into Israeli border towns by Palestinian militants. We privately mourned when eight Jewish students were shot dead in cold blood by a Palestinian terrorist in March, and were angered when a suicide bomber drove a car full of explosives into Gaza's border crossing with Israel last month. However, we will not let these events deter us from our ultimate goal – peace in the region. This may be optimistic, and this may seem unachievable in today's political climate – but if we, as active and passionate students, cannot work to this goal, then who will?

We cannot spend all our time looking to the past, we must all work for a better future. I believe these ideals

can be applied just as well on our own campus. Israel wants and needs a partner for peace, and so does Leeds Soc. We desperately want to engage in dialogue, but how can we when we are automatically accused of being supporters of a racist state and a people that celebrates ethnic cleansing? It's time that the PSG engaged with the issues, rather than throwing about meaningless slogans that just seek to divide our Union further. Any student who passes LUU on a semi-regular basis has heard the PSG's complaints about Israeli government policy – isn't now the time to hear about their proposals for the future? It is here that I challenge the PSG and its activists: prove to myself and other Jewish

students that you are a real partner for dialogue. Show your support for the two-state solution, and engage with the Jewish Society rather than seeking to undermine it at every turn.

As a Jewish student, it was an honour to celebrate the independence of my homeland in the heart of LUU. I sincerely hope that Palestinian students here in Leeds will have that same opportunity in the near future, with the establishment of a state of Palestine existing side by side with Israel in harmony. Being a supporter of Israel and a supporter of Palestine is not mutually exclusive; I just wish the PSG could recognise this.

Response by Jak Codd

# The Last Word



Maryam Ahmad  
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In this last and final issue I thought I'd take the opportunity to make a few clarifications and tie up a couple of loose ends resulting from the previous issue. This year the paper has included controversial topics in all

sections including Comment, and this has led to some heated debates and anger on behalf of those who have felt they have been unfairly or unnecessarily criticised.

Last week I included an article in the section entitled 'Nothing but the Truth' which criticised a previous feature that had been submitted anonymously in the paper. The writer has stated that the piece was not written with the intention of attacking the author of the article but rather, with the reasoning behind most of the article submissions into Comment, to form a response or stimulate a debate and encourage readers to try take a different perspective on an issue. The article was well received by many

readers, and, understandably, not as well by others. I have included an extract from a statement below from the author of the original article who wishes that his response to 'Nothing but the Truth' be taken into account:

*'The author completely missed the point of the article and instead decided to mount an attack against me and my beliefs. The author focused on his beliefs of Islam and the central concepts saying that I am merely attempting to change the religion to suit myself. This, to me, summed up the entire reason why I wrote the article to begin with. The perspective that his view of the religion is the only right one is what causes these problems. One cannot base beliefs and views on an interpretation of a religion and then demonise someone else for a differing interpretation. The purpose stated*

*by the writer for being anonymous was to keep away from the "stigma people face for holding a different but perfectly legitimate view." Surely then by your own words I am entitled to my own legitimate view even though it is different.'*

While I would be inclined to apologise for any offence that has been caused by the section this year, I feel that it is important to note (and this goes for all articles that have received a response this year) that in a publication that is read by many students and which provides a platform for response, it is likely that people will judge and criticise your views and opinions if you decide to use the platform. Writers take it upon their own initiative to write and other

students take it upon theirs to respond. It is fantastic that response is a feature of the section but at the same time, though the need to respond to something we find outrageous is completely understandable, old debates have to end and new ones must begin so the section does not stagnate. It is a newspaper, and Comment should be kept fresh with new writers, issues and opinions. Aside from trying to encourage new students to get involved with the paper, this is what I have been aiming for for Comment this year and I hope that the page has been successful, useful and interesting to all of our writers and readers this year.

## More Paper Thanks

This year's been so packed with local goings-on and so many pioneering events that thankfully, Martha and I have never been short of exciting material. The sheer number of world-class bands appearing in Leeds has constantly affirmed our city as one of the best in England in terms of entertainment, and I'm so thankful to have been in a position where we could give our uncensored opinions on it all. It really 'speaks to your character' when people start asking you in clubs why you gave Rob the Bank such a hard time, or if you get 'spotted' a lot.

So first and foremost, thanks to our wonderful editor, Charlie 'Gir!' Griffiths, for being so accomodating with our hangovers and rush-jobs in the office (I'm not just saying that) and for having such a great ass (I really am saying that). It's been such a pleasure working under such a good-natured, amicable and genuinely fun boss. I'm glad that I've known her for about four years and how she doesn't mind my nonchalant attitude to...most things, here's to when we meet up in London when we're both influential and cooler than we ever thought we'd ever be. Hopefully. Thanks to Pizza Cano for feeding me for free, thanks to Martha for rinsing me in such a charming manner every single week - I couldn't have done without your witty quips on our going-up, going-downs that seem to be the most famous parts of our little column. Thanks to Tom Salmon at the Union, Keri Stephenson at Futuresound and Kat Baker at Wax: On for hooking me up with some of the most amazing and inspirational artists for me to talk with. You know what they say about meeting your idols? Well it's bullshit. I have been genuinely humbled and surprised in some cases that the most successful people, ones that you hold in such high esteem can still have their heads firmly on their shoulders and spur you on to try to achieve better things (apart from Norman Jay, M.B.E., who was a self-righteous big head).

So what's left? Thanks to all the staff in the office for putting up with my drunken birthday insults and slovenly chat, thanks to Ben Puddle for showing me how to deal with people and thanks to John Puddephatt for making sure I never smoked outside the union by myself, and a huge thanks to James Haddon Gardiner for lending me his beautiful dictaphone, which I promptly 'borrowed' for about four months. It's been a ride, and the people who have shared it with us have made it what it is, quite simply. Thanks for everything. Nice to see you, to see you, Nice! Love, Karim

I'd like to say goodbye and thanks to my partner in crime Karim, I'll miss his cackle and his ability to laugh at everything I say, no matter how unfunny it is. Also a big thanks to Charlie for being a great editor! They'll both go on to do great things. Martha

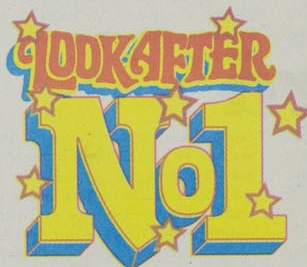
After twenty-one issues, god knows how many hundreds of pages and about a zillion takeaways, another year at Leeds Student is drawing to a close. There'll be no more sitting on the off-white sofas and having our leisurely Friday features meetings, a surprisingly effective hangover cure. And no more threats to destroy the entire concept of Quark. I'd most like to thank the other two thirds of the features trinity, Matt and Jess. Without Matt's questionable font fetish and Jess' insanity and political fervour this year just wouldn't have been the same. You officially rock. Even when fighting with creme eggs. Also, thanks to Charlie for her tireless faith and for being a fellow baked bean pizza fan. Thanks to Laurie and his ridiculous noise, Jack for his chat and Helena for the Tegan and Sara tickets that arrived two days after the gig! In fact I'd like to thank the whole team for making this year at the paper utterly bitchin'. Word. Vivien King Macdona - Features

Cheers Leeds Student for being my fabulous stepping stone into the world of media, it's been a fantastic experience! Thanks for fathering my brainchild 'Hit, Miss or Maybe', who I will be very sad to leave behind, sob. Also big thanks to Charlie, who's been a top editor permitting a liberal, encouraging attitude to the donkey dust, for allowing anti-ugg boots sentiments to grace the pages, and for being understanding about uni work. Mucho love xxx Harriet Hermando

As usual, I've somehow left it till last to get around to writing this. It's deadline time and we're still hours away from printing, and it's these kinds of scenes that I'll miss the most: office stressfests, awful music, last-minute letdowns and broken copies of

Quark. Fun times. Seriously though, the last year working on LS has been awesome, if only for the fact that it's gradually taken over my degree in terms of importance, but also earned me my first career. Most importantly, I've met some of the coolest people in my life (who are, of course, the main reason I'm willing to give up the vast majority of my free time). Special thanks go out to my Features 'bitches', Jess and Viv. We've had some awesome times and I've really enjoyed working with you guys: gonna miss you so much V when you break up the dream team! I hate you forever. Special thanks to Jim for getting me involved in the first place and generally being a good man to enjoy a round of Brannigans with. John, we've had some quality times, my scouse friend. Chris, you many-nicknamed freak, you shared my love for Andrew Wawn so I know we understand one another. Laura, Natasha: you guys are way too underappreciated (mainly because you put up with Sexplank 24/7) and you've done such a good job this year, keep it up. Everyone else, seriously, I have barely any space here but I love each and every one of you in different ways. Laurie, you've been fantastic and I know you'll do a fantastic job next year, I look forward to dropping in when I'm a member of the real world and checking stuff out. Last but not least, the wonderful Charlie. You've assembled a great team and got the best results out of everyone. You've put up with my music for a year and I'm finding myself realising that I'm going to miss your presence at the end of the desks telling me to change the colour of that layout I spent six hours on or to 'make that look pretty' with a vague wave of your hand. Thanks for being awesome, I'm gonna miss you all more than should probably be legal. Special thanks to Drew Statman too. Matt Andrews - Associate Editor

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# LS Sport: Off the Record

Hello and welcome to the final **Off the Record** of the year. We might be back next year, who knows, but to help sway the opinion of the incoming Editor-in-Chief, I suggest a mass protest outside the Union later this week. Mass protests of this kind definitely seem to work, so assemble your banners and chalk and be outside the steps next Friday. Only joking.

As this will be **OTR's** last chance to moan and spout my own agenda to the huddled masses before September, let's get on to the sport.

Congratulations to Chelsea and (through gritted teeth) Manchester United. Both made it through to the Champions League final in very different ways; the hope now is that

the final will live up to the hype and produce a real spectacle for the neutral, rather than the drab, boring match-ups that are so often witnessed when two of the big four meet.

This surely proves that the Premier League is the best in the world. Now we just need to get

some parity and competitiveness within it. My beloved Rams are already relegated, almost certainly breaking Sunderland's record for the lowest point total. Fortunately though, it's a record that probably won't last for very long. No offence to Stoke, Hull, WBA, or fans of any other team that may be promoted this season, but they will not be able to compete. The gulf between our top two divisions is wider than the Grand Canyon, and there needs to be something done to address the issue. Thankfully for Birmingham, Sunderland et. al. there were enough poor teams this season to survive, but that won't last for long.

**OTR** couldn't end the year though without an honourable mention to my fellow Sheep-shaggers, who have proved this season that they are one of the best

sets of supporters in the country. Pride Park has sold out every game this season, and the supporters have done the club and the city proud, even if the players haven't.

Speaking of parity, sat in the pub last Monday there began a very interesting conversation regarding the differences between US and UK sport. A friend over for six months from Penn State was attempting to explain the draft system to a colleague here at the Leeds Student. The system is designed of course to make sure that the up and coming talent is shared amongst the teams, making sure certain teams don't dominate the sport and create a league within a league. Sounds eerily familiar doesn't it?

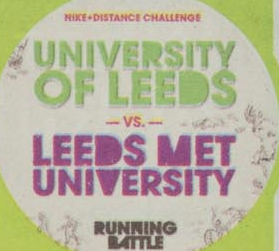
Of course, such a system would never work in England or Europe - it operates on the principle that there is one top league to which every player aspires. But then, we can dream (**OTR** feels at this point that an explanation of the photo of Steven Gerrard is required: I asked for it before the outcome of the Liverpool-Chelsea semi-final and didn't have the heart not to use it).

The other discussion centred on the American obsession with playoffs. Again, it's a concept that many here struggle to see the true merits of, but wouldn't a title be more valuable if teams had to play each other seven times to determine a winner? It'll never happen of course - it'd take the romance out of football for one - but it's an interesting comparison, and worth it for the sight of two sports fans, from different sides of the Atlantic, looking equally confused across a table at each other.

And so, **OTR** signs off for the final time. All that remains is to thank anyone who has contributed this year, and of course, to you the readers - yes, all five of you: your support is greatly appreciated. For now, let **OTR** leave you with one final gem for the summer: "Sometimes it lives. Sometimes it dies. That's sport."

words / owen bradley

## Inside Sport this week:



## Running Battle

LS with details of the latest battle between the Met and the Uni

p20

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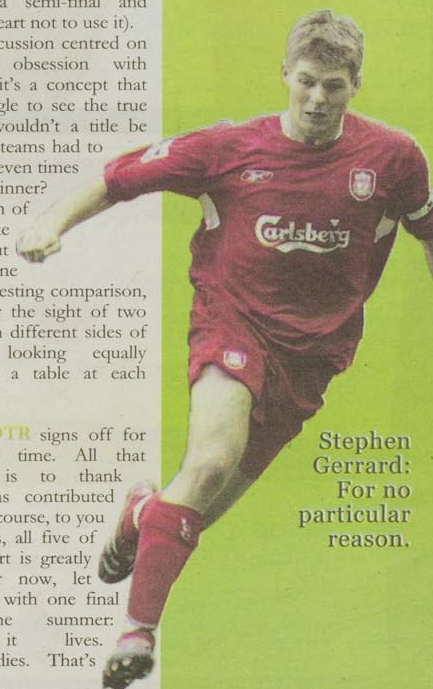
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Stephen Gerrard:  
For no particular reason.

## Quote of the week

"Stoke from Paul-on-Trent is on the line."

Alan Green shows his age on 606



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# the big debate:

## The year in BUSA

As the season draws to a close, **LS Sport** asks whether this year has been a positive step forward for our BUSA squads

### One step forward ...

Dafydd Pritchard

A mere glance at the end of season standings for the university's many sporting sides is ample evidence of a triumphant year. Furthermore, bulging attendances and extensive media coverage are indicators of the BUSA successes Leeds has enjoyed.

Both the men's rugby union and football first teams were crowned champions of their leagues, whilst the women's tennis and basketball sides recorded well-earned second place finishes. The 'galacticos' of the netball fourth team began their campaign in rampant form but were brought to a shuddering halt, by a dubiously strong Met side, whose fourth team selection raised a few eyebrows.

There was success for the less-celebrated sports as well. Cup glory followed league dominance for the men's squash thirds - a feat almost repeated by the men's hockey thirds, who won their division but failed to clear their final cup hurdle. The men's fencing firsts finished their regular season with a 100% record and were unlucky to lose their cup semi-final to Aberdeen. Almost identically, the women's volleyball team won all league matches before succumbing at the semi-final stage, somewhat spookily to the same opponents.

The true importance of these sports' thriving fortunes is the increased exposure they enjoy. Every team mentioned has been covered by *Leeds Student* and, with this combination of on-field prosperity and off-field interest, the respective clubs have grown enormously. As a result, Leeds is rapidly becoming a university with a rich, expanding array of sports and activities.

In addition to the impressive results, the season's success can be measured by the popularity of sporting events. The Varsity matches attracted hordes of enthusiastic followers, over four thousand of whom provided the rugby union encounter with a

stirring atmosphere. On one Wednesday afternoon, over a hundred spectators were treated to an enthralling clash between the men's football first team and their Met counterparts.

Moreover, the quality of matches is testament to a fruitful year of BUSA sport. With England Universities internationals regularly on display, fixtures in a wide range of sports have proved to be engaging spectacles. Matches involving the men's and women's fencing teams have even featured senior international players.

Such distinguished competitors are evidence that university competition is a genuine stepping stone to sport's higher echelons, as well as a consistently entertaining mid-week feature.

A whopping two thirds of the university's teams have a win ratio of over 50% for the year, an eye-catching addition to the aforementioned feats. With the backing of the university's media teams and loyal spectators, sports clubs have enjoyed a progressive and positive 2007/08. As these teams celebrate and build on their triumphs, it seems churlish to suggest that this has been anything but a hugely successful BUSA season for Leeds.

### Two steps back ...

Ifor Duncan

When I heard the motion for this week's 'The Big Debate' I crossed my fingers and firmly shut my eyes in the vain hope that I would avoid arguing against the motion. However, now I have been given this unenviable task, I have decided to come at this debate from an entirely objective stance.

So all of you out there who may be mildly offended by my arguments please forgive me.

Do not be fooled by all the praise my counterpart will heap on our teams.

He will list a number of successes that Leeds University sports teams have achieved in the BUSA competitions this year.

Yes the Men's Football First side won both the BUSA Northern Conference 1A division and the Northern Universities Football League 1ST Team Division. But they

ducked out in the quarterfinals of the B U S A Knockouts Men's Championship to bitter rivals Leeds MET. And yes the Rugby Union Men's first side strolled to victory in the B league. The mere fact they were in the second tier of the competition is a

poor reflection on a university the size of Leeds, let's hope they can cement their place in the top tier next season.

The Leeds sides seem to achieve

better in the lower leagues, the two best performing sides were the netball 4ths and Men's Hockey 3rds. To overly praise these sides would be to afford mediocrity too high attention. The worst performance from a team in this year's BUSA came from the Women's Hockey First side who played ten matches this season, lost all ten scoring just two and conceding forty four times. So our premier sides have not excelled to the expected level.

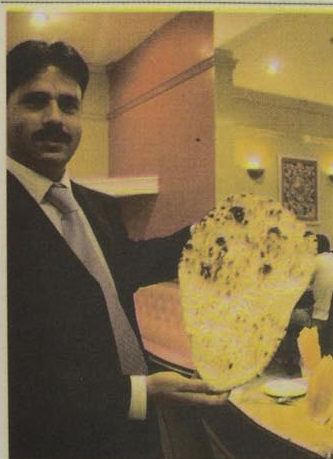
We in Britain seem to be under some strange illusion that mediocrity is acceptable.

**“The mere fact they were in the second tier of the competition is a poor reflection on Leeds**

This should not be the case at Leeds University. While it is important to encourage participation, this should be left to the 3rd or 4th sides and not the topsides, who should without exception be competing for top honours in every sport.

Many of the University's sides will claim they receive a lack of funding, especially in comparison with our bitter local rivals Leeds Met; while this may be the case you cannot complain about the numbers of individuals to choose from. The vast numbers of students arriving in this university each year leave little to no excuse for failure to the extent that some sides have suffered this year.

With a lot of teams winning promotion, next year will surely present an improvement across the board.



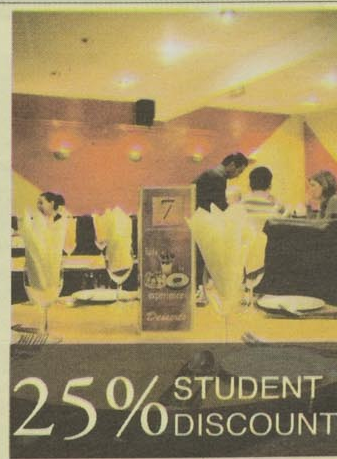
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# An all-English affair

As Manchester United and Chelsea both reach the Champions League final, Stephen Jones and Owen Bradley discuss who will come out on top in the Luzhniki Stadium on May 21

## For the Red Devils... Stephen Jones

So, after so many years we finally have an all-English Champions League final. Wonderful. Now that almost all of the snags of modern day European competition - bizarre qualification schedules, head-to-head tallies and the infuriating away goals rule, to name but a few - have been overcome, the only puzzle remaining is the question of who will reign victorious in Moscow. At the time of writing I imagine that Clive Tyldesley will still be in a bedazzled stupor thanks to Paul Scholes' Old Trafford moment of magic, whilst the side United will line-up against in Russia is yet to be decided. In truth, it hardly matters, United have their name on

the cup already.

Undoubtedly, it is very difficult to see past a team that has not only the best defensive record in England, but also the best goalscoring record. On top of this, United have a manager whom, aside from winning pretty much everything going aside from the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, understands that in order to use a rotation policy you need to have quality players waiting on the sidelines. Take note Rafa. Ferguson also realises the necessity of adapting his sides according to certain differing scenarios on the realisation that tactical inflexibility will bring about his team's doom. Take note Avram. Indeed, United are also fortunate (or adroit) enough to have a wealth of players willing to play anywhere for the sake of the team's performance. This is key, and is perhaps best evidenced by Nicolas Anelka's inept performance on the left wing in the Carling Cup final (or whatever fizzy pop it's now named after), when compared to the dogged and effective displays given by Wayne Rooney in a potentially uncomfortable wide position at

both the Stadio Olimpico and the Camp Nou.

Given all the signs in favour of

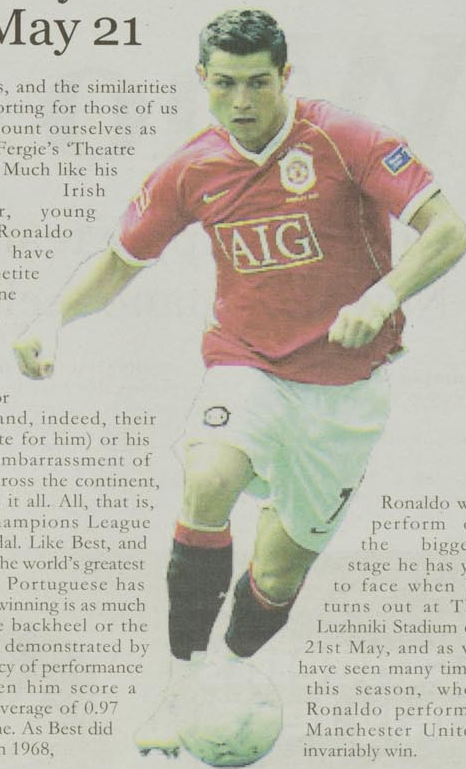
## Big Match Facts

Back in 1968, Man Utd defeated Benfica 4-1 to win their first European Cup.

They played in blue.

the red men from Manchester this has thus far been my easiest piece to date. The week following United's date in Moscow will mark forty years since their first European Championship victory. In those days, the zenith of Sir Matt Busby's glory years, there was only one name on the lips of football fans everywhere: 'Best'. Despite the fact that Best's was one of a three goal red-romp in extra time, it is his confounding of the Benfica defence that is replayed on television screens every time the Red Devils turn out in Europe. Roll forward

four decades, and the similarities are disconcerting for those of us that don't count ourselves as disciples at Fergie's 'Theatre of Dreams'. Much like his Northern Irish predecessor, young Cristiano Ronaldo seems to have found a appetite for all but one of Best's favoured activities. Whether it be his taste for the ladies (and, indeed, their unerring taste for him) or his consistent embarrassment of defenders across the continent, Ronaldo has it all. All that is, except a Champions League winner's medal. Like Best, and indeed all of the world's greatest players, the Portuguese has evinced that winning is as much a skill as the backheel or the Cruyff turn, demonstrated by the consistency of performance that has seen him score a remarkable average of 0.97 goals per game. As Best did at Wembley in 1968,



Ronaldo will perform on the biggest stage he has yet to face when he turns out at The Luzhniki Stadium on 21st May, and as we have seen many times this season, when Ronaldo performs, Manchester United invariably win.

When Ronaldo performs, Manchester United invariably win.

## For the Blues... Owen Bradley

The Liverpool jinx is broken. Avram Grant has succeeded where the Special One had failed, and Chelsea have made it to their first Champions League final.

It is somewhat fitting that the two juggernauts of this Premiership season should take their battle to the world stage, and who could think of a more appropriate setting but Moscow, the freezing surroundings and fierce rivalry reflecting the relationship between the two clubs.

Chelsea have come a long way this season since Jose Mourinho's shock departure from Stamford Bridge back in September: Avram Grant has steadied the ship and their pace in the league since then has been rip-roaring to say the least. But Grant more than anyone knows that reaching the final alone will not be enough to satisfy the man upstairs. The fans too may have been satisfied with simply reaching the final. But not now. Not now that



Manchester United, the team they have duelled with all season, the team who took their

League crown from them this time last year, the team who occupy the mantle of

'Greatest Team in the World' awaits them in the Luzhniki stadium. The title race - which is still United's to lose - will have been decided long before. May 21st will become the ultimate decider for the year, giving the victors bragging rights well into next season.

So why will Chelsea come out on top in Russia, when they will likely fail in their quest to wrestle the title away from United?

Starting at the back, Petr Cech is a warrior and leader in goal, capable of winning a game single-handedly. If Ferguson had his choice of keepers, you can bet he would take Cech over his own number one. Chelsea have heroes throughout the spine of their side. John Terry has matured of late - criticised for intimidating officials and leading on-field revolts in the Chelsea ranks, he was the one who, during the two sides'

Chelsea have warriors throughout the spine of their side.

recent meeting, could be seen leading his players away from referee Alan Wiley, whilst his opposite number Rio Ferdinand followed his manager's example by throwing his toys well and truly out of the pram.

Next, we come to Frank Lampard. Whatever your thoughts on his England performances, it cannot be argued that when he pulls on a blue shirt, he comes alive. Not forgetting Michael Ballack, who showed his own ability to perform when the pressure is on: his two goals against United two weekends ago being testament to that.

Up front Didier Drogba leads the line. His fantastically arrogant celebration in front of the Liverpool bench in the semi-final showed what he thinks of the criticisms thrown from Benitez. When Ferguson inevitably starts with his own trademark round of mind games, expect Drogba to reply with a similar statement of intent. Drogba performs on the big occasions, whereas there are still doubts about his fellow gravity-influenced professional, Cristiano Ronaldo. United win when Ronaldo plays well, and will have to hope that he does not do another disappearing act when the teams take to the field later

## Big Match Facts

Whilst being the tournament's top scorer with 7 goals, Ronaldo has more shots wide (18), than on target (17) this year.

this month.

Not to over-look Chelsea's ace-in-the-hole, a certain Mr. A. Grant. Slated since he arrived, the run which he has inspired has carried Chelsea to the brink of the double. And Chelsea, fading at the end of the 90 minutes on Wednesday, had something said to them to inspire the fight and two-goal period of extra-time. Grant, with his lack of experience at this level, may prove to be fearless rather than intimidated when facing the master tactician in the next dug-out.

Chelsea will not turn to one man to spark their performances. They are warriors, and in the cold of Moscow, they will be victorious.

**Big debate:**  
Has it been a good  
year for BUSA?

Sport, pg. 17



**Off the Record:**  
What we can learn  
from the States

Sport, pg. 15



Friday, May 2, 2008

leedsstudentsport@gmail.com

# Who runs Leeds

- Nike and Apple team up to capitalise on the local campus rivalry
- New iPod nano technology launched on Uni and Met campuses

## Running Battle Natasha Evans

The sporting rivalry between Leeds Uni and Leeds Met is reaching a climax this year with a unique running battle. "Let's see who really runs Leeds" is the

catchphrase appearing on the posters that have been displayed across both campuses, relying on the ongoing spirit of varsity rivalry to spur on competitors.

The event will run from April 25th until May 23rd as part of a new collaboration between Nike and Apple. The two corporate

giants have joined forces to develop the latest training technology, linking the iPod nano and technology that records training information, by simply placing a button sized object in your training shoes and logging all your data on the computer through an online training profile.

Whilst using the equipment there is a 'feedback button' to ensure you are aware of the progress of your session, and a 'power song' feature which allows you to trigger your most motivating song during your workout. There is also the opportunity to chart individual training programmes and captains have the opportunity to monitor a whole team's training on the internet. With an online global community of over 500,000, users are encouraged to join 'the world's biggest running club'.

Competitors from each University had the opportunity to get involved when the Nike+ sports kit was handed out for free at each campus. The kits were especially popular with sports teams; the Uni cross country team was one of the

groups keen to try the new facility and Lucy Crosbie Dawson, Captain of the Cross Country Team said:

"We chose to get involved because it's a great way to keep track of all the miles we do and it's great inspiration. As a cross country club, most of the members are doing over 30 miles a week so we're keen to help Leeds uni beat the Met. It's a great incentive to train even harder than we were before."

Leeds is said to have been picked as a venue as a result of its rivalry. Nike University Co-Ordinator and former Leeds Uni student, Ibby Abutarboush explained how they selected the three launch sites for the programme.

"The idea is to build on existing rivalries. Within Leeds there is a local rivalry. Then between Bath and Loughborough there is a sporting rivalry, with the final pairing of Oxford and Cambridge there is a massive traditional rivalry."

Ibby urged students to use this rivalry to their advantage.

"It is a great opportunity to get one over on your local rivals. And of course there are massive health

benefits, especially during the exam period it is a perfect way to de-stress. For those in their final year it is the perfect opportunity to challenge your old rival one last time."

Rivalry is indeed rife with the website messageboard (<http://www.nikeplus.com/univsmet>) bearing many comments from both Universities. Messages from Leeds Met include: "hope you've enjoyed the headstart we've given you uni", "Your butler does not count uni boys" and "Uni scummers is daddy paying someone to run for you?". Responses from Leeds Uni have included: "Leeds just let the feet do the talking" and "You met guys sound pretty bitter."

The overall winning University will win 50 iPod festival tickets along with the trophy. Meanwhile individual success will be rewarded during the 30 days, with iPods, Nike kit and Nike training shoes up for grabs.

When LS went to print, Uni were in the lead with 759.26km to the Met's 489.89km.

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