



Dizzee Rascal gig reviewed
AAA preview of Peter Pan musical
Eating out special: where to eat out

LS2

Friday / November 29 / 2008

Leeds Student

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“

Campaigning against a state and seeking the eradication of a state is not acceptable as far as I'm concerned

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Miliband Exclusive



POLITICS SPECIAL

Miliband. Straw.
LS questions cabinet ministers

PAGE 4

Referendum pullout:
Four pages of comment

CENTRE PAGES

The Big Debate: Is student politics dead?

PAGE 8

Sport
Paralympian Giles Long interviewed
BUCS action reviewed

Comment & Debate
LUU Referendum special
Is student politics dead?

News Extra
Second Life: escape from reality?
AIDS: the unspoken illness

Leeds Student



Union Boy

The quest to access my own hard earned pennies (or rather, those loaned to me by Mr. Miliband's generous Government) this week led me, once again, to the spot where the attitude of the entire Union is encapsulated in one tiny console.

The cash machine between Extras and Essentials has, for the last three months, been the bane of my life. The electronic tag the Union have seen fit to burden me

with prevents my adventuring across the road to HSBC - where apparently they carry out maintenance on their cash points - meaning I am forced to use this most abused of machines. For as long as I can remember, the buttons on this cash machine have failed to work, save for the 'other amount' selection. This wouldn't be such a problem, save for students' tendency to panic when it comes to cash/life in general. It's just one of those little annoyances that would take mere moments to fix.

Various Union employees have been alerted to this defect on countless occasions; by my gorgeous self on at least three. It seems, though, that the attitude of those that rule the roost at LUU Towers is; "Unless it's really, really broke, don't fix it". That approach is everywhere now; papering over massive cracks when major surgery is needed.

It's such grievances that annoy the student body and mean that students are less likely to get

involved in things like elections. Does anyone really care about the upcoming referendum? No. Except for those proposing the motions, hence the massive proportion of 'Yes' decisions.

And what's with those greasy gentlemen who seem to be in the Lounge everyday giggling around a pile of laptops? Whilst other Union societies grapple for space, these men - who appear to have slathered a block of lard over each and every follicle - sit daily in their Kingdom without challenge from anyone.

Come now, let us begin the major changes required with a proper survey of room usage and a fair system of allocation based on the facts. Maybe when students feel that their Union is doing something for them, they will begin to engage with it in reply.

That's all for now folks; I need to get fifty quid out for a Refec sarnie I'm hoping to buy in three hours time, but with the queues at the cash point it'll take me that long to get to the front of the line.

INSIDE

- 1-7: News
- 8: The Big Debate: Student Politics
- 9: Extra: Living your Second Life
- 10: World AIDS Day
- 12: Comment
- 14: Sport
- PLUS: Referendum four page pullout special

CONTACT

- Got a story?
- Putting on an event?
- Spotted a mistake?

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Student performer stage collapse

Matthew Power

A Leeds Student performer collapsed on stage during a Music Theatre (MT) cabaret show last Thursday night.

The third year Theatre and Performance student, who can not be named, suffered short-term memory loss after the incident during a fundraising show at the University's Music Theatre.

Onlookers were left stunned after the performer, who has no history of collapsing, fainted and hit his head on the stage.

Katy McDougall, a third year Theology student, said: "I just saw him stumble back and then fall to the floor. The sound it made rippled through the audience, as he was so close to the floor microphones. At first I thought it was a shocking ending to the song and then quickly realised his fall was no joke as people hurried to help him."

The student collapsed only minutes before the end of the show whilst performing the final song of the night.

Two of his friends, who were watching from the front row of the theatre, rushed on to the stage in panic as the curtain went down on the show.

Leeds Student has learned that there has been confusion over the completion of crucial safety documents on the incident.

Despite this, a Music Theatre Society spokesman quelled any misunderstanding and emphasised the rarity of such an incident. They said:

"The individual in question collapsed at the end of Thursday night's show. Security and first aiders were quickly on scene and there were no further issues. We hope that this event won't overshadow the rest of the performance and hope that it will remind the other groups of the need to properly care for their

members."

A Leeds University Medicine student was among the packed audience and hurried to attend to the performer on stage.

The singer was rushed to hospital for treatment for his head injuries and was kept in overnight for observation. He returned home the following morning and though not receiving any serious injuries, has been told not to attend university this week.

The cabaret singer admitted that he was nervous about the show and the cause of his collapse is believed to be due to a large intake of breath and rush of blood to the head whilst singing the final note of his line.

The MT Cabaret was the latest in a series of events aimed at saving the society. Leeds Student understands that they have postponed another show, 'A Chorus Line,' due to a lack of funds.



The show's cast before the collapse. Photo: Dan Winer

Kits off for RAG nudity special

Billy Risbringer
Jane Salmon

Leeds students have been bearing all for the annual Raise And Give (RAG) naked calendar.

This year's calendar, on sale from the last week of this semester, is hoped to be just in time for Christmas.

The 'Get Your RAG Out' calendar organised by Leeds RAG, features students from many of the Uni's societies, including rugby league, basketball, the theatre group and members from Leeds Student.

Due to Leeds University Union (LUU) pulling RAG's funding for the last academic year, the money that the calendar raises will go to fund the Co-Coordinator of RAG. This was a position previously paid for by LUU.

Organisers were however keen to stress that the proceeds will help RAG in future charitable campaigns.

Kate Thornton, RAG's sponsorship and marketing officer, is hoping that the calendars will raise £3000 for charitable causes. She commented: "This year the calendar is bigger and better than ever before, we've even doubled

last year's print run!

"If you had the choice between a landscape or naked students, which one would you choose? Nudity sells!"

Last year the RAG society raised £94,221 for charity through various events, helping both national and international causes such as cancer research, SoftPower Education and Help the Aged.

Holly Griswold, a second year French and Management student, who posed with the 'Snowriders' society photo, said:

"At first it seemed very daunting to get all your clothes off in front of two strangers, but it was soon evident that the fun factor was paramount and a relaxed atmosphere was established.

"As a university society we see ourselves as representatives of Leeds University and being able to contribute to this great idea was exciting."

This year's calendar is being sponsored by a number of local businesses including Cats and Gear, alongside non-union companies including 'Bliss Beauty Spa' and Teach First.

Calendars will be on sale for £3 each at 'Cats' and 'Essentials' in the Student Union as well as at the RAG office, RAG events and the Uni's Christmas fair.



Photo: John Puddephatt

Signs a funding 'waste' Demo: NO2ID

Jessica Elliott
Claire Freeston

Students being sent in circles by misleading signposts on campus are being told that they are simply prototypes of the Uni's new 'Signage Concept'.

Mock up signs, maps, gateways and directional signs are on display for consultation until 28th November in Parkinson Court and outside Leeds University Union, but the information they display is not necessarily correct.

In a new Signage Concept, all of the University's exterior signs will be replaced in a four-stage project by Spring 2009. The initiative, commissioned by the University's Estate Services, aims to ensure that staff, students and visitors can easily navigate around campus, despite over half of students surveyed by Leeds Student stating that funding for the project could be 'better spent elsewhere'.

Despite initial support for the new signage at the University, some students are concerned about the economic implications of the new scheme. Amy Jackson, a first year Theatre and Performance Art student, said:

"I think they look good but they seem like a waste of the University's money. They should help more societies in the Union as I know some that can no longer run due to lack of funds."

The existing signs, which can be found throughout campus, are considered an aid to freshers as well as visitors to the University. It is

believed that the clearer and more contemporary designs will lift and freshen the look of the campus. Helen Melling, a first year Geography student, said:

"I think they will be useful for freshers because it takes a while to get used to where everything is."

Leeds Student was unable to locate the Project Manager for comment.

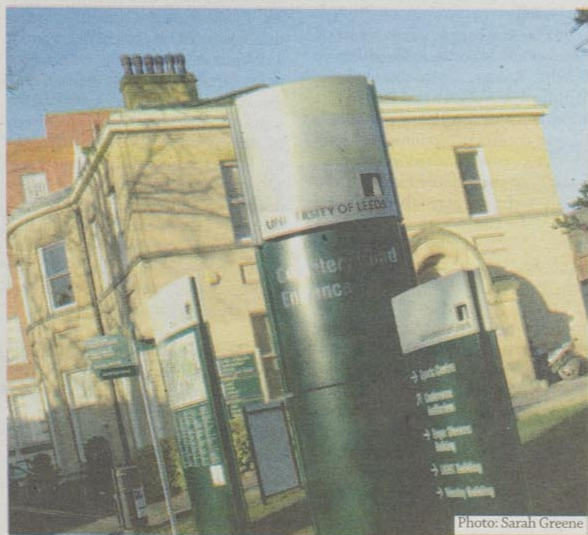


Photo: Sarah Greene

Adam Richardson
Leon Zadek

A demonstration against the implementation of ID Cards took place in Leeds City centre on Monday.

The campaigning organisation 'No 2 ID' protested on Dortmund Row on Monday evening. They were demonstrating against the implementation of ID Cards for all non-EU nationals wanting to reside in Britain which came into force on Tuesday.

Many fear that this is the first stage of government plans for all UK residents to have an ID Card. Yorkshire NO2ID coordinator James Elsdon-Baker said "Initially

the Government is targeting a voiceless group, with plenty to lose by non-compliance, but we'll all be in the firing line soon. As wider groups of people become victims then opposition to the scheme will start to snowball."

This was the start of activities looking to raise awareness about ID Cards. On Wednesday night, an open forum was held by Liberty on the topic of ID Cards. This included the No2ID regional coordinator James Elsdon-Baker and Dr Carole McCartney from the faculty of Law. They both warned against the dangers of biometric data being stored and the abuses that the system is open to. No-one was prepared to speak in proposition of the scheme.



Photo: Leon Zadek

Foreign powers: the

David Miliband interview

Alex Doorey

The Foreign Secretary condemned protest against the existence of the State of Israel during his visit to Leeds last week.

In an exclusive interview with Leeds Student, David Miliband declared that campaigning against the existence of a state and seeking its eradication was 'not acceptable'. Responding to questions on the proposed Union Referendum motion to adopt the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism, Miliband compared such protests to Iran's 'abhorrent' comments against Israel at the United Nations.

The comments came during the Foreign Secretary's visit for a discussion with University students. Details of his trip last Friday were kept tightly under wraps, with the controlled number of students attending the talk only notified of its location on Thursday evening.

Miliband, who has been an influential figure in Labour government since his employment as head of Tony Blair's Policy Unit, is the second youngest Foreign Secretary in history. Since becoming an MP in 2001, his fast track through the Labour ranks have fuelled rumours that the Foreign Secretary is next in line for the Labour leadership. A fierce advocate of communications with the i-generation, he is often considered a next generation Blairite, reaching out to a younger demographic through his famous DEFRA blogs.

During his talk to assembled students, the Foreign Secretary emphasised the importance of 'bringing foreign policy home', in order to bridge the gap which he believes exists between politicians and people, and "probably more in foreign policy". He said: "If you care about British security you cannot simply confine your political thinking to the borders of this country."

He faced a barrage of questions on international issues including affairs in Burma, Russia, Columbia and the Middle East. Miliband noted the importance of a solution for Middle Eastern conflict in the administration's aims. "Preventing and reducing conflict notably in the Middle East is a top priority if you care about global stability" he said.

He added that nuclear proliferation remained "a threat to people everywhere".

During questions on the unpopularity of the war in Iraq, he stressed the importance of liberal interventionism. "People have not given up on the moral impulse that you should try to make a difference; what I would say is that military action is always the last resort, and that there are very rarely military 'solutions' but in the end you have to find the political solution"

When questioned on the EU's

potential as a 'superpower', the Foreign Secretary said that although it remained a regional authority, will never have the hard military effect, it had the power to act as a model for regional cooperation and for bridging divides of race and religion. He spoke positively of Turkish membership of EU, denying that the European community should be thought of as a 'closed Christian club'.

Miliband responded to questions on reported British funding for Colombian military action by denying any British support in the state; with the exception of humanitarian demining and combating human rights abuses. "I give you my absolute assurance that there is no question of unrestricted support for the military or for the Government in Columbia" he said.

The audience were left with mixed feelings after the discussion. See 'Your Views' to find out more.

Leeds Student met with David Miliband to discuss his time as Foreign Secretary, and more.

LS: Foreign Secretary, welcome to Leeds University.

DM: Well, I grew up in Leeds in the 1970s; I always like coming back.

LS: There's a referendum going through the Union at the moment, and one of the motions within it proposes that the Union should adopt a definition of anti-Semitism, which includes the importance of the State of Israel in Jewish students' right to self determination. What would you say to students, for example those involved in Palestinian movements, who feel this might confuse their ability to campaign about the State of Israel on campus?

DM: Every student, whatever their religion, whatever their race, needs to feel as a student here but also as a resident of Britain that they have a place and that they have equal rights. We've got to be clear that anti-Semitism is an abhorrent form of racism in the same ways that other forms of racism are. I believe there's something going through the EU at present to introduce a definition, from the government's point of view we'll wait and see how that comes out. It's important that we stand firm that anti-Semitism is a form of racism, and we'll be arguing that at the UN Durban conference. Equally you've got to make sure people can defend free speech. Have to allow people to agree or disagree on positions of different governments or what different governments do. People will have to look at what the final wording of it before they make a judgement on it.

LS: The issue on campus is that this motion may affect students' ability to protest against the State of Israel should they wish to.

DM: Well I don't think that campaigning against the State of Israel is the same as campaigning against individual policies. Campaigning against a state and seeking the eradication of a state is not acceptable,

as far as I'm concerned. It's not acceptable in the UN when the president of Iran says abhorrent things about Israel and I think that campaigning for the abolition of a state is completely different from campaigning for the creation of your own state, which Palestinians argue for but also many other people who are not Palestinians argue for. I'm not Palestinian, but I argue very strongly that a pal state is just and right for the pals its also the best route to security for Israel in a more stable middle east and I think its very important to encourage students to campaign for what's called a two state solution in the Middle East.

LS: You made a statement to the House of Commons last month regarding the government's position on Tibet, which acknowledged that Britain recognises Tibet as part of China. The Free Tibet movement is strong on campus, and many students share their views. What would you say to students who are concerned that the statement made by the government puts the human rights of Tibetans below the importance of British relationships with China, and does your statement change the government's position here?

DM: They are right to be concerned about the human rights situation and they will find in public statements from myself and the PM real raising of it. The Dalai Lama has said that he is seeking autonomy for Tibet within China; he is not seeking separatism. He is also calling for non-violence as a way of moving forward. We think that that is the right basis for arguing for proper rights for Tibet. In public we are clear about our position and in private we are clear about our position. I would say that the debate that is being had about the situation in Tibet is right and the talks that are going on between the Chinese Prime Minister and the Dalai Lama's representative really need to succeed.

LS: What would you say to those students who would like to further a career in politics but see the House of Commons as a closed shop, particularly considering its poor representation of ethnic minorities and women?

DM: I would say that they are the future, and that any political system that tries to keep people out on the grounds of their gender or their race or their religion is not going to succeed. Ours is a country that is changing; in some ways it's not changing fast enough. Just under a third of MPs are women, I think two or three per cent are from ethnic minorities. We need to keep pushing change, that's a responsibility for individual parties, political parties who have to push people forward. It's a fact, though not a good one, that there are more Asian MPs in the Lords from the Labour Party than all other parties put together, now although I'm proud of the fact that we have made change, it's not a good thing that the other parties haven't got into this in a serious



Standing proud: Miliband before Q+A

Photographer: John Puddephatt

old and new guard

Jack Straw interview

Alex Doorey

Justice Secretary Jack Straw MP was in Leeds on Thursday ahead of the government's cabinet meeting in the city.

On a ministerial visit to the area to discuss youth crime with Ed Balls, the Leeds alumnus was keen to talk to *Leeds Student*. A politically active undergraduate, Mr Straw was elected as Leeds Union President in 1967. He was famously banned from LUU after a motion in 1999 that condemned his position on immigration and asylum during his time as Home Secretary. The motion was repealed in 2003, but a Union plaque bearing the Justice Secretary's name was recently defaced. When asked if Straw had returned to the Union recently, he said: "What, since they lifted the ban? "To local Labour MP John Battle, he added; "They banned me! It was over the Immigration and Asylum Bill, now thought of as a modest liberal measure. "But I was reinstated with a vote of about 1,200 to 400. I was quite pleased with that".

On the recent spate of violent crime against students, Straw said: "There was some violence when I was a student here, which is now quite a long time ago, forty plus years ago, but there wasn't as much".

The Justice Secretary added that the government hoped to make use of intervention techniques to prevent the involvement of young people in violent crime. "Ed Balls and I were talking this morning about better support for families, most of the youngsters who get into trouble do so because something has gone wrong in the relationships inside the families. The people who commit violence do so because they cannot relate to others".

On his interaction with Paul Dacre,

current Daily Mail Editor and Editor of *Leeds Student* during Straw's university career, he said: "It was a great time, we had a good relationship. It was the late 1960s and there were some great causes".

Straw went on to mention the controversial 'monitoring' of students during his time at Leeds, which led him to hold a protest in the Union building. "There was uproar about files being kept on students. They employed a retired police superintendent to keep files on students like me, and in the end we had a sit in about it; it was very successful".

Mr Straw said that he had reminisced about his days as a politically active undergrad in a recent discussion with University Vice Chancellor Michael Arthur. "I was talking to the Vice Chancellor about fees charged to overseas students; I led a great demonstration here when the Labour government wanted to raise overseas fees from £70 to £250. That was a good demo". He said that he had not discussed the current issue of tuition fees with Michael Arthur.

Mr Straw still works alongside Leeds University, building a network of alumni to help current students. "I still do some work with the University trying to encourage philanthropy from alumni. I run some events in London, and Leeds is at the top, but one thing that British universities haven't been very good at is raising money from alumni. Leeds has over 140,000 alumni, and in America those alumni would be worked very hard, but our universities are only just starting this."

Mr Straw encouraged universities to follow Leeds' initiative: "I give a certain amount of money to the University, because I'm pretty well paid. But if they'd asked me 25 years ago I would have started giving then."

Back to school: Straw visits local community centre allowing LS to grab him for a chat



Photo: Ali Hung

Your views



Josh Black

I found him disappointing on the question of Russia. I felt he evaded the question about why we should act against them. Well I just think he was really heavy handed in the Litvinenko affair and he said we have these relationships but he didn't say how we were working with them.



Jack Codd

I thought he spoke really well. I thought he had good thoughts on Britain's position in the world. Especially what he said about the situation in Pakistan I thought was quite interesting and he comments on the Middle East, he's got a really good vision. It's exciting times.



Ryan Owen

I think his opening speech about the gap between politicians and students was not very effective. He should've spoken about actual policy issues from the start rather than talk about ideals that people have trouble understanding. He answered questions on the Middle East well but struggled on the Congo.



Peter Cousins

There was nothing surprising because it's hard to interact properly in that forum. Personally I was very pleased someone asked the question about Colombia. Yet while the answer was superficially pleasing I'd still debate whether or not the influence we have is being deployed to its greatest effect.

way. My view is, people are as political as they've ever been. They're as passionate about causes from the green challenge to Tibet to the Middle East. But what they also see and feel is that political parties and traditional politics don't speak to them. There's a big gap between traditional politics and what people are passionate about. I think part of our job as politicians is to bridge that gap, and we bridge it in person, we bridge it through the internet, blogs, every way we can.

LS: You're a keen blogger aren't you?
DM: People can visit the blog at www.fco.gov.uk! In a way, they're symbolic but they are also substantive ways of trying to open up politics, and anyone who has looked at the Obama campaign knows that that has been a big movement for change and a big movement for hope and I think people have to take inspiration from that.

LS: People are especially worried that a political career is a big financial risk..

DM: Correct!

LS: It's up there with journalism in the heights of financial stability.

DM: No, I think journalists are much better paid!

LS: They probably get better treatment than politicians.

DM: Well people don't go into politics to get rich, or at least they shouldn't do because they won't. Politics and public service is great think to be engaged with and taking forward your ideas about how your country should work or should be changed is a fantastically fulfilling thing to do but there are downsides, and the only consolation is that there is insecurity in right across the economy, you wake up every day in politics and you don't know what's going to happen next, and every week is different, a week is a long time in politics, Harold Wilson said. If people have got it in their heart that they want to see change then it's important that the go and do it, and it's not a life sentence.

LS: During your time at DEFRA you were very strong on the environment as an international political issue. As Foreign Secretary, have you found the strong leadership you've said is needed for international progression in this area?

DM: I think the short answer is that no, the environment hasn't got the advocates that it needs. Our Prime Minister is very strong on it, as are a lot of EU leaders, and now president-elect Obama is changing the game with his statement this week that America's going to be strong on it. But the truth is that globally we're off-track to meet the climate change challenge which is to reduce emissions instead of them going up and to have a global settlement in which all countries play a part, and that's one of the reasons why 2009 such an important year; the key date is December 2009 for a global agreement to succeed the Kyoto agreement of 1997 and we've got our work cut out, so there's no room for complacency.

LS: Foreign Secretary, thank you.

Leeds Student goes on a round-the-world tour of U.K. foreign policy, led by the words of David Miliband MP.

United States
"Liberal interventionism is not dead. Obama brings a new message of hope."

U.K.
"I hope to be the longest serving foreign secretary of all time."

Burma
"Aung San Suu Kyi is a global symbol of standing up against repression."

Iran
"We are fully engaged with Iran. I think of it as an enormous centre of education."

Israel/Palestine
"We need to work towards a two-state solution."

D.R. Congo
"No, we don't have enough troops for Iraq, Afghanistan and the Congo at the same time."

Columbia
"The UK only provides limited funding for humanitarian aid and de-mining"

Tibet
"People are right to be concerned about human rights in Tibet."



Around the world with Miliband

Leeds Student

-AGM-

The Leeds University Union (LUU) Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place last Tuesday to offer a year in review of the Union's activities.

Whilst the Union has done well to increase its surplus, remain healthy and continue to offer an unrivalled Union experience, there are many questions that need to be asked.

For such an important meeting, there were only 17 members of the student body in attendance. This shows the level of interest in Union activities by the general student population.

Whilst an AGM is not the most interesting thing in the world, one would expect slightly more than 17 students out of over 30,000 to attend. Perhaps it is down to the fact that the meeting takes place at 4pm in the afternoon, a time when some students would have lectures.

-Anti-Semitism-

Before the Referendum even goes to the vote, there is debate raging amongst some of the most active societies on campus.

Motion 4, 'Should LUU adopt the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism?' has caused debate among many who believe that this definition is discriminatory.

However, the motion is still too ambiguous to be interpreted correctly: this is why there has been so much debate on the topic. During his recent visit to Leeds, David Miliband was similarly ambiguous, arguing that there needs to be free speech, whilst at the same time, anti-Semitism is a form of racism.

Unlike many forms of racism, anti-Semitism cannot be easily defined. According to the proposers, the University of Leeds has suffered from more anti-Semitism than any other University in the country; 21 out of 25 instances of it in Leeds have concerned students.

-Signs-

For the last week, samples of new campus signs have been displayed outside the Union and in Parkinson Court.

As part of a new concept which hopes to lift the campus' look as well as provide students and visitors with easier directions around campus, the new directional apparatus will be effective from Spring 2009.

However the new styles have managed to baffle many students. Many first years and the occasional international student have been spotted studying the signs, looking decidedly uncertain and then traipsing off to the look for the Michael Sadler building in Hyde Park.

Surely it would have made more sense to stress that the signs were

The budget report shows a surplus of £98,445, an increase of over £65,000 on last year. This is in part due to a tax refund of £172,630. Despite this increase in budget surplus, there was a decrease in student activities funding. This decreased from £578,162 to £535,069. Another area of cutbacks has been in women's support, which has vanished.

One area where there was potential for lively debate during the meeting was the affiliation with the NUS, which costs the Union £47,214. However, anyone wanting a discussion of this was told that there would be an opportunity to talk about it in the near future.

The Union is operating financially soundly and appears in good health. The only problem is that the students probably do not really realise this.

However, many believe that the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism would lead to undemocratic practises in LUU and on campus. Some also believe that motion 5, 'Should Leeds University Union oppose Gazan rocket attacks on civilians in Southern Israel?' is similarly aimed at the same people who would oppose motion 4.

The debate will rage on, and many would agree that the definition is too vague, and has too many ramifications. If the motion does pass, there will undoubtedly be national press who will come and examine the example of Leeds, making the Union a case study.

It is an emotive issue, and one that cannot and will not, regardless of the Referendum outcome, just be brushed aside. People can criticise the Union for putting the motion on the Referendum ballot, but surely this is the idea of democracy. It is now up to the students to decide.

temporary, not to mention absolutely incorrect, and therefore avoid these confusions. Trying to direct visitors from the Parkinson Building down to a lecture in Roger Stevens can be no mean feat even though the Leeds campus is compact compared to other universities.

The job is made even more difficult due to the fact that the signage currently used throughout the campus can be unclear and sparse at times, so a new design is clearly needed and eagerly anticipated. However, it may have made more sense to publicise the signs' arrival and experimentation so as not to alienate students before they have even been implemented.

Atheists don't believe they're understood

Dear Editor,

The motion put forward by members of the Atheist Society to ban the sale of Halal and Kosher meat from the Union has met with unbounded criticism since being laughed out of the LUU referendum meeting in a markedly undemocratic way. Many members of the Atheist Society feel that this is not about the nature of the motion itself, but more to do with the false presumptions and massive misrepresentations surrounding the society.

The Leeds Student issued on the 14th November provided a fine example of the kind of misrepresentation that the society is constantly faced with. One article informed the student body that the proposed motion was entitled: "Should LUU ban ethical meat?" when members of A-Soc were actually calling for a ban on UN-ethical meat. Simple typographical error or not, the writers of the article were aligning the word 'ethical' with 'religious', making it appear as though the Atheist Society, as non-believers, sought to ban that which is morally good. Furthermore, Norman Ralph (not Ralph Norman) and Chris Worfolk were misquoted, casting them in a negative light and the idea that their evidence was derived entirely from Youtube was a fabrication. The article was disappointingly biased.

One of the main motivations behind the creation of the LUU Atheist Society was to provide a support network and a voice for non-religious students, which involves campaigning over issues that its members care about (animal rights, for example). The recent controversy however, shows that they are unable to do this in a Union that disregards and even mocks the secular voice. Interestingly, the Union's official line is that they are all about "representing members on the issues that matter to them". Not all members, it would appear.

The Atheist Society have encountered various forms of prejudice, one being the Union's refusal to publish an event that they ran at the start of the year in their events listings for fear that it would offend too many students. Far from seeking to offend, the Atheist Society have made many attempts to bring faith societies together with varying success. 'Interfaith Assassins' recently took place with members from the Atheist Society, the Christian Union and the Assassins Guild fighting out their differences with water pistols. On Tuesday the 18th the atheists hosted an interfaith panel, with representatives from diverse religious groups including Buddhist meditation and Sikhism who explained their belief systems and participated in a Q & A session. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, as the event was based on mutual respect and education, rather than conversion.

Letters to the Editor

During the three years since the Atheist Society's creation, all religious societies have been invited to their interfaith events, but a relationship has only successfully been forged with the Christian Union (although the interfaith panel was promisingly well attended by other societies). Several groups have continually turned down invitations to joint events and yet now state that the 'Ethical Meat Only' motion is the black mark preventing any contact with the Atheist Society. It can safely be assumed that prejudice and misconceptions have stood in their way in the years before this.

Once again, the invitation is extended to anyone who is interested in interfaith matters to come to A-Soc events and see that they really are one of the friendliest student societies.

Abortion piece commended

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Emma Stedman for her brave article on abortion last week. Anyone who has been affected by abortion (and men, as Emma pointed out, can be just as severely affected by one as women) would have found a lot to relate to in the article. Abortion is much more widespread than most people assume: almost everyone will know someone who has been directly affected by one, even though the stigma that comes with it means that most do not talk about what happened to them.

I hope that in this university those who are dealing with the aftermath or process of an abortion are not condemned or judged, but instead receive help and empathy.

David Miller

Dear Editor,

I am a PhD student researching how religion can influence or restrict reproductive health rights in poor countries, including the right to legal and safe abortion, therefore I was particularly pleased to read the honest and well-argued article recounting a student's personal experiences of abortion.

Too often the abortion debate is polarised into extremes by groups with competing ideological agendas and it is all too easy to overlook the importance of a woman's choice to have an abortion - not as an alternative to contraception - but, as outlined by Ms Stedman, a last resort taken courageously and in the face of unwarranted opposition and prejudice.

The account of her treatment at the hands of her doctor is unsettling and indeed deeply indicative of common attitudes and reactions to the issue of abortion that I hope for the sake of brave women like Ms Stedman, may in time change.

As Ms Stedman points out there must be more information and help available to educate and support men and women, boys and girls in learning about sexual and reproductive health.

In countries such as the Netherlands where sex education has long been a feature of young people's education, abortion rates are some of the lowest in Europe. Whether our personal ideologies are pro or anti choice there is no doubt that lowering abortion rates is a primary goal. However, for those who find themselves facing the enormity of unplanned pregnancy, abortion must be a legal, safe and supported choice for women.

Esther Richards
Centre for Development Studies

ID Cards continued

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Chris Barker's refutations of Rhiannon Lamb's critique of ID cards for foreign students (21/11/08). In the interests of balance I'd like to refute Jono Hall's own argument for ID cards that Chris describes as 'well researched'.

There is no myth that people will have to carry ID cards at all time, this is a straw man argument commonly used by the Home Office to discredit opposition to the scheme. The point is not the carrying of the card, but the Database system created to track and monitor people, and the inherent data security risks that arise from a centralized system of Identity Management. Perhaps Jono would benefit from reading a recent paper by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission entitled "More than just a card: intrusion, exclusion and suspect communities: implications in Northern Ireland of the British National Identity Scheme".

Jono asserts that there have been many trials of ID cards, he is aware that the UKPS biometrics enrolment trial, published in 2005, suggest that none of the biometrics being considered by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) are reliable enough to deliver on the promises, or that the House of Commons Select committee was raising this issue back even in 2006. I'm surprised a student at the University would be so naive as to trust the Home Office's own results based on limited trials in controlled environments, I'd highly recommended reading the work of Prof. Ross Anderson who is based at the foundation for information policy research, and then employ your own critical faculties.

If Mr Barker agrees with Jono and really thinks these cards are a good idea, perhaps he would be willing to debate the issue publicly with me?

James Elsdon-Baker
Regional Yorkshire Coordinator
NO2ID Campaign

What's driving you crazy?

Are you sick of Leeds Student getting it wrong week after week?

Drop us a line at editor@leedsstudent.org and we'll print your letter in this space.

In the Union this week...

This week saw the Union's Annual General Meeting take place...

Claire Freeston
Joseph Severn

The Leeds University Student Executive and the Board of Trustees outlined the financial situation of the Union at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday.

However the meeting, held in the Riley Smith Hall, had to begin late due to the minimum number of students required to meet quorum not being in attendance. Extra students had to be bought in from various areas of the Union, including all four Leeds Student News Editors to make up the numbers.

The AGM reported that due to a VAT refund of £172,000 the Union in the 2007-08 financial year reported a surplus of £98,000. This was well ahead of the Union's target of £30,000. Over the past year, there has been a lower level of capital expenditure, allowing the Union's financial situation to stabilise. However this

has led to a decrease in the amount of work being undertaken in the Union building. Only the Gear shop has extended the portfolio of services available in the Union during the past year. To remedy this, there is a plan for the development of the Union building and work is due to begin on this in the summer of 2009.

Additionally, it transpired that various other costs had been cut, including the Exec Officers salaries falling from £109,045 in total in 2007 to £100,844 last year. Student activities also suffered; Media groups expenditure fell from £24,670 in 2007 to just over £8,000 last year. On the other hand, there was a drastic increase in the Union's expenditure on power and utility costs - it rose from £35,325 in 2007 to £73,871 last year.

Other financial trends included a drop in the spending on general student services. There was no expenditure on women's support and campaigns last year, as there had been in 2007. On the other hand, the Nightbus and other safety transport received £1000 more

funding than it did in 2007 and Joblink received a drastic income-boost last year, receiving over £8000, much more than 2007's £2000, from LUU.

However, Tuesday's meeting was not simply financial and it also highlighted the recent success of Leeds University Union in other fields. In the past 12 months LUU has won several awards including Gold in the Student's Union Evaluation, the NUS Equality and Diversity award and coming second in the HE Union of the Year award.

The meeting closed with an informal question and answer session in which there were a number of questions raised regarding affiliations to the National Sandwich Association, the National Postgraduate Committee and the NUS. However, only the affiliation to the NSA could be discussed in the meeting as there is a separate meeting for the Postgraduate Committee and the AGM's audience was felt to be too small to discuss the question of withdrawing the affiliation to the National Union of Students.



Photo: Anthony Zupnik

Pro Motion 7: The proposer of the motion and their supporters re-created a landfill of plastic bottles. Free water was given to promote tap water and the benefits of refilling bottles for the environment and the student purse.

Referendum voting opens TODAY:
Friday 28th November until Thursday 4th December.
You can view the motions and vote online at www.luuonline.com/vote or you can cast your vote at one of the many ballot boxes located around the Union building and across campus.

Campus Watch

What's making the headlines at universities around the country.

Tom Knowles

-Gloucestershire-

The University of Gloucestershire's rugby team has been suspended from fixtures until further notice after one of its members threw up on a public bus.

Passengers had to get off the 94 bus travelling from Cheltenham to Gloucestershire after a student was sick after a session of heavy drinking. A full inquiry is to be made into the incident which took place after an initiation ceremony.

Paul Drake of the University of Gloucestershire told the BBC that a small minority had "let down themselves, their fellow students and the University". Mr Drake added: "The University has discussed the matter with the

Student Union and it has been agreed to withdraw the rugby club from all fixtures and associated activities pending a full investigation into their conduct."

Initiation ceremonies have caused trouble for Gloucestershire University in the past. In October the BBC obtained footage of new members of a sports society walking down the street with plastic bags over their head, vomiting and being given orders by a man dressed in a Nazi-style uniform.

Three students in the UK have died in the last five years from initiation ceremonies leading the National Union of Students to call for a total ban on the popular ritual for all universities.

-Sheffield-

A student from Sheffield University has been scarred for life after an argument over a spilled drink erupted into violence.

Emma Wall, a second year Biology student, smashed her head against the floor of Sheffield's University Octagon building when an argument got out of hand at a fancy dress ball.

Emma claims the trouble started when another woman knocked into her and then began complaining that Emma had spilled her drink. A man joined in and when Emma and her boyfriend Dave Whiteside tried to walk away the man reportedly punched Whiteside in the side of the head and pushed him. In the confusion, Emma landed face-

first onto the floor and split her head open. She was taken to hospital, where she received 17 stitches to her forehead and has been left with a permanent Y-shaped scar.

Emma said: "I can't believe that people would behave this way and not accept responsibility for it, but we are going to look through CCTV footage from the night to try to identify them. I see the scar every day - I can't miss it."

The couple have urged any witnesses to come forward and specially designed posters are to be placed around Sheffield University depicting Emma's appearance before and after the attack.

-Cambridge-

A Cambridge University student has controversially posed topless on the historic Clare College Bridge for a student magazine.

The third-year student from Homerton College was photographed wearing a black lace thong and stockings whilst holding a cigarette and straddling Cambridge's oldest bridge. She agreed to pose for the latest edition of Vivid Magazine which is published by a group of students once a term and has a circulation of 5,000 people. It is the first time a student has appeared topless in a University publication and the photo later appeared in several national newspapers. Some readers criticised the 'tacky' and 'disgusting'

page-3 style stunt but many others have now rushed to defend their fellow student.

Natalie Szarek, Women's Officer at Cambridge University Students' Union, said: "We totally support her choice to do this photo. It's entirely up to her what she does and we would never tell an individual what they can or cannot do with their body. It's inconceivable that any action could be taken against her and we would certainly support her in that case."

Both Homerton College and Cambridge University have confirmed they will not take action against the student as Vivid Magazine is an independent publication.

the big debate:

Student Politics

With polls opening on the current referendum, LUU attention is turned to student politics. An essential platform for students to air their views, or a waste of time. This week's Big Debate asks:

Is there a point to student politics?

For student politics

Emily Barran
jh08eb@leeds.ac.uk

MALIGNED BY seemingly everyone, the criticisms levelled at our engine of change are varied and numerous. The most common is one of complete unawareness, beautifully illustrated by recent voting turnouts; most students haven't got a clue what is going on. Our Union Council and its big brother the Exec are, it appears, incapable of letting the average student know how to get involved. Much is put into encouraging voting, but very little into ensuring that the motions that students want to see are there to vote on.

So, why should the average student care about the issues discussed in the coming referendum? Whilst it could be said that some motions hold little direct relevance to the student community, others are completely pertinent. Take, for instance, the motion, 'Should the Union replace bottled water in Union shops with free drinking water facilities?' This motion, whilst perhaps highlighting the wider issue of our culture's unsustainable consumerism, sets out a clear plan of action for a real difference to be made. Perhaps water bottles sold in our union amount to only a small percentage of those sold worldwide, or even nationally, but it is small steps like these that begin change; we may all start to think twice before picking up that bottle of Evian. We can't rely on profit making businesses to effect changes such as these, so why not start in our own 'Not for Profit' Union?

Whilst it could be said that the relevance of issues at hand does vary, another potential problem faced by student politics is its perceived inaccessibility. Recent publicity stunts like the 'Knowledge' sitting room and the now-infamous Globe seem to be a rather expensive plaster for what most people see as the real problem: student apathy.

Is it not a little ironic that this phrase, 'student apathy', has become the buzzword on everyone's lips? Ignorance is taken for indifference and suddenly students are labelled by our media as intellectual and moral drop-outs, happy to let a tireless few shoulder the responsibility, and blame, for running something that apparently we aren't interested in anyway. The avid reinforcement of the 'apathetic student' stereotype may sit uncomfortably with the majority of students who probably don't consider themselves at all apathetic about

political or environmental issues.

If average students do not consider themselves apathetic, then why is there such apparent apathy when it comes to student politics? We are incredibly fortunate to have a fantastic union that provides us all we could desire during our time at Leeds. This is something that really isn't acknowledged enough, especially by those who make a habit of taking easy swipes at the council. Our Union is the way it is thanks to student politics and the students who decided that they were going to make their University better regardless of criticisms or student apathy.

We cannot continue with this contradiction. Either we care, and should act, or we don't, and should remain silent. However easy it is to complain about the system or those who run it, it was us who elected them; either by voting, or far more likely, because we didn't vote. We are all victims of the beast that we forgot to help create.

So what should we do in the current referendum? Callously brush by the ballot box and go back to our lattes and sushi? Or take the hint and get involved? It really is that simple. I am not calling for a return to sit-ins, strikes and demonstrations by the masses, but for everyone to realise that if there is something you feel strongly about, you can try to change it.

For many that won't be enough incentive, hopefully because they are happy and in no need of change. But the level of complaint and the tide of ignorance directed at the union council and the ongoing referendum process indicates that this is not the case. If we make the right demands, we can meld this unwieldy beast into a responsive creature that is a true reflection of all its creators.



Results from last week's poll:

For the opt-out system: 79%

Against the opt-out system: 21%

Don't forget to log on and vote on this week's debate at leedsstudent.org



Illustration by Joe Jerome Newman

Against student politics

Marcus Chippindale
hy07m2c@leeds.ac.uk



IN THE LAST TWO LUU referendums, voter turnout from a student population of over 30,000 has been less than 10% on both occasions, which tells you all you need to know about student politics. There is a clear lack of interest amongst the majority of the student population, who are too busy concentrating on their busy student lifestyle to take notice of the issues at stake.

Voter apathy has been a major concern for several years now as the biannual referendum has consistently failed to get a majority of students involved. In the November 2007 referendum, 2,093 students voted, giving a turnout of around 6%. Bearing this in mind, it can hardly be claimed that the results are representative of the student body. Of course, every member of the LUU is given the opportunity to vote, but if 94% choose not to, clearly there is a fault with the system.

Looking through the motions that have been put forward for this month's referendum reveals part of the problem. Many of these issues, whilst important, are not ones that directly affect the majority of students.

For example, motion 5 asks: 'Should Leeds University Union oppose Gazan rocket attacks on civilians in Southern Israel?' Whilst this is perhaps a worthy cause, it is not one that the average student is concerned with. What difference is it really going to make if LUU does oppose Gazan rocket attacks? Will it have any impact on the situation in the Middle East? Of course it won't.

If future referendums are to draw a greater amount of interest from the student population, then all of the motions that are put forward should be suggesting ideas that will benefit Leeds students. Whilst this

may sound rather self-centred, it is completely true. Students will not vote on issues that do not have a direct impact on them. This does not mean every motion must affect everyone, but there needs to be a degree of relevance.

However, many students do not see the point in voting, even if there is some direct relevance to them. The reason for this is that there is no long-term benefit for the individual. Most students spend three or four years at the University studying for their degree and then leave to seek employment. This means that even if a motion is passed that they support, the chances are that they will only benefit from it for one or two years, which raises the question in many people's minds: 'What's the point?'

Once again this may seem like a rather selfish attitude, but it is undoubtedly one of the reasons why many students will choose not to participate in the upcoming vote. We are not all perfect beings and so do not really consider what impact our actions will have on students arriving at Leeds University in the years after we have left. As a result it is impossible to envisage a situation where large numbers of students will take an active interest in the politics of the University and the LUU.

The most ridiculous fact of all about the LUU referendum is that even if a few thousand students vote in favour of a motion and it is passed, it will not necessarily make any difference. This is because the LUU and the University are two completely separate bodies and act largely independent of each other. So if the LUU passes a motion, it does not mean the University will implement it. For example, motion one asks: 'Should the University avoid academic teaching sessions on a Wednesday afternoon so that students are able to pursue extracurricular activities without jeopardising their academic success?' If this is passed, it will simply mean that LUU will put pressure on the University to alter the timetabling system, which it will have no obligation to do. The motion could pass and there would be no guarantee of change.

Therefore, if only a tiny proportion of students vote, the issues they vote on don't have an impact on them, and if it ultimately makes no difference, then how can anyone claim that this is a worthwhile process?

LS Extra



AIDS

10

LS1 investigates the continuing relevance of World AIDS day

Get a (Second) Life!

In recent weeks there has been more talk than ever surrounding online networking sites like Second Life and World of Warcraft, mainly thanks to the recent divorce ruling between Amy Taylor and David Pollard. Their divorce proceedings may have taken place in a real, brick and mortar courtroom, but the tale of their break up took place in the virtual environment of Second Life. ...



For those of you who have been too engrossed in your first life to know anything about Second Life, the basic premise is that it's a three-dimensional 'world' in which people adopt a virtual identity or 'avatar'. In creating this new character users have complete control over what they look like, what they wear and what they do. The website's users also essentially create the world that their avatars inhabit, meaning that it's constantly evolving and contains almost endless possibilities.

Happily married after having met each other in an online chat room, Taylor and Pollard created their own Second Life avatars and embarked on a virtual life, completely separate from their day-to-day existence. Or so they thought. Taylor's avatar, 'Laura Skye', caught Pollard's avatar, 'Dave Bammy' having an affair with 'Modesty McDonnell', consequently Taylor filed for divorce.

From the moment that the details of this unusual divorce were known, journalists had been clampering to interview the couple involved. However, after Taylor and Pollard continuously rejected requests from the press, it took a group of journalists from South West News to actually create their own avatars and get to know the pair's avatars in Second Life before a deal was made.

One of the reasons that many people

find Taylor and Pollard's case so bizarre is that they wouldn't necessarily classify these sorts of relationships that are formed online as being 'real' relationships. It's worth asking, though, how much less these relationships offer than a non-virtual one would. In terms of the support, guidance and communication that most of us would look for in a friendship it would seem that users of sites like Second Life find these characteristics in their virtual friendships. You might have reservations about the quality of communication via instant messaging or computer microphones versus real, face-to-face conversation, but nevertheless an online friendship might be almost as, if not just as, rewarding as a 'real' one.

When it comes to romantic relationships formed online, the definition seems even more blurred. Aren't there parts of what constitutes a romantic relationship that couldn't possibly be recreated in an online environment? Here, we might draw a comparison with long-distance relationships: few people would doubt that they could almost always be classed as 'real' and similar to virtual relationships they are characterised by a lack of physical contact, relying on other forms of communication and technology to stay in touch. Still though, a long-distance relationship in normal circumstances differs in a major way from

those built on Second Life: on Second Life you are not dating, or even engaged to, Joe from Swindon, but rather his much better looking and more confident avatar. So perhaps the extent to which you're not getting to know a real person – and that they are only getting to know a contrived, virtual version of you – seriously limits how much we might want to call these relationships 'real'.

Yet another grey area that stems from all of this – one which is particularly relevant in Taylor and Pollard's case – is the question of what counts as cheating if you are caught having an affair within one of these online worlds. It seems fairly obvious that this will depend on the nature of your non-Second Life relationship: different real-life partners would handle differently the prospect of you purchasing Second Life genitals (yes, that's how it works) and going off to find a nice avatar to have some fun with. I spoke to one person who argued that having an affair on Second Life alongside a real life partner could actually be quite healthy for your relationship, surely it's less harmful than venting feelings with a real person, in the real world? It still occurs to me though, that a relationship on a site like Second Life shows at least some emotional detachment from your real life partner, making it more tempting to



classify it as cheating.

Lots of couples have a different idea of what constitutes cheating in day-to-day life, so it follows that there's no reason why Second Life should be any clearer cut. Whether or not David Pollard thought that his actions as 'Dave Bammy' meant that he was cheating on his real-life wife, she obviously did. And maybe that's all that matters.

Emillie Ruston



Photos: Melissa Black

“The more people talk about safe sex the more acceptable it becomes, and it is this method that will ultimately change attitudes.”

AIDS: THE UNMENTIONABLES

Monday 1st December is World AIDS day, so LS1 explores the facts about HIV and discovers why AIDS is still an important and relevant issue for today’s generation of students...

At may be easy to condemn them as a cheap source of entertainment and bad acting, television soaps have been instrumental in shaping public attitudes to certain social issues. For the majority of current students born in the 80s, Eastenders’ depiction of Mark Fowler- from his contraction of HIV in 1991 until his death from an AIDS related illness in 2004- accompanied our growing up. In its position at the centre of a hugely wide-reaching programme, the storyline’s

most positive effect was to seriously reduce the pre-conception of AIDS as solely related to homosexuality, promiscuity, and intravenous drug-use. Writers of the programme worked closely with the Terrence Higgins Trust, one of the leading HIV charities in the country that, along with other organisations such as the NAT and Stop AIDS, continue to work for increased awareness and knowledge of AIDS, as well as support for those living with the virus.

Sexual health is an issue continually drummed into the minds of students. One in ten are infected with Chlamydia, a statistic often paraded around Leeds University campus which was the result of a survey conducted between 2006 and 2007 in which 14,939 young adults were screened outside of a GUM clinic setting. Young adults account for the majority of Chlamydia cases in the UK, as in 2006 they made up 65% of diagnoses. Although not as common as

something like Chlamydia- usually easily treated with antibiotics- the HIV virus currently has no known cure. The Terrence Higgins Trust states that in 2006 there were 745 new diagnoses of HIV in young adults which made up 11% of all new diagnoses, and contributed to a total of 2,228 young adults currently accessing care for an HIV infection. Although much less common than curable STIs, the incurable nature of HIV clearly means it is a relevant concern for



Sunday 30th November

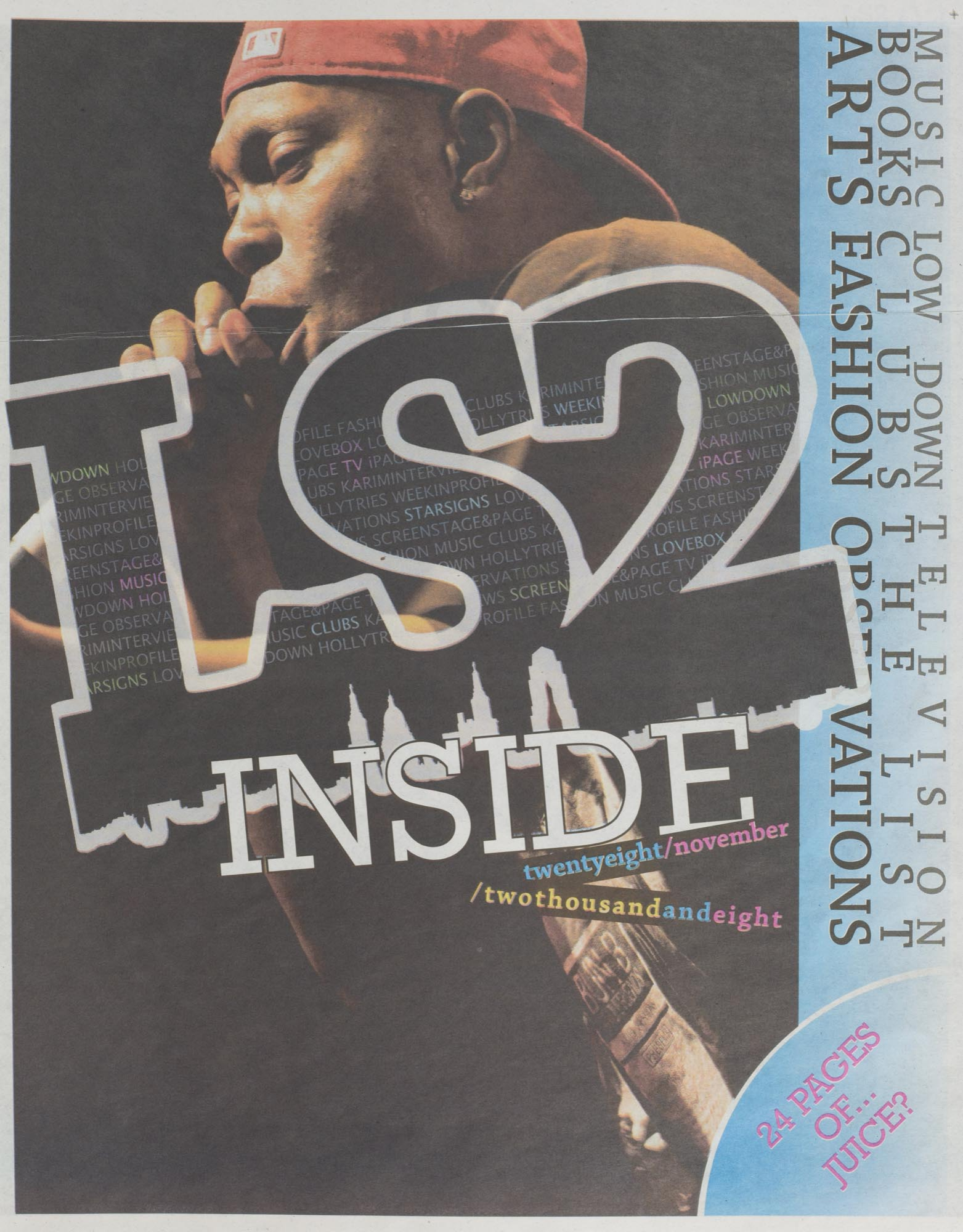
6pm All Hallows Church on Regent Terrace in Hyde Park will be holding a memorial and remembrance service for World Aids Day

Monday 1st December

10am- 4pm There will be a Sexual Health Stall Info Point by the grass outside the Union with GI Johnny volunteers, T-shirts, ribbons, action cards, UNA Krisp Cream, and LSRFM HIV related talk on the radio
12-3pm Red balloon ‘Spread the word’ stunt outside Union-£20 prize for furthest balloon
7.30-10pm Focus Africa Film night on HIV and related issues in the Peanut Gallery

Tuesday 2nd December

10am- 4pm Sexual Health Stall Info Point
12-3pm Chlamydia Testing Session Meeting Room 2
All Day Take one for the Team Initiative



MUSIC
BOOKS
ARTS
LOW
CULTURE
FASHION
DOWN
TELEVISION
OPERATIONS

INSIDE

twentyeight/november
/twothousandandeight

24 PAGES
OF...
JUICE?



LS 2

CONTENTS

3/	The Low Down
4/	The List: 12 Hyde Park Highlights
6/	Fashion
8/	Music
11/	Society Spotlight: Sign Language
12/	Lifestyle: Eating Out Special
14/	Clubs
16/	Arts
18/	Books
19/	TV
23/	Observations

The LOW DOWN

with Kazim and Alicia

and Lady Rebecca



Going up



Finding an amazing new track/band/group

I guess we all hear new songs all the time (advert, the iPod of the guy sitting next to you), but it's a special thing to hear a song for the first time, and actually feel your mind being blown. FYI, Santogold. You'll find a Way. Switch and Sinden Remix. Oh my fucking Goodness.

Indulging in those little pleasures in life

It actually improves the quality of my whole day when I drink some juice out of the fridge straight from the carton. Or when I use the toilet without locking the door. Or when I steal a lollipop from a small child. Or general things of that nature. Never fear, these things vary from person to person, so don't be thinking your some sort of weirdo if you don't enjoy the same things.

Hearing snippets of passing peoples' conversations.

And I quote "...I woke up covered in vomit" and "I thought I'd had a shower but I hadn't washed my face and hair wasn't wet, so I guess I didn't..." There are some real intellectual and inspiring minds walking around this great institution that we lovingly call Uni.

Wearing extremely short shorts with tights and Ugg boots in an earnest effort to keep warm.

Now I'm not some sort of genius, but this combination of garments just doesn't equal 'snug' to me. If your shivering dear, perhaps a pair of trousers might do something to help.

Reebok Workouts/ Freestyles.

Now that they're officially 'trendy' everyone and their mums have 'em. I mean literally - I saw a lady wearing them who had to have had at least two kids judging by the 'I'm on the school run and am therefore stressed and didn't have enough time to brush my hair' look about her. And despite having had them for an age I find myself lumped in the 'Look! Another foot clone!' category. Uncool.

Going down



Lowdown... Divas

This week's Lowdown is an extra special one, very close to my heart. To be a Diva, Diva-edge, Divanation or Diva-ing as it can also be known refers to a type or form of behaviour usually only performed by folk of a certain media persuasion. The meaning of Diva is also closely related to Primadonna, which is often defined as an egotistical, irritable, and unreasonable person with a rather high opinion of themselves not shared by others. For example, Barbara Streisand, the women famed for her well-endowed nose and excruciating voice, once asked someone to do something about all the light whilst she was on set. The light she was referring to was actually the sun. Mariah Carey once booked every penthouse suite in Claridges so she could ensure absolute privacy whilst she stayed at the Hotel. TIME Magazine even featured an article in 2002 on The New Diva Disease. Admittedly, it is not a new phenomenon, this 'Diva' business, but I have recently been exposed to a few expressions of Divanation myself.

Divanation, or Diva-ing as it can also be known, refers to a type or form of behaviour usually only performed by folk of a certain media persuasion.

For those of you who don't already know, in my spare time (which, I might add, is becoming more and more sparse), I am a club promoter and sometime internationally acclaimed world famous DJ (and keen exaggerator). I recently had a club event with a DJ from Detroit. He's not exactly Carl Craig but pretty big on the underground dance music club circuit. We didn't get off to the best start; he ended up asking me for another hotel room because he did not want to sleep with his manager, which I understand because his manager was a total wanker, but when I book a DJ I do not book a DJ and a manager. I was aware that I would have to supply the DJ with somewhere to stay, but was not aware I would also have to supply his Diva

manager with a room. Before we go any further, I'd like to add that both the DJ and manager were actually nice people; they just wanted to get as much out of us as possible through their Divanation. The last straw was when his manager asked for a bottle of vodka for the DJ because 'he only drinks vodka'. Who only drinks vodka? My reply was 'no' because there was actually two buckets of chilled beers behind the DJ booth for his oral pleasure. The issue was resolved when the manager, after consulting the DJ decided that he did, in fact, drink more than vodka. Surprise, surprise.

The next incident is concerning a slightly better-known singer songwriter. Let's just say he was the biggest thing in the country in 1998, was claimed to be the saviour of British Soul music, but instead decided to 'get into drugs' instead of saving our fair Isle's music. This particular act of Diva-edge came in the form of an 'online chat' with my partner and co-promoter. Essentially, the story goes that this particular singer/songwriter wanted an advance on all his fees even though he hadn't produced an invoice or signed a contract. With the knowledge of the artists penchant for crack-cocaine (there's a clue) we declined his offer. He then told us to 'shove the gig up our arse'. Yeah, that's right, he told us to shove a 1,000 person venue and a 10 piece support act up our asses.

Kazim Rashid

I would like to have seen you try shoving that up your arse. As I don't come into contact with these people who encompass such diva-like symptoms (due to my lack of 'connections in the music industry') I don't hold any first hand experience unlike yourself, Kazim. So the only thing I can offer to this article is my tuning in to the popular ITV program entitled 'Divas,' which I'm ashamed to say I thoroughly enjoy. I envy their fluidity between octaves and seemingly effortless captivation of an audience with a wink of one heavily masked eye. I would also like to thank in particular Mariah Carey for her contribution to the emergence of the term

'diverage.' I think we've all seen the cribs episode where she stalks around her ten million pound estate casually slipping into innumerable different ensembles from her revolving wardrobe before finally submerging herself in the hot tub; she's such a slut...or a suggestive slut. Tales fly around the music industry of her

But then there's the obscure requests, like James Brown's demand for 'two girls under the age of 21 and a lady's hair dryer'

outrageous requests prior to gigs. These divas have historically extended their fame by their ridiculous requests to make themselves at home in their dressing rooms. These usually run along the lines of prodigious amounts of alcohol and as many mirrors as they can get their hands on. But then there's the obscure requests, like James Brown's demand for 'two girls under the age of 21 and a ladies hair dryer'. Ha-ha, I just can't see how these could be used in combination. Maybe I'm being naive.

Mariah Carey, prior to performing in London, appealed for crystallized champagne, an attendant to dispose of her used chewing gum and a puppy. Puppies are for life, not just for a gig! She has also achieved notoriety for her entreaties and has even been caught using wet wipes to sanitize after touching fans.

When you do reduce the term Diva to its original definition despite its gender bias, I can draw parallels with certain elements of your characteristics. Despite your monotone singing voice, getting your girlfriend to remove spiders from the bedroom speaks volumes, and I'd bet you'd love nothing more than a revolving wardrobe. This isn't necessarily a bad thing though; it just highlights your tendencies to hone traditional female conventions. Which is why I think our relationship works so well: I enjoy being able to ring you and discuss what to wear and confabulate the latest pop star scandal.

Alicia Michael

Overheard...

Keeping your ear to the ground can often prove weirdly entertaining (and result in some sideways glances).

"That guys got a gun! Are you a body guard? I'm not scared of you." - Leeds youths interrogating Jack Straw's bodyguard. / "Can you believe he tried to send me a saucy text at that time in the night? He could've at least knocked on my door, or left it till morning." - Girl in Hyde Park at 10a.m to friend / "People tell you to be balanced in newspaper articles. Bullshit. If one guy tells you it's raining and another tells you it's sunny, you don't report both guys statements. You go outside and find out what the bloody weather's like and tell the guy who told you it's raining to piss off!" - Lecturer in investigative journalism tells it straight / "Do you ever look at somebody at just think: that person could be a vampire." - Californian girl in reflective mood after eating lunch in Refectory /

12

HYDE PARK HIGHLIGHTS

It comes as a surprise to some that there is life beyond Subway and Oceana in Leeds, which is why we have made a list of reasons to get out there and have a wander through the glorious hippy slums of Hyde Park. Nestled into various corners, alleyways, nooks and crannies there are cafes, bars, pubs, shops, takeaways (and even a cinema) with exotic cuisine to suit many different tastes. We've highlighted twelve aspects of Hyde Park that we think are worth a look...

1. **LS6: Legendary student hangout**

Those well-acquainted with Leeds will be familiar with this particular haunt on Headingley Lane, but for freshers out there, you might not realise how much of an institution LS6 has become. If you are a cool, quirky student, you will be found here eating curly fries and playing board games. And if you're really obsessed, you'll be one of those people walking around wearing the LS6 hoodie.

2. **10% off at La Besi**

Situated behind The Library pub, there are lots of great deals to choose from here (which means there's no reason not to visit). From delicious pastas to tasty calzones you can be sure you'll leave this place feeling satisfied without spending a lot of money. Don't be put off by the misleading exterior, the food is great and the staff are lovely. For your 10% discount, visit www.sugarvine.com and search for La Besi. (Don't forget to bring your own wine).



3. **The Mega Breakfast at Popinas**

For £6.20 you can take on the most delicious, gargantuan, and just plain obscene full English breakfast this side of Neptune. Three sausages, three rashers of bacon, three eggs, two hash browns, mushrooms, tomatoes, two slices of fried bread, black pudding, tea or coffee, baked beans and toast means this is not for the slight of heart, or the small of stomach. As I write this, only 78 guys and 6 girls have actually completed it. Be warned.

4. **Cheap Rice at the International Supermarket**

"Rice prices have really soared lately", says a member of staff. I was unaware of the current rice crisis but nonetheless this would be the place to go to satisfy all your rice needs. In fact there's pretty much everything you need here to make yourself a good meal and it's all impressively cheap. Instead of spending some of your hard-earned student loan in Morrisons this week, try doing your shop here - you'll be surprised.



9.

The Hyde Park Picture House

This is as retro a cinema as you can get in England, and you will love it if you're partial to the odd art house film instead of the latest splurge of crappy rom coms starring Vince Vaughn. I'm not saying it doesn't show mainstream films (it does), but you get a variety of lesser known films that just can't be found at the bloodsucking corporate juggernauts like Odeon.

5. Cheap Drinks at Hyde Park Social Club

Feeling a little bored? There's plenty going on here: take advantage of the ridiculously cheap drinks offers (bottled beers £1, Jagerbombs £2), play pool, abuse the free wi-fi, or just chill out with your friends at the DJ nights, quiz nights or sports nights. Yearly membership at this establishment will cost you just £2, which you'll probably make back from the drinks deals anyway.

6. Yummy healthy dinner at Moorish

If you want to eat a bit more healthily and try something different, get yourselves to Moorish. It offers quality food without the grease and dripping fat that a lot of places in Hyde Park offer. With a focus on healthy, North African and Arabic food it has several awards for their presence at festivals such as The Big Chill and Bestival under its belt. They'll also be catering at Glastonbury and plan to expand the business and start delivering their food to your door. Get yourselves there!

7. Live Bands at Brudenell Social Club

Into your live music? This is the place to go in Leeds for up and coming bands in an intimate, no-nonsense venue. Some big bands have played here as well in the last few years (The Cribs, Franz Ferdinand, Kaiser Chiefs anyone?). It's cheap, it's unpretentious, get involved.

8. Monday Nights at Hukaz

This place boasts some tasty food that's washed down well with a few beers (three for a fiver, if you're asking), all on sofas so comfortable that, with the right blend of laziness, you may actually never leave. Every other Monday it hosts the delightfully named Chunky Butt Funky, blasting out their own special recipe of eclectic jazzy funk mash-up music, an event not to be missed.

10. Buffet at Barakas

£6, all you can eat Moroccan food, what more could you possibly want? Well for two quid more you can bring in as much of your own booze as you like and get (South African accent) 'absolutely smeshed'. The cosy, North African flavoured surroundings and chilled, bassie beats complete one of the ultimate places to get fed and chill out. The owner Faz is a character as well.

11. £4.75 for a kilo of chicken breast at Abu Bakar

What more is there to say? Working out at around £9.00 a kilo at Sainsburys, this is a decent deal by most people's standards. Apparently chickens are so depressed by the credit crunch they just aren't breeding nowadays (dipping share prices are a turnoff for them). So with less of them around they are all more expensive than usual now. Probably.

12. Karaoke Nights at the Royal Park Pub

If you often find yourself inflicting your best Whitney Houston impression upon unsuspecting housemates/boyfriends/girlfriends/strangers, then you'll feel right at home on Monday or Friday nights at the Royal Park. Before you wow your friends with your secret inner x-factor, suppress your performance anxiety with a game of pool and a few bevies. Your friends may need alcohol as well, to ease the pain of listening to you butchering 'Bohemian Rhapsody' like a pissed uncle at a wedding.



Swinging London: The 60's issue

Monochrome mini's versus psychedelic scarfs, cropped hair versus long hanging hippie hair, knee high socks and polo necks, just some of the fashion highlights of our favourite fashion decade that we celebrate this week in our first photo shoot, enjoy!



Of all of the generations throughout history which continue to have a strong influence on today's culture, few eras can compare to the impact of the 60's. Whether it is an era best known for being one of political activity and outspoken views, the 60's altered the country's political and cultural landscape as well as laying claim to a strong influence on fashion. Talent was the prerequisite to success in the 1960's with musical talent reaching an all time climax which, it can be debated, has never reached since. For the first time in history, the youth became the leaders of fashion, setting the scene for new and radically innovative styles, with little girl woman androgynous looks for women that swept away the sophisticated sweater girls of the early sixties.

In the early 60's, fashion was heavily influenced by the beach themed movies of Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello. The bikini was born and its popularity sky rocketed. The fashion of the early 60's echoed that of the 50's and it was not until later that a shift to a more risqué, and less conservative, look eventually led to the invention of the mini-skirt, that would rise to popularity in the late 1960's and continues to have an enduring popularity today. The 60's was a key era for the rock and roll genre of music and an ever-growing popularity of these bands meant that popular fashion would, to a certain extent, mimic the style exemplified by the rock stars on stage. Psychedelic rock bands from San Francisco became extremely influential and through the combined anti-war sentiment they expressed and their belief in creating a utopian society, the hippy look developed and became a staple of 60s fashion.

The popularity of flared jeans, tied-dyed t-shirts, and paisley printed garments would become the norm in late 60s fashion. This look continues to be popular today with Joss Stone, Kate Moss and Sienna Miller exemplifying the modern bohemian look. For women, 60's fashion did not mean an end to sophistication with many women drawing inspiration from the classy look of Jacqueline Kennedy. Particularly popular for women in 60's fashion was the emergence of the pillbox hat. The leaders of mid 60's style were, without doubt, the British. With Carnaby Street and the Kings Road functioning as virtual fashion parades, in 1967, the space age was replaced by the Edwardian.

The men would be seen wearing double-breasted suits of crushed velvet, brocade waistcoats and shirts with frilled collars. It was infamous musician Brian Jones who forefronted this look and, as a member of the Rolling Stones, he was looked to as a style icon by thousands of men. Glam-rock also permeated the male fashion scene in the 60's and with a make-up covered David Bowie at the head of it, men flocked to follow. Women drew influence from top models of the day, Twiggy, Jean Shrimpton, Penelope Tree, and Veruschka.

False eyelashes and pale lips reined throughout the pages of Vogue and hemlines kept rising until by 1968, they had reached well above mid-thigh. The popular dress of the time was commonly referred to as the 'angel' dress which can be described as a micro-mini with

flared skirt, and long, wide sleeves. It was most often worn with boots, patterned tights, and was often seen in a variety of lace, velvet or cotton with a psychedelic print. High end designers began to emerge with innovative designs, featuring outrageous patterns, and fashion gradually became a form of visual expression. There were specific designers who deserve special mention for their contribution to the development of fashion in this period...

Pierre Cardin

... whose trademark innovative designs stretched across both men and women's wear including high boots, collarless jackets, and target emblazoned mini shift dresses featured in luminous colours.

André Courrèges

... some hail him as the true creator of the "mini" skirt, he brought us the go-go boot and established the triangle shaped shift dress as the defining silhouette for the 60s. Flat white shoes or boots with cigarette pants were dominant in Courrèges looks. And in the mid 60s it was the French designer who was responsible for the introduction of the 'space look'. This referred to trouser suits, box shaped dresses, white boots and goggle-like eyewear. These were all crafted out of PVC and sequins.

Mary Quant

... One of the most famed 60's designers, she is credited with having created mass hype around the "mini" skirt. With typical Quant look featuring mini skirt, leather boots and bright opaque tights it would be finished with false eyelashes and a blunt bob haircut.

Givenchy

... Helping to redefine 60's style by dressing one of its most famous style icons, Audrey Hepburn, both on and off screen, Givenchy can boast of dressing Hepburn in classic film 'Breakfast at Tiffany's', designing a collection of black dresses.

Pucci

... in the 60s these prints were one of the most signature items of clothing. Producing brightly coloured headscarves and dresses, Pucci was at the forefront of the psychedelic prints of the hippy fashion.

Artsy, folkly, laid back and peaceful are four words which can be used in reference to the hippie fashions and attitudes of the 1960s and 70s. In the 1960s, the country went through an overload of hippie influences from the Mamas and the Papas, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. The bright and feminine bohemian look which permeates through the 60's is one of the most dominant fashions to ever have originated and is one which will continue to dominate in Summer collections for years to come. There is a distinctly special feel to the 60's, whether it is simply an element of admiration of the freedom and peace that permeated the society, or whether one is still blown away by the sheer musical talent which emerged. With the British at the forefront, the sixties is an era where fashion, politics and music prospered. It was a legendary period.



Make-up/ Hayley Rebecca Meredith

Photography/ Ben Eagle

Stylists/ Alexandra Haddow & Hannah Vasdekys

RECORDINGS/

singles

Tallulah Rendall 'Lay Me Down' (?)



'Lay Me Down' is clearly the product of an eclectic mix of influences and muses, with hauntingly ethereal falsettos and reverberant, tenebrous guitar voicings of Buckley, plus something in the way of Madeline Peyroux in vocal timbre. It would be easy to predict this song as being a big hit amongst middle-class women. (7)

words/ simon rowbotham

My American Heart 'There Are More Frightening Things' (Bodog)



Jagged guitar riffs dominate, with the only pause being an almost predictably contemplative bridge in the middle of the song. A fast-paced track boasting memorable choruses, 'There Are More Frightening Things' could find success among fans of emo and alternative rock, if only because the sound is already so comfortable and familiar. (5)

words/ yasmin prebble

James Morrison 'Broken Strings' (featuring Nelly Furtado) (Polydor)

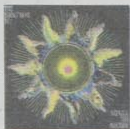


James Morrison produces another ambitious, innovative track, wowing fans and critics alike with his diverse songwriting and poetic genius. Except he doesn't really. 'Broken Strings' sounds like every other emotionally overcharged,

Backstreet Boys-inspired ballad that he's released. Nelly Furtado singing the harmonies at least provides some variation. (4)

words/ tim gallagher

The Shortwave Set 'Glitches 'n' Bugs' (Wall of Sound)



Nothing bad can be said about this inoffensive, indie-pop record, although nothing exceptional emerges, either; signs of 'nu-psychedelia' and vocals mirroring those of Emma Pollock (The Delgados) generate warmth for the bleak winter ahead, although this could ensure that it will have to wait for its time to shine. (5)

words/ martin burke

Gloria Cycles 'No Zeros' (Wendy Bikes)



Ferociously banal indie-rock; tired riffs and exhausted melodies are wheeled out for one more turn before they cough and die. An uncanny ability to get stuck in your head is aided by lyrics as simultaneously annoying and nonsensical as the Frosties adverts. (2)

words/ simon rowbotham

Gallery 47 [breakfast at the clinic] EP (self-released)

A quantity of localised but intensive hype surrounds this hand-sewn package. Played by relatively few, but adored unreservedly by those who listen, Jack Peachey has authored an eclectic spread of EPs, one-offs, monochrome photographs and tea bags. This offering might be his most ambitious.

Sharing an uncompromisingly noisy post-rock aesthetic with 2007's *A Typing Error*, the EP might be accused of anthemics by a lazier critic, but the technique is trickier than that. It is precisely through the distinct voices that surface through the almost stream-of-consciousness lyrical texture that the Gallery 47 project maintains its subjectivity. Nothing here could really be described as 'singalong', yet something intangibly universal pervades the screams. The



style is almost Pointillist: meaning is located not in the single, lyrical brushstrokes, but in an indirect impression of the emotional flux from which the narratives are abstracted.

Not that the songs aren't easy to get inside. The free-indirect style of 'News Report_02' surrenders such glasses of freezing water as 'so she cheated, but didn't let him come on her face/ such lovely skin; it would be a waste', whose

album of the week

bitterness is acutely accessible. Sonically, meanwhile, the record is surprisingly enjoyable: the walls of sound are cathartic; while the fragmented structures take the listener on a journey, without breaking the spell.

Reminding us that he is endowed with something of an impressive voice, Peachey kicks off by self-doubting his way through 'An Empty Room'. An acoustically backed falsetto growing into something triumphant in its rain-soaked dislocation, the song climaxes not with a resolution but with its highest degree of dissonance. Paradoxically, this is comforting; for such vocal acrobatics to land on a major seventh makes the melodic line rather satisfyingly tragic.

In fact, 'satisfyingly tragic' would be quite a good tagline for the entire enterprise - imperfect, unpolished, cracked, but immediate. The only criticism is that Gallery 47 cannot do everything in five tracks, which leaves the faster-paced, fully scored textures of the 'Logic 3 Starfighter' single untapped; similarly, nothing here rivals 'Himalaya', although to expect the best song of the decade every six months would be a bit demanding. Release an LP already. (8)

words/ ramzy alwakeel

more albums

NICKELBACK

Nickelback Dark Horse (Roadrunner)



Roadrunner claims that *Dark Horse* is 'the most anticipated rock album of the year'. This is, of course, hilariously wide of the mark (*Chinese Democracy* having finally made its way out of the mutant quagmire of W. Axl's creative psyche) but Nickelback, while best known for their hooky pop-rock singles, are secretly an angry, misogynistic power-quartet. 'Something in Your Mouth', for instance, is remarkably reminiscent of GnR's 'Anything Goes' in its fuming chauvinism. Conversely, 'S.E.X.' is like a sample from the soundtrack of a back alley porno (a really good one, but a B.A.P. nonetheless). Like Guns n' Roses twenty years ago, Nickelback are straddling popularity and credibility with impressive candour.

But, for various reasons, GnR never really achieved their full potential - they argued, lost focus, and finally fell to pieces. Axl Rose's modern facsimile is one option for bereft fans of the band, but I would like to take this opportunity to put forward Nickelback as an alternative. *Dark Horse* is the album GnR would have released this year if things had gone better for them; it has the raw attitude of *Appetite for Destruction*, and the exquisite songwriting on parts of *Use Your Illusion*. Chad Kroeger's voice, while affected and irritating on the more 'pop' songs, is haunting and stark on others. The riffs are cooler and more rocking than anything Metallica have written in decades, and the songs are simply so well written that, but for the potty mouthedness and the flagrant sexism, they could feature in the next *High School Musical*.

Any fan of rock music would do well to get behind Nickelback. They could easily be the figurehead band of a new generation. (8)

words/ george reece

Fighter/Lover Nature's Alive (and the City's Dead) (Idiots!)



This five-track EP in, in all honesty, awesome. With dirty electro beats, whimsical synthesised melodies, and a distinctive vocal mixed into the mash of music, Fighter/Lover are quickly becoming more than 'just another band'. While drawing heavily on influences such as Bloc Party, MGMT, Ladytron and others alike, this Canadian duo seem very capable of producing club fillers on their little keyboards, Macs, synths and other 'instruments'.

However, several parts of this self-titled EP could use a bit more drive - most noticeably, the middle of 'Girl from the North Pole', which is just plain boring, as Fighter/Lover overuse the same licks and lullabies without much else to fill in the gaps. Not to say they don't have their moments: the pumping chorus of 'Talking Out of Turn' just makes the listener want to dance. Indeed, the band show a lot of diversity in five songs, from simple flutters of drum n' bass mixed with heavy bass lines to just-plain-weird tunes to rave one's mismatched socks off to; there's even a Samba drum part tucked in there as well, presumably for more of a 'world' feel. (They are from Canada, after all.)

Opening track 'Midnight, Midnight' hits the ears with a vibrant array of playful sounds, with lyrics stating how annoying it is to have 'twelve o'clock classes'. The songs here may lack some 'meaning', but the dynamic qualities of each track make this a great EP, and pave the way for future albums. Two bored Canadians can make gold from a keyboard, a bass and a Macintosh, yet Celine Dion is allowed to carry on making music. There has to be a balance, after all. (7)

words/ jack mcgregor

The Fireman Electric Arguments (One Little Indian)



15 years ago, an album of ambient electronica titled *Strawberries Oceans Ships Forest* surfaced under the cryptic moniker The Fireman. Quickly, it was confirmed to be the work of Paul McCartney and producer Youth. After a further LP in 1998, the act have returned.

Of all the ex-Beatles, McCartney has perhaps been given the toughest time by fans. Granted, being shot to death at the age of 40 probably isn't much fun either, but at least Lennon was given the opportunity to burn out rather than fade away. McCartney has received bad reviews and sales for decades, despite experimentation with New Wave, mash-ups and classical music.

This LP, however, is being called the closest thing to the Beatles he's ever done. *Electric Arguments* is certainly no time capsule, but neither is it just a collection of sound collages that the duo plan on allowing to fade into obscurity. All but one of the tracks have lyrics, the band are doing interviews, and the Screamedelic cover art finally has their names 'scrawled across the bottom.

Electric Arguments is not so much a return to form as a return to many of the forms in which its creators used to dabble. Opener 'Nothing Too Much Just Out of Sight' erupts out of the speakers with bluesy harmonica, loud howling, and fuzzy bass, but is followed immediately by the stripped down, acoustic 'Two Magpies'. By the end of the hour-long record, we've also been treated to gospel and psychedelia.

Almost every song sees McCartney taking the spotlight, but it's doubtful that he can play all those instruments on his own, and his experimental thirst is evidently quenched by having Youth around. (8)

words/ luke fear



GUEST/ lizzie edmonds

The Whip Cockpit 13/11/08

Electro-indie 'nu rave' is pretty common nowadays and unfortunately many do it badly. Without pushing yourself it is easy to list countless bands with 'witty' names that have tried and ultimately failed to woo any more than a handful of pubescent 15-year-olds who have got caught up in the NME hype. Fortunately for those who have paid to be in the Cockpit tonight the headliners are certainly not just another generic 'Electronica/Pop/Disco/House' band, as they call themselves on their MySpace. No, instead they are an eccentric fusion of zealous drumming and electric beats, with a gritty, Manchester accent layered over the top. Think New Order without the depression and you're not a million miles away.

Of course, you should never judge a book by its cover and all that, but just by looking at the impressive wall of machinery surrounding synth

man Danny Saville it is fairly clear that they mean business, a first impression that is immediately justified. If you took Morse code and put it on some kind of performance enhancing steroid then you would probably



come out with something that sounds very similar to the Whip's opening track 'Muzzle No.1', a song with a hypnotic, repetitive beat that doesn't seem to get boring, no matter how long it goes on for, especially when the understated vocals of Bruce Carter come in to the mix. And that's not to say that the Whip would be rubbish without the vocals of Carter,

as they prove brilliantly in the epic five minute long instrumental 'Divebomb', a track that starts off moody and melodic as it gradually builds up into a fantastic meltdown of synths, bass and drums. The set continues in a spectacular robotic fashion with singles 'Blackout' and in particular 'Sister Siam', an anthem full to the brim with bleeps and spacey vocal effects.

If there is any issue with the set at all then it would only be that the band seem to take great pleasure in teasing the audience with song openings that sound remarkably like 'Trash', which is, as good as the Whip are tonight, probably the main reason that the majority of the audience are here. Predictably it is the second and final song of the encore and it is definitely worth every second of the wait. Yet another prolonged probing introduction is finally broken by a casual series of, 'I wanna's', before culminating into an electronic explosion which whips (no pun intended) the crowd into an unqualified frenzy. It caps off an excellent gig from a band that, with any luck and justice, will be one of the few current indie electro set ups that are remembered for something more than simply having a ridiculous name. (9)

words/ stuart mitchell

more gigs

Ladytron Cockpit 14/11/08



I'm not sure what the Cockpit is more famous for, the surly and quite frankly scary bouncers, or the forever-bass-heavy sound system, that shakes the foundations to their very core and generally cause palpitations in the more faint of heart. Walking up the stairs and into the main room we are hit by a crowd so tightly packed within the army barrack-style hall that any thoughts of getting to the front are immediately extinguished. Fortunately, Ladytron appear very soon after our arrival, kick-starting the show with the repetitive yet ambient 'Black Cat' and encouraging the adolescent scenerists surrounding us to whimper with excitement. Following this is the explosive, crowd pleaser 'Runaway', a track one would perhaps expect later on in the set, perhaps even as an encore.

Unfortunately, Ladytron seem to burn themselves out following their fifth and most famous tune 'Seventeen': a beat-solid melodic electro anthem which has undoubtedly become ringtone fodder on countless thousands of teenage mobile phones. Other favourites include 'Ghosts', 'Seasons' and 'Dateline', but a combination of poor sound quality (excluding the bass and drums) coupled with a less than interesting performance from dual female singers - Helen Marrie and Miro Aroyo - lead to a dwindling interest from several dozen punters, probably opting to leave early and catch the end of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here. It would seem Ladytron are a great band to listen to either at home, in a club, or at a party, where other styles can dilute the less favourable tracks on the playlist, but live, Ladytron are a little less disappointing than finding out Santa doesn't exist! (4)

words/ jack mcgregor

The Automatic Stylus 16/11/08



Cool is a funny thing. You can learn all about it by listening to Free's *My Brother Jake* or Tom Waits's *Blue Valentines*. You can learn all about its opposite by watching the Automatic. From the balding audience to the front-man's manbreasts, everything screams, "leave while you still can!" Quite apart from the fact that self-aggrandising intensity is deeply uncool, the music that the Automatic appear so earnest about is nerdy (but not with a capital 'N'). I've rarely heard a drummer with less rhythm, and seldom seen so human a singer. You're the front-man of a rock band fagodsake. You should be superhuman; you should make all the girls want you and all the guys want to be you.

Now, as we know, being uncool isn't the end for a band; a proportion of the record-buying public is shamefully uncool (otherwise Phil Collins wouldn't still be successful). It seems that in this case, however, our valiant anti-heroes are drowning in a pool of wet-look hair gel, screaming for their mothers. The audience tonight barely numbers thirty, and that's two years after the first hit single. The Automatic should be reaching the height of their retro-trendy phase; the club should be a sardine tin of nineteen-year-olds trying to recapture their lost something. But they're not, and it's not. The problem seems to be that word has got out among the indie lot that the Automatic aren't cool, and that ruins everything if you're an indie band. If the Automatic were a metal band they'd be fine. Cool simply doesn't matter in metal, where there's a critical mass of uncool people perpetuating their own subculture. Indie is different. Cool is all they got, and the Automatic don't get it at all. (1)

words/ george reece

Fucked Up Cockpit 18/11/08



Fucked Up are yet another hardcore band that NME have suddenly started sleeping with in order to prove an indie-orientated magazine can like punk music. But, up first tonight are Leeds' own lads Geoffrey Oil/Cott. Oil/Cott are something of a caricature of Oil music: lyrics include "Welcome to Yorkshire...where we drink the most" and "Lager before women" in the style of the 4-Skins and Cock Sparrer. They don't push boundaries as more cement them. Let's Wrestle, are up next, and soon wear thin. They seem to fit in the Rezillos/Big in Japan/The Fall/new wave/post-punk brood. The singer's voice has a certain geek rock insecurity and simply isn't very intoxicating.

Then, Fucked Up fuck up the whole night: in a good way. Lead singer Pink Eyes marches up and down the Brudenell, clambering over seats and tables like a huge adventure playground. Kids are jumping all over him like he's a miserable uncle or. Pink Eyes catches his breath now and then and relays us with surreal anecdotes about the Presidential election, missing children and Alice Glass' poor punk credentials. The sound is simple punk made heavier by the three guitars (and bass) played at blaring speed. Pink Eyes' vocals are solid enough, barking and confident to suit his unstoppable plod around the Brudenell. He says with all honesty he's never been at a stranger gig, constantly bombarded by kids who are perfectly willing to scale his round frame and sing half a song should he trust or toss a microphone in their direction. The Brudenell stops being a venue tonight and becomes a free-for-all of madmen incensed by decent, strong-willed hardcore punk. (8)

words/ henry raby

The 'Self-Important Tossers at Radio One'

Zane Lowe, New Zealand-born BBC Radio One DJ, played Stylus this week to a slightly diminished crowd. In fact, there were more people crammed into the Union venue for S Club 3. This, for a world renowned DJ, is slightly embarrassing. Personally, I thought he was brilliant - mixing the commercial with a bit of drum n' bass, sliding into sub dub, and then back to 90s British hip-hop - but many people would disagree with me. With Annie Mac appearing at Wax-On this weekend coming, the question has to be asked: Will she also fall victim to an empty venue? Is it true, what the critics say - that all Radio One DJs are 'self-important tossers' - or are they actually quite good at what they do?

Lowe is known for his early evening, 'alternative music' slots, playing amongst other more 'old school' tracks, some of the best up-and-coming bands from across the world. However, there is debate as to whether he actually 'pushes the boundaries' of modern music, and his love of certain new bands has branded him, by some critics, an 'arse licker' or a 'brown nose'. On a wider scale, most of his Radio One counterparts have also been subjected to this abuse, Colin Murray and Jo Whaley included. So what is it that these listeners want from DJs?



It would seem that, to many, modern DJs fall somewhat short of the legendary late John Peel, who most famously discovered the Undertones. Is this hatred of modern DJs the personification of the NME snobbery that those who write about or even like new music have no idea what they are talking about? Will Lowe, and his other Radio One colleagues, constantly be criticised by those who believe that the old will never be replaced by the new?

To be honest, if that is the case, it is a little sad. Music is supposed to be an expression, and is supposed to evolve through time. If this weren't the case, rebellious teens who started listening to rock n' roll would have been shut down by their classical music loving parents, and we would never have had Chuck Berry. Personally, I think that all punk music is shit. Many would hugely disagree. Music will always be a matter of taste, so why attack those whose job it is to play us theirs?

Who knows? But I would recommend going to see Lowe, and seeing what you think. Is he a brown nose? Or is he only 'bigging up' his favourite music? Go and see Annie Mac this weekend and see if she is, indeed, a tosser. On the subject of tossers, there is one Radio One DJ who is most certainly a tosser: Chris Moyles. But that is a story for another column.

It is no particular secret that material judged by its initial critical reception to be 'difficult' is often amongst the most rewarding, given time to reflect and contextualise. But what do we mean by 'difficult'?

One might assume that music that represents a shift away from expectations, from convention, or from what is even considered good taste, would qualify; I hardly need point towards *Kid A*, *The Holy Bible*, Tori Amos's *Boys for Pele* or even Kylie Minogue's *Impossible Princess* as illustration. All of these were met by at least some hostility, incomprehension or dislike. But what about albums that are considered similarly problematic not on account of their harsh soundscapes or their 'shocking' lyrical content but because they are seen to be too easy, too commercial, bandwagon jumping or laurel-resting? Does 'too easy' qualify as 'too difficult' in this sense?

I recently discovered New Order's 1993 *Republic* LP. The critical canon around the band's album releases has rather stringently written the record off as the unnecessary post-script to their first incarnation, an early-90s attempt to reclaim some credibility in the face of the huge popularity of the dance music that they helped innovate. It is all-too-familiar: Band Returns To Find Scene Changed, Attempts To Reclaim Critical Favour With Disappointing New Release. One is almost grotesquely reminded of Cher's *Believe*.

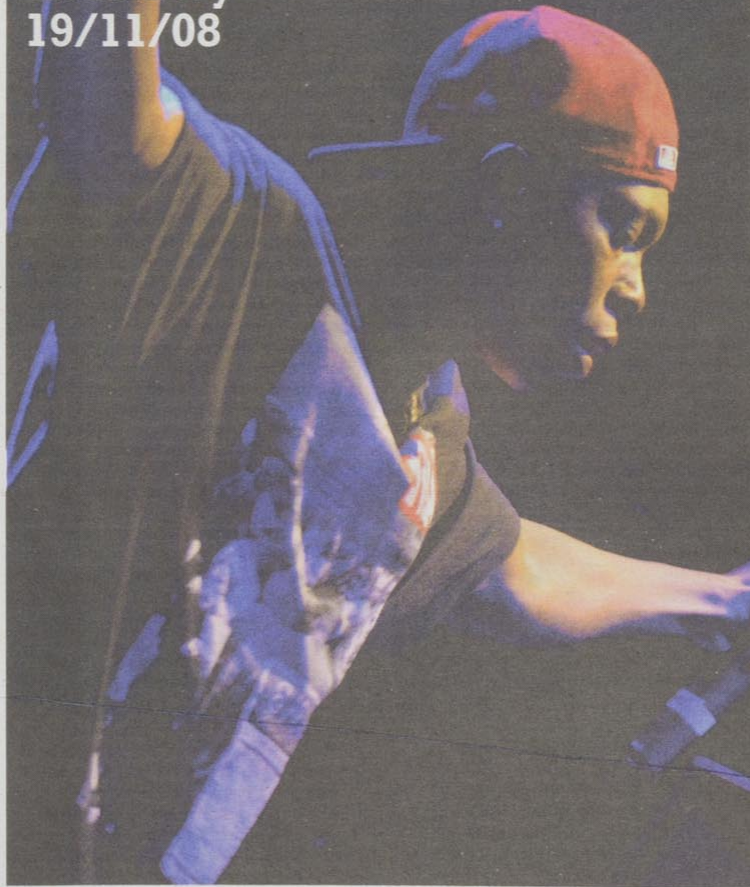
Yes, *Republic* bears the hallmarks of the decline of rave culture's dominance, of the graveyard of the 1980s, of the beginnings of what was later branded Britpop. One can almost hear the gunfire in the Hacienda. But, actually, far from an attempt to flog the brand name (an honour I will reserve for the latest New Order reissue campaign - a campaign that, significantly, omits *Republic*), the record sounds panicked. It sounds like the four-piece who so effortlessly rode the wave of the 1980s dance explosion - a wave that, yes, they were partly behind, but then so were a million other artists, shifts in the market for consumer electronics, Krautrock, the new government - are worrying that no one will believe they were really there. In the cold, self-aware, unshaven, hung over light of day, the narrator of 'Regret' sounds like he has grown up too fast. Throughout the album are references to mortality, decline (particularly that of Factory Records), changing times, soundtracked by their sonic equivalents - by a genre New Order no longer feel they have any right to. It might look like an attempt at record sales through the use of more up-to-date sounds, but to thusly damn it is to miss the significance to the album's narrative of this fall from grace.

Like all good 'difficult' records, *Republic* is powerful and affecting. We could extend this philosophy to treat the very condition of being 'difficult' as a prerequisite for enjoyment - which brings us back to the old 'value' chestnut. If we put more work into something, will we enjoy it more in the long term? Or is this to locate music's value outside of music itself? What the hell is 'music' itself?

This has profound implications about music that we hate, however. It is at least contentious to suggest that The Saturdays have the capacity to be more rewarding than anything else in your record collection just because they sound like manufactured rubbish upon first listen. But neither is the converse true *a priori*.

words/ ramzy alwakeel

Dizzee Rascal Academy 19/11/08



The support tonight appears in the form of east Londoners 'Newham Generals'. The grime duo boast being "so hype, Dizzee Rascal signed them personally". Despite their claims, the performance passes with very little impact upon the audience's collective conscience. As honorary members of Dizzee's own Dirtee Stank label, the duo are far too similar to the main support to leave any meaningful lasting impression. Cringeworthy rip-off phrases such as "wave your hands in the air like you just don't care" are hackneyed and offer no assistance in stirring the largely uninterested crowd. A DJ is employed between acts, and raises the audience's anticipation to fever pitch, playing an appropriate blend of rap, hip-hop and crunk.

After a prolonged interval Mr. Rascal casually strolls onto the stage and launches into his adapted (and indeed improved) version of the Ting Tings 'That's not my name'. This is seamlessly followed by 'Jus' a Rascal' just in case anyone in attendance had forgotten. Returning to the city of his highly successful summer appearance at the Leeds Festival, Dizzee is once again on top form despite the bitterly cold weather outside, perhaps explaining his humorous

announcement of "Yo Leeds I got a cold".

Tearing through successful singles from his impressive discography, it is evident that Dizzee has a real charisma on stage allowing him to leave his grime contemporaries in his wake. Existing in a genre not renowned for the originality of its live performances, Dizzee is the exception. This is proven during his intense free styling over the Clash's 1982 release 'Straight to Hell'. Coincidentally - considering the Clash's



Dizzee Rascal for Prime Minister yeah?

political stance - Dizzee too has recently branched out into politics, with an interview on Newsnight no less, declaring himself an option for Prime Minister.

Dizzee maintains his fine form, and receives huge cheers from an adoring audience, with performances of fan favourites such as 'Fix Up Look Sharp' and 'Where da G's' the latter including the line "you should pull your trousers



up' advice Dizzee may wish to heed himself, with the DJ dropping beats only fractionally lower than his jeans. Despite the minor fashion inconsistency Dizzee Rascal prolongs his grasp over the audience, and initiates a well greeted mass sing along to 'Stand Up Tall'. Not even a casually delivered plea to "remember to buy some t-shirts yeah?" diminishes the crowd's affection, proven by the enthusiastic chanting of "Dizzee Dizzee" during a short break (presumably to buy a new belt).

Upon his return, the crowd are rewarded with some new material, including 'Road Rage' and an interesting track 'Bonkers' which true to its name is a cacophony of drum'n'bass, with Dizzee spitting lyrics over the top of a Pendulum style beat. A massive cheer greets last track 'Dance Wiv Me' as Dizzee is joined by Chrome onstage for the recent number one.

On the basis of tonight's gig, with Dizzee's fantastic energy and clever lyrics still ringing in the ears of those in attendance, there may be some weight behind the suggestion "Dizzee Rascal for Prime Minister Yeah?" (8)

words/ tom lenihan
photos/ melissa black

Sign Language



On 5th November I found myself walking in the opposite direction to the streams of students heading to see the fireworks in Hyde Park. I was on my way to the weekly 7-8pm meeting of the sign language society in the lounge of Leeds University Union in order to a) write this article and b) try out a society in which I am really interested.

When I arrived, teaching had already started. This consisted of three circles, each one with someone demonstrating signs in the middle. I pulled up a chair to the circle doing colours and within 15 minutes had learnt the signs for all the colours through copying and basic repetition techniques. While most people went off to the fireworks, Tim Dalton (the vice-president) stayed behind with me and another girl for a bit longer. Being a language/linguistics geek myself, I was really interested in what he had to say. We talked about the importance of facial expression and practised frowning our brows and suchlike. We also learnt about word order and how it changes in sign language, for example the question word would be at the end of the sentence instead of the beginning. Then we discussed society events. The society annually fundraises for the charity 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People' and does many activities to try and help make sign language more accessible. For example they sign along to Christmas carols at choir concerts or simply vary the format

of their Wednesday night sessions - a particularly interesting one being sign speed-dating!

Tim next arranged for me to talk to some members of the British Sign Language class that the society organises. The class runs on Monday nights from 6-9pm and through it members can gain a Level 1 qualification. The course is highly competitive and has only 12 places

wisdom in a simplified manner. This means that the people who didn't get a place on the course still benefit from it.

I talked to Lauren Redhead, Lisa Maughn and Georgina Peck who all attend the Monday night class. They all enthuse about the intimate group which provides them with expert teaching. Lauren works at the Equality Services at university and decided to join the society when she began



(compared to the 60/70 members in the society). It has a fee of £75, which isn't too shabby for 3 hours teaching a week for a year. The people who attend the course on Monday nights then go to the Wednesday night session and relay this

to come across people with sign language as a first language. The society has students like her who already use their newfound skills, students who think they will use them in the future, students on language or linguistics courses and

students who are just doing it as a hobby. It occurred to me that everyone is always going on about having another language being an amazing, career enhancing skill and that to learn sign language means you have the opportunity to immerse yourself in a language and culture without the expense and inconvenience of travelling abroad! Sign language is fun to learn, easy to practice and a pretty good party trick. Finally, with 9 million people in the U.K who class themselves as deaf or hard of hearing, it's likely to come in handy one day!

words/ tracy davnall



I pulled up a chair to the circle and within 15 minutes had learnt the signs for all the colours



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12 EATING OUT SPECIAL

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You probably didn't realize it at the time but last week was National Eating Out week, and pouncing on any opportunity to talk about food in a double page format, LS2 sent its regular food columnists out to find the best restaurants, cafes and takeaways in Leeds. The awards go to....

Best Fish and Chips: Arkwright's

If you've ever been to Whitby, then you'll know that it has the best fish and chips in the world. It says so, in big lettering. Perhaps it was an off-day, but the hugely expensive fish and chips I bought there were not the finest I've ever tasted. Not even close. So what is my point? Well, the lesson here is that the 'best' place isn't always best. Famous places can get away with serving sub-par food at inflated prices. Don't follow the signs, follow your nose. With this salutary tale hopefully embedded into your brain, I advise you to steer away from Brett's in Headingley (good as it may be), with its awards and cricketers. Cricketers are all very well but you can't eat them, or at least you shouldn't. Instead make tracks for Arkwright's in Woodhouse, where the batter is crispy and light, and the chips perfect. Fish and chips as they should be- who needs awards when you've got food this good?

words/ sam leach



Photo: Sam Leach



Photo: Ali Hung

Best place for a first date: Sela Bar

A first date is a worrying thing. What will we talk about? God, will we talk at all, or will we just sit, silently staring into our drinks wishing for a massive hole to open up and swallow us both? If you're paranoid, it's worth having a back up plan, but getting your friend to ring and pretend to be your dying mother is definitely not allowed. If you cleverly take the advice of this article though, and go to Sela Bar on a Wednesday or Thursday, then when the conversation gets a bit stale you can sit back and soak up the live jazz. Ideal. Sela serves tasty pizza and good beers at reasonable prices, making it ideal first date territory. Pizza, Jazz and the relaxed sophisticated atmosphere may well combine to equal success. No need for a distraction, I think you just pulled.

words/ sam leach

Best place for Sunday lunch and a walk: The Cow and Calf

There are few better things to do on a winter Sunday than a brisk walk in the country followed by a roaring log fire and tasty food. Living up in Leeds, a long way from the open fires and countryside of Somerset, this luxury is not one on my literal doorstep any more. However a short bus or train ride from Leeds opens up vast tracts of stunning country and with it scores of little pubs, fires roaring in the grate and Yorkshire puddings served up all over the shop. Catch the X84 bus, or the train to Ilkley and walk up the hill onto the moor and over to the East to find the Cow and Calf pub. Good food, good beer, good fire and fit bar maids, what more could you want? Nice views? Sold. Now the Cow and Calf isn't exactly undiscovered territory, but go on a rainy day, have a good walk before retiring to the pub and you might just have it all to yourself. (What, you didn't think I was going to tell you where my actual favourite pub is, did you?)

words/ sam leach

Best Pizza: Salvo's

Salvo's on Otley Road won the Times & Square Meal 2008 award for best pizza in the UK, a decision that I readily agree with. The scrumptious pizzas don't just stick to the standard combination of toppings found in most Pizza restaurants, instead creating their own unique Italian sensations. The Calzone is of enormous proportions and the aptly named 'Buongiorno' pizza is a type of fried breakfast on a pizza that I can assure you tastes just as good as it sounds! The atmosphere at Salvo's is part of the experience; with an open kitchen, extremely friendly staff and super-quick service, all of your University stress simply disappears. The true Italian vibe is completed when the waiters whip out their maracas and tambourines and invite the restaurant to join them in a Happy Birthday sing-a-long! Always packed and bursting with atmosphere Salvo's 32-year legacy is certainly not coming to an end.

words/ antonia lyne



Photo: Antony Zupnik

Best Chinese: Red Chilli

Since returning from my year in China I have been craving good Chinese food and Red Chilli on Great George Street filled that void perfectly. Situated at basement level, the vast dining area is separated by low partitions making the space feel really cosy. As in China, most of the tables are large with lazy Susans in the centre but there are also smaller tables for parties of two and four. The food is based on that from the Szechuan province in China with lots of spicy dishes mixed in with those more suitable for the milder English palate. To get the best out of the experience and the food's exotic flavours dine in a large group and order plenty of dishes to share. Due to its immense popularity Red Chilli is often very busy so book early to avoid disappointment.

words/ antonia lyne



Photo: Ali Hung

**COMMENT
SPECIAL:
REFERENDUM
PULLOUT!**

Autocrats, transform!

The referendum, as seen from the point of view of the Union Council's most vocal critic



Harry Aslam
Union Council Speaker
harry.aslam@iaforum.org.uk

Let's be honest guys, let's be *frank*; the way out of the credit crunch is this referendum. Isn't it obvious? Can't you see? And the more of us who vote, the more the economy will rebound like a puppy being thrown against a brick wall.

My name is Harry Aslam and I'm an optimist. I'm a person who sees the glass as being half full when others see a glass that's half empty. But let's not get carried away: when the glass is empty, the glass is *empty*. Now, speaking of optimism, I expect that you've all seen the film *Transformers*; what

I'm basically saying is that I am so *optimistic*, and also that I know what a prime number is, that therefore I am the Optimus Prime of the Union Council. In other words, this referendum is a once in a lifetime chance to transform the lives of millions of throughout the world.

We can't talk about the referendum without talking about one man and one man only, you know who: Tupac Shakur. Tupac made it clear with 'Changes' that the referendum represents the future of democracy. Don't believe me? Check this out:

*"And still I see no changes, can't a brother get a little peace?
There's war on these streets and there's war in the middle east,
Instead of war on poverty they got a war on drugs,
So the police can bother me,
And I ain't never did a crime I didn't have to do,
But now I'm back with the facts givin' it back to you,
Don't let 'em jack you up, back you up,
Crack you up and pimp smack you up..."*

This infers, with a wry hint of subtle irony, that the merits of referenda outweigh the inherent risks of creating apathy amongst voters. In a sombre, melancholic, philosophical tone he then goes on to spit

more of the verse - with new levels of venom - expressing his vehement disapproval of anything other than referenda.

Tupac made it clear with 'Changes' that the referendum represents the future of democracy

*"You gotta learn to hold your own,
They get jealous when they see you with your mobile phone,
But tell the cops they can't touch this,
When they try to rush I bust this,
That's the sound of my tool, you say it ain't cool,
My momma didn't raise no fool!
And as long as I stay black I gotta stay strapped,
And I never get to lay back,
Coz I always got to worry 'bout the paybacks,*

*Some punk that I roughed up way back,
Comin' back after all these years,
Rat-tat-tat-tat that's the way it is..."*

It's obvious, isn't it? I mean, 'you've gotta learn to hold your own' is his way of saying 'look, chaps, you really jolly well should vote in the referendum!' But let's look deeper into this minefield of wisdom, insight and intrigue to find out the true meaning of this song. Well it's right here, isn't it? See the accurate prediction that Barack Obama would win the presidential election in 2008:

*"And the only time we chill is when we kill each other,
It takes skill to be real, time to heal each other,
And although it seems heaven sent,
We ain't ready to see a black president."*

I took the liberty of texting Barack Obama to ask what he thought. He replied, "They said we couldn't hope to change our hopes and dreams. They said we were too disillusioned, too divided. It's been a long time coming, but tonight, Spartans, we dine in hell, and this referendum is the change we hoped to dream for... So, can we fix it? YES WE CAN!"

Wednesday's child is full of lectures.

We need to move the University's taught hours away from Wednesday afternoons to allow our societies to flourish



Jessica Parker
Activities Officer, LUU Executive
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The University of Leeds has a Wednesday afternoons free policy yet; in a survey taken by over 600 students, 54.7 per cent reported to have had some teaching scheduled into their Wednesday afternoons. The University's policy reads: "Wednesday afternoon will normally be kept free for extra curricular activities. The professional requirements for a significant number of vocational programmes and Masters level programmes may require students to attend timetabled commitments on a Wednesday afternoon." However, over 9,000 hours were scheduled into Wednesday afternoons in the 07/08 academic year, at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level. This

was across all faculties and featured numerous non-vocational courses. This was an increase of over 500 hours from the previous year. Figures for years prior to 2006 do not apparently exist, or if they do, I have not been able to access them. Particularly shocking was that the timetabling team had recorded the figures incorrectly or rather "mis-labelled the total" as significantly lower, 5284 hours in 2006/07 and 5283 hours in 2007/08.

The University has recently launched the initiative, Leeds for Life, which is about widening the student experience beyond

Part of student activities is, after all, about making friends.

classroom teaching. One of the main strands of this is named 'Co-Curricular' which includes career planning, work experience, language skills and, you've guessed it, "clubs and societies membership". If the University

really takes our clubs and societies seriously, then it needs to dedicate a chunk of time for students to pursue their chosen activity, as a collective. Weekends and evenings are already used by groups to the extent that it's often a struggle to accommodate them, particularly in terms of space. Regardless, clubs and societies shouldn't have to be cramming their activities into evenings and weekends, especially when there's a written policy guaranteeing that every effort will be made to keep Wednesday afternoons free.

The issue of Wednesday afternoons is a longstanding bugbear, particularly for Leeds University sports clubs who have competitive fixtures to play that can only take place on a Wednesday afternoon - it's the nationally allocated time for University sport. The University is aiming to be top ten in the British universities sports league; it currently lies at 13th. With many of our teams unable to put out their best players each week, due to teaching commitments that can not be re-scheduled, the University is hindering our progress in sport at a national level and actively breaking its promise to make "every effort...to minimize" teaching during this time. There are other periods in the week that are underused for teaching, such as Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. Whilst it has been suggested to me that these times are underused because attendance by students would be poor, I wonder whether

it's not only students who enjoy an extended weekend, but tutors as well.

Whilst sport is undoubtedly suffering, student activities as a whole needs this time. I know of many groups who try to use Wednesday afternoons, as it's a time when, theoretically, all members can meet and pursue their activity together. If only a few can make that society meeting, community campaigning day or a volunteering trip to a local allotment, then the group is undermined; fewer people obviously diminish an activity's efficacy and make it harder for the whole membership to bond. Part of student activities is, after all, about making friends.

Whilst passing Motion 1 can't force the University to stick to its own policy, it will mandate the Union to keep campaigning on an issue that has worsened because it has gone unmonitored. It will also be further evidence that students want their Wednesday afternoons back. There are other universities that have successfully made the effort to keep Wednesday afternoons free whilst, here at Leeds, we can clearly see that policy has been broken, hours into Wednesday afternoons have increased, monitoring of the problem has been lax and students are suffering for it. Pass Motion 1 and we will be proving that the University must work to repair their broken promise to student activities.

The politicisation of anti-Semitism

The EUMC's definition of judeophobia poses no threat to legitimate criticism of Israel.

MOTION 4: I



Jak Codd
Proposer, Motion 4
jakcodd@gmail.com

I have never been as uncomfortable as a Jewish student on campus as I have been in the past few weeks. As I am sure some of you are aware, a debate has ensued over a motion I proposed for this week's referendum, asking Leeds University Union to adopt the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia's definition of anti-Semitism. The hatred-filled reaction I received from certain fringe groups within our Union has both shocked and dismayed me. I have been told that anti-Semitism is not an important issue, that my motion is seeking to stifle freedom of speech, and perhaps most worryingly had one our very own Student Executive Officers tell me that anti-Semitism

was comparable to her "being offended if people call her by her first name".

You will hear a lot next week about how the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism supposedly clamps down on freedom of expression and criticism of Israel. Let's take a look at the facts: firstly, the motion itself clearly states "criticism of Israel's policies and actions cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic unless this uses anti-Jewish rhetoric or imagery." Additionally, the EUMC definition states that "criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic". How this can be regarded as clamping down on anti-Zionist activities on campus is beyond me. This definition was written by the European Union, it was supported and praised by the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism (a cross party inquiry comprising Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs) as well as being adopted by the National Union of Students at its annual conference in 2007. Can opponents of this definition seriously claim that these organisations are seeking to stop criticism of Israel?

One of the main criticisms against the motion was opposition to the idea that anti-Semitism could, depending on context, be manifested in the denial of the right of the Jewish people to self-determination; for example, by claiming the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour. Israel was founded in 1948, just

after the end of the Second World War. I don't see anyone clamouring for the destruction of Pakistan, or Bangladesh, or Qatar - all states founded in the post war period. Why is it that of all the peoples around the world, it is only the Jews that are not permitted the right of self-determination in a country of their own? The EUMC is not trying to shut down the debate around Israel, quite the opposite. Criticism of Israel is legitimate and should be encouraged. There are Israeli government policies that I vehemently disagree with. I am a firm believer in debate around Israel's policies in the Middle East on campus. However, there is a big difference between criticism and demonization. As the scholar David Hirsh wrote, "criticism of Israeli human rights abuses is not only legitimate, it is entirely appropriate. Demonization, for example, which singles out Israel for unique loathing, or which claims that Israel is apartheid or Nazi or essentially racist, or which characterizes Israel as a child-killing state, is not the same thing as criticism of Israeli government policies".

I ask you to look beyond the inevitable propaganda that you will encounter over the coming week; propaganda telling you that freedom of speech will be banned on campus through this motion, and that we want to shut down the debate around Israel. Take a look at the motion properly and come to your own conclusions.

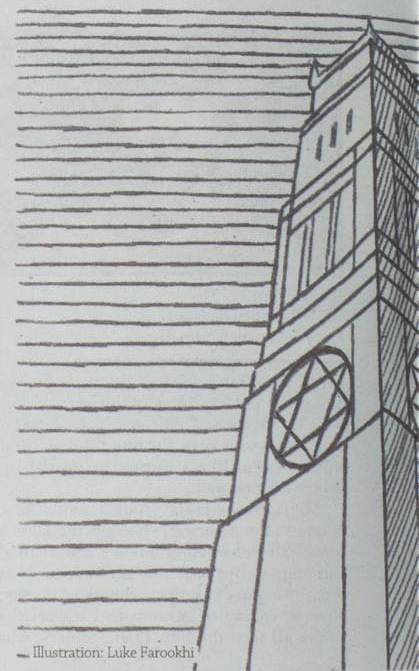


Illustration: Luke Farookhi

Arming the paper against war

Preventing the Territorial Army from advertising in this newspaper is ideologically the right thing to do

MOTION 3:



Madeleine McGarrie
Proposer, Motion 3
pt07avs@leeds.ac.uk

A couple of months ago I overheard that there might be advertisements for the Territorial Army in the Leeds Student. I was shocked and asked to be told if and when these advertisements were to go in. I spent some time trying to work out what I should do if they went in, wondering whether I should step down from my role as a Features editor for that week. I think it was a week later when I opened the paper to see a full page advertisement for the TA. I was really upset; upset that without knowing it I had contributed to an issue that was essentially funded by a military organization; upset that my name was credited in a paper that was being used for military recruitment; but mostly I was upset that my choice to

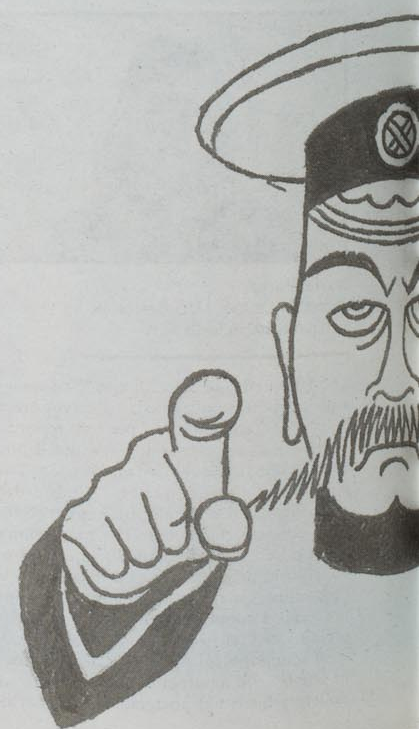
participate in this had been taken away from me. By not informing students, particularly those sub-editors who every week work to create the Leeds Student, students were denied the knowledge of what their hard work was contributing to, and their choice whether or not to participate in it was denied. I then chose to step down from my features role for three weeks till the advertisements were finished.

The presence of these advertisements in the Leeds Student is a very new thing. They have not usually been printed in the past, and there was some confusion over whether or not they were banned by the advertising policy, which states that students and the Union Council decide what companies are inappropriate to advertise in the union. This includes bans on ethical grounds such as tobacco companies, Nestlé, and arms companies. Armies are not banned under the current policy. From what I understand, when the paper was approached by the TA it was raised with the Exec. They were divided on this issue and asked for the decision to be postponed until it could be properly discussed in Union council. Due to the financial incentive of the advertisements this did not happen. However, what is interesting about this is that students have not been involved in these discussions. There has not been an opportunity to discuss this even within the Leeds Student, where sub-editors were not properly

informed that this was going to happen. Some sub-editors have even requested a meeting to discuss the presence of military adverts, but this has not happened.

I think that it is reasonable to say that there are ordinary members of the student body who feel uncomfortable by actions taken by the military in recent years, or who may question the glamorisation of the army in recruitment advertisements. It is also reasonable to say that there are many students who feel alienated by the presence of military recruitment adverts in the student paper. Motion 3 is about bringing this decision back to the students, so that they have a chance to discuss politically contentious advertisements in their student paper.

I believe that until the paper makes a real concerted effort to find alternative advertisements it is not fair to say that the Leeds Student has to take advertisement from the TA. It has survived without adverts from the TA in the past, and a few advertisements from the TA will not solve financial issues for the Leeds Student in the long run. I believe that no-one should have to decide between a society they love and adverts they think are wrong. Students who want their paper to be a voice for all should vote to ban paid military advertisements in the Leeds Student.



DEBATED

Silenced by prejudice

Motion 4's redefinition of anti-Semitism offers only a restriction of free thought, and will not help prevent racism



Maryam Ahmad
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"We have nothing to fear but fear itself." This sums up the situation that we have found ourselves in at LUU, where a small group of students are attempting to use fear through accusations of racism to silence those that oppose their political views. This is the purpose of the deceptively-worded Motion 4, "Should LUU adopt the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism?" which, predictably, has nothing to do with anti-Semitism.

People are becoming increasingly afraid of expressing criticism toward Israel, which defines itself as a Jewish state, for fear of being labelled as racists. Motion 4 is an attempt to further instil such fear and is an attack on the right of students

to think and speak freely. It is the responsibility of everyone that believes in justice to ensure that political debate is not shut down, and to not be afraid to speak truth in the face of those who try to silence the voices of the oppressed.

The EUMC definition itself was essentially drafted by "a pro-Israel advocate who gives talks on how to elide the distinction between anti-Zionism and hatred of Jews": Kenneth Stern. I will discuss one clause of the definition, conveniently hidden in the notes section, which states that anti-Semitism with respect to Israel could include: "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of the state of Israel is a racist endeavour."

The belief that the creation of Israel was a racist endeavour is a historically and politically justified view in exactly the same way as the belief that the creation of Australia, America, New Zealand, the colonisation of Africa, India and the Middle East were all fuelled and justified by racism. Zionism used the same reasoning to colonise the land of Palestine as that used by White Europeans to colonise the rest of the world, and to justify the slave-trade: the belief that the occupied race is barbaric and essentially inferior. Motion 4 says if you take this perspective and believe that people of all races are equal in humanity then you are anti-Semitic; a sickeningly racist claim for a motion that claims to combat racism.

Any person that thinks their ethnicity gives them a right to oppress others is a supremacist regardless of their ethnic background. It should not be acceptable to silence those who criticise their racist beliefs and support the liberation of colonised people.

It is distressing that the motion rightly states that racism and discrimination are serious problems on campus, and yet blatantly uses this serious issue for political ends. The proposer even wrote in an edition of "News 4 Jews" that the way to improve the reputation of Israel on campus is to stop students from speaking about it, and this is precisely the purpose of Motion 4.

Jews For Justice and many other Jewish organisations oppose the EUMC definition. In a letter to the EUMC they stated that the claim of "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination" assumes that all Jews equate self-determination with Zionism...To make the assumption that all Jews hold the same views is in itself a form of anti-Semitism."

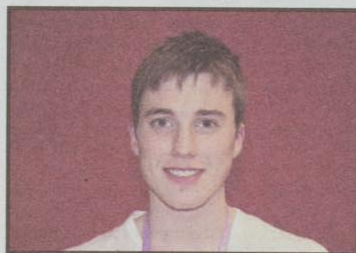
This motion labels people like Mandela, Einstein, Chomsky, Orthodox and anti-Zionist Jews as anti-Semites. It is ridiculous to suggest that Jewish people could be accused of being anti-Jewish; such accusations would never make it to a tribunal.

Anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. Vote no to Motion 4 and safeguard your right to think, speak out against injustice and criticise without fear of being labelled as a racist.

DEBATED

The Leeds Student will soldier on

Military funding offers a pragmatic solution to the funding woes faced by this newspaper



Laurie Whitwell
Editor, Leeds Student newspaper
editor@leedsstudent.org

This is a motion which logical thought can find fault with at every conceivable level of argument.

The first is a matter of pure finance, and in order to describe this primary objection I will momentarily need to subscribe to the bogus equation that Army = Bad. Newspapers the world over rely on advertising to fund their ability to bring newsworthy events to the attention of their readership. At no point does this mean they endorse the product or validate what they stand for. Because we feature an advertisement for a postgraduate open day at Lancaster University does not mean we encourage people to take it up. Equally because we print a page advocating applying for an Army position does not mean support that career path – ethical or not.

The paper costs £1583 to print each week. All of this money needs to be raised through paid adverts. We received £720 for each of the three Army recruitment adverts, totalling £2,160 – by far the largest outlay from a single source – an amount almost 20 per cent of our total income to date and a figure approaching 10 per cent of our yearly printing costs. We are currently £2127.50 behind our annual target even with a dedicated marketing team employed by the Union (the current economic crisis can be felt on campus). A lot of statistics I know, but what I am trying to illustrate is that this money is sustenance not luxury and it is a factor that should be thought deeply about before making any judgement. I doubt the proposer of this motion is aware of these numbers; I know Union Council aren't. How anyone can make a fair call on such an essential issue without knowing all the facts is beyond me – you now have this knowledge and can make a decision with increased confidence.

If this potential avenue of income was closed for future editors the Union would either have to bail out the paper to the tune of this sum – to the detriment of other in-need societies – or we would be forced to cut issues. Is one page in a newspaper really worth jeopardising the other 47 for? Ultimately, fewer issues mean fewer opportunities for people to contribute therefore instilling a self-defeating prophecy within the motion, a fact its backers seems ignorant to.

Past this initial objection I would find further defect with the ethical assumptions blindly attached to the Army (the demonisation of

which is at no point logically argued by the motion's text, by the way.) In deeming that the Army is not worthy of placing adverts in our paper the motion casts a moral judgement on those who may want to forge a career within its ranks, brandishing such individuals with a vile stamp reading 'Holier than Thou'. Who are we to make such an arrogant condemnation? We need only look at the red poppies being worn by many (76 per cent of the nation according to a BBC poll) and a fund-raising X-Factor single – bought by enough people to send it to number one – to observe a national gauge of opinion. (Lest we forget why those poppies are worn.) I guess that many grievances are misguided: if you have a problem with the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan your issue is with the government, not the branch of national defence which carries out their orders.

I would finally take issue with banning as a form of political statement at any juncture. Having the summations of one section of society heard louder than another is a dangerous road to go down, whatever the topic. In this case it infers that students are not intelligent enough to make their own decisions on the Army and should be quickly airlifted to the safety of sterilised thought. We all know taking up a role as moral guardian is never all it's cracked up to be.

At best this motion is clumsy and ill-informed; at worst it is judgemental and arrogant. A vote against it is a vote to keep the paper in print and a vote for the freedom of individual choice.

Don't let extremists limit freedom

The real threat to free speech comes not from fundamentalists but rather from mollycoddling the easily offended



Ed Prior
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It's that time again. The Union referendum offers you a chance to make your voice heard on some important issues, though as with last year there seems to be one issue that stands above the rest. Motion 6 goes to the heart of what any politically engaged student should value above all else: the right to free speech. A vote for Motion 6 would prevent those deemed unsuitable by the Union from speaking on campus, those deemed beyond the realms of reasoned argument due to their racist, sexist or otherwise discriminatory opinions. Let us be clear however—without this motion there is still no opportunity for racial or other hate

speech to be organised on campus due to laws preventing the preaching or inciting of hatred. Motion 6 simply means that another level of control is taken away from the majority and passed to a small group. A university should be a place where difficult questions can be asked and lively debate can occur. The Union should therefore seek to provide an environment in which all students feel free to participate in discussions and attend meetings, yet this should not extend to deciding for us who we may or may not listen to. Proponents of Motion 6 seek to prevent such debates; this will inevitably have a detrimental impact upon the political discussion on campus, and finish by removing students from exactly the kind of important—and occasionally unpleasant—political engagement towards which we should strive.

I wholly understand the difficulty of providing a secure environment in which all may participate, regardless of speakers' views. However, this is a challenge that we should rise to rather than shying away from in the form of this motion. The problem with Motion 6 is that it is totally counter-productive to the idea of free speech for which we must now fight. Free speech must apply equally to all and, whilst barriers are in place to prevent the encouraging of violent acts, we must not allow other unnecessary limitations. By supporting this motion we would be supporting the removal of

our fundamental right to choose who we can and cannot listen to. Such an important right would then move to a small group of people, each with their own political agenda and bias. We should have enough confidence in our education system, to expect that those expressing discriminatory views to be fully confronted and defeated through reasoned and informed debate. The idea of banning those with whom we disagree from expressing their views smacks of a fear that they may actually be right. This in turn allows groups such as the National Front to claim martyr status and say that they are being unfairly silenced. The

Banning those with whom we disagree smacks of a fear that they may actually be right

fact is that democracy is occasionally an unpleasant business, and that sometimes we must fight for our right of expression. Discussions with

those who hold views, markedly different from our own, especially those expressed by the BNP or Hizb ut-Tahrir, will be unpleasant affairs. We should however be confident enough in ourselves and our convictions to challenge such groups to open debate. What exactly are the supporters of Motion 6 frightened of? Are they seriously scared that fascists have some good arguments? Do they fear that Nick Griffin or David Irving might leave a talk with a jolly band of newly converted Brownshirts in tow?

In six continental counties, Holocaust denial is a crime and can carry a custodial sentence. Those who wish to prevent the BNP or Holocaust deniers expressing their views, seem to fear that their visits might lead to increased support for them. Far from this being the case, it is by letting such people express their views, and so guarding the imperative of free speech, that the population will be able to see quite how ridiculous they are. We should listen to and debate with all people, not merely those with whom we agree. Who exactly do we want to decide what topics are and are not suitable for public debate? A society that possesses the right of free speech—a right denied to so many—should not shy away from debate with those whose views are not our own. The alternative is to give up our own freedom to decide, and ultimately plead ignorance in the face of unpleasant reality.

The practicalities of pill testing

Testing kits do not offer a solution to the perils of drug use, and could even actively endanger student safety



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Motion 11 is possibly the most controversial of the proposals put forward for referendum. It states that in a drive to provide support and advice about drugs to students, pill testing kits should be sold at the union, allowing ecstasy users to check the contents of their pill. The argument is that drug users are entitled to any advice or help to prevent harm to themselves and that the introduction of such kits would help achieve this. I think this is quite a ridiculous notion for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the majority of commercially sold pill testing kits are only able to tell the user what the main component of the pill is, i.e. MDMA or speed. They do not tell the user

what other adulterants may have been added into the pill such as rat poison or whatever other horrible substances might be present. Therefore, to present the kits as a harm

Imagine an 18 year-old fresher straight from school seeing these kits for sale. He would think taking pills was just way of life at Leeds Union

reduction method seems misleading as they do not alert the user to the potential presence of the most harmful elements. If anything, this might give the user a false sense of security. To truly deduce the

contents of a pill you need to do a full laboratory test using chromatography, something the union is unlikely to offer. It is also unlikely that the sale of these kits would lead to a reduction in ecstasy use. I find it hard to imagine somebody testing a pill, to see if it was weaker than average and then thinking "oh!" and throwing it away.

Crucially, I also think that the public sale of such kits would encourage an atmosphere of drug taking at the university. Imagine an 18 year-old fresher straight from school going to the union and seeing these kits for sale. He would think taking pills was just a way of life at Leeds Union (which of course it isn't, as anyone who has been to Metropolis or Wax:On will readily testify). Then there's the thought of students actually going into the shop and buying them: "Ten Mayfair and one pill tester please mate." It would immediately point them out as a drug user and the social stigma attached to ecstasy would mean many people would be reluctant to openly buy such kits.

Finally there is the reputation of the University to consider. As the Union is affiliated with the University it could bring Leeds into disrepute. The idea of the Union selling equipment such as this, which although technically legal, is effectively illegal to use, is frankly ridiculous. I mean what next, cannabis seeds and magic mushrooms for sale in the Old Bar? While I

am all for a more liberal drugs policy on a national scale as well as more impartial support and advice given to students about

I mean what next, cannabis seeds and magic mushrooms for sale in the Old Bar?

drugs, I do not think this motion gives out the right message. At the end of the day, if students really want to buy pill testing kits they can get them online. Or else, if this really is a public health issue, they could be sold at student health clinics. However, the student body of an educational establishment is definitely not the right place for drug-taking equipment to be sold.

Best restaurant to take your parents (if they are paying): Anthony's

If you really want to make the most of having your parents to stay and show off what Leeds has to offer then try and persuade them to take you to arguably the most popular restaurant in Leeds. Anthony's first made its reputation due to head chef Tony Finns' imaginative fusion of ingredients and the menu is perfectly crafted to offer choice but not abundance. Enjoy pre-dinner drinks on the comfortable sofas in the bar area upstairs before being led down to the small and intimate dining room where the crisp and simple décor lets the food do all the work. The menu consists of either two or three courses with a mous bouche to cleanse the palate. The wine list is of elegant proportions with wines predominantly from European vineyards and a few from Australia and New Zealand. An admirable selection of fine cheeses, of which you may choose from as a pudding option, puts an excellent finish to a delectable meal.

words/ antonia lyne

Photo: Antony Zupnik

Best Sandwich: Smoothie Company

Loyal fan of The Smoothie Company, slightly cheaper opposite and the sandwiches are less "bready" if you gist! Personal favourites of mine are the salmon and cheese bagel as a hearty breakfast and the Thai sandwich a bit later. Always, always get them. The eponymous smoothies are pretty good too. I'd recommend the Passionfruit Salad. The seeds, I admit, tend to get stuck in the teeth but this can provide endless distraction and is that are that are painfully dull.

ite, however, does the best coffees (good before the mentioned lectures too) and brownies, provides campers and comfier sofas plus it has a loyalty card. Alternatively, if you are so important and your time is valuable to the extent that you can't even stop for lunch to grab-and-go, as it were, then walk swiftly past Sley's Bakery and straight into Bakery 164. Their sandwiches is the most daring with fillings such as mini and falafel to tickle your fancy. The upmarket cafe also makes an appearance. The breakfast sandwich is probably the least healthy but the most delicious at the end of the day.

words/ laura pullman



Photo: Antony Zupnik

Best Curry: Akmal's

Were I looking for premises for a new restaurant, old toilets would not be my first choice in local real estate. There is perhaps a subtle irony that it should be a curry house in the old toilets on Woodhouse Moor, but I shall refrain from exploiting it. Don't let it's lavatorial history put you off, Akmal's may actually not be the best curry in Leeds, but it is very good and the friendly staff and woodland location make it deserving of a prize. Their curries are tasty and fresh rather than gelatinous and greasy like many rivals. If you're committed to getting the best curry you can, get the train to Bradford for the best curries in the world (if you ask the locals).

words/ sam leach

Best Place to go when you are feeling rich: The Restaurant Bar and Grill and Malmaison

In these scary times of the credit crunch casting a dark cloud over us (in the form of cheap and nasty Pot Noodles and the like) it is even more exciting when you do spend a bit more than normal on scrumptious food. I want to do a pun with Credit Munch but I'll restrain myself. So if you are celebrating a birthday, a promotion, successful operations, divorces or someone else is paying for either of these restaurants. Number one on my list is The Restaurant Bar and Grill. The building itself is beautiful (the old post office), located in the City Square. There is something very Sex and the City about the place, indeed when I visited there was barely a man to be seen and lots of overdressed, faintly desperate looking women. The minimalist décor cons you into believing you are suddenly in New York or, at least, Habitat. The place is not fussy and nor is the food. I recently had Roasted Halibut with Crab and Herb Crumb with asparagus and Shellfish Dressing, and it was seriously yummy- surprisingly the crab was a very generous portion. The steaks here are also superb and you can choose your own sauces which is always fun. The prices range from around a tenner for the pastas and risottos to around and above 15 quid for the fish, and then up to 20 for the fillet steak. The Sticky Toffee Pudding was one of the lightest I've ever had, and I've had lots.

If you are paranoid about looking like a spin-off version of HBO's famous foursome, or you are a man who doesn't relish the idea of being in a confined space with lots of desperate women (although I am probably being unfair to The R.B.&G's clientele) then go to Malmaison. It is a hotel too, with a gym, so you could either sleep off or work off your indulgences. The cuisine is a mixture of French, light, contemporary and retro with soufflés, terrines, ox cheek and chowders. They also, impressively, have a home grown and local menu currently serving Grey Mullet and Pork Belly, capitalising on Yorkshire thubarb to finish off. Go on, treat yourself. You deserve it.

words/ laura pullman



Photo: Ali Hung

HEALTH Mobile Phones

If you read this column regularly (and if not, why not?) then you'll remember two weeks ago we looked at the MMR vaccination scandal/farce. Another big health scare that seems to re-emerge every so often is the dangers of mobile phones; unfortunately, it's considerably more complicated and less clear cut than MMR, so I've put off writing about it until now.

Mobiles are a pretty new invention - they have only been popular for a decade or so, and have proved so tremendously useful that most people now have one. They work by radio communication: transmitting and receiving signals to and from a nearby base station antenna that is owned by your network provider. All these base stations are connected to each other, as well as to the old fashioned - wired telephone network, so you can call any other telephone or mobile you like. Radio waves come in different flavours (or frequencies, if you want to be technical), and the variety that mobiles use is called the microwave band of frequencies.

"But, isn't a microwave something I use to heat up my Pot Noodle?" I hear you gasp. And you'd not be alone; some people, some more reputable than others, have suggested that the microwaves used by mobiles might have some bad effects on the body. Two types of effect have been suggested - thermal and non-thermal.

The thermal effects are those that are a result of heating by the microwave signals. The general consensus at the moment seems to be that any temperature increase caused by a mobile phone is pretty minuscule compared to, say, having the sun shine on your face or going into a hot room, and the body can easily cope with it. (For comparison, your microwave has a power of over 500 watts, and is especially designed to concentrate that power on food. Mobile phones are typically under 1 watt, and scatter their signal as widely as possible.) Non-thermal effects are those that might be caused in some way other than by heating, and may or may not exist, depending on what research you read.

Inevitably, a whole industry has been set up around the suggested harms of mobile phones. Some people have claimed to suffer from 'electrosensitivity', experiencing a wide range of maladies including itching, rash, difficulty concentrating and flu-like symptoms when exposed to radio waves. Scientists have studied this by (essentially) putting them in rooms with either real or fake mobile phones; the subjects experienced the same symptoms regardless. (Which is not to say that they aren't experiencing these symptoms, just that it isn't because of mobiles.) Of course, wherever there is a vulnerable person, there is someone trying to take their money, and you can buy very expensive, often worthless things to 'block out' the signals - from radio wave-proof wallpaper to amulets you can hang around your neck.

So what is the current state of knowledge? Well, electrosensitivity probably doesn't exist, and long-term use of mobiles is probably safe. Research is ongoing though - there aren't any people yet who have used a mobile phone regularly for 60 years, and it is only by looking at those people that we can say definitively whether mobiles are unhealthy. The best way to think might be to balance the risks and benefits; for me, my mobile phone is pretty much essential and the risk of long term health problems seems low, so I will continue to use it, but not too much.

words/ oli elis

The author is not a doctor, and certainly not a physicist. If you have concerns about your health or the ill effects of mobiles then talk to your GP.

14 CLUBS/

twentyeight/
november/
zero eight/

HAIKU PREVIEWS

Friday 28
Kissdafunk, Mission

Is that a threat? Do
you want me to kiss you on
your funk? That's quite rude.

Saturday 29
DJ Yoda, The Elbow Rooms

Q Magazine likes
him. They like Bono too. But
Yoda's not a c**t.

Sunday 30
Leeds Rocks, OK Karaoke

Remember when the
cats on Blue Peter were called
Karrie and Okie?

Monday 31
Chic Beat, Gatecrasher

If you didn't get
an advent calender, your
Mum doesn't love you.

Tuesday 2
Pendulum live, Academy

They're awfully loud.
I suppose young people like
this sort of thing now.

Wednesday 3
Sit On My Bass, Wire

I like going to Wire.
It has cool little
alcoves and good tunes.

Thursday 4
Boy 8 Bit, Cockpit

Boy 8 Bit is a
nerdy looking ginger guy.
Such good music though.

words/ jon horner

REVIEW - Mary Anne Hobbs Wire 14/11/08

I arrived at half past eleven. This was the arrival time of those who blatantly came for the 44 year old 'Queen of Dub, Grime and all things experimental'. Mary Anne Hobbs was the joint headliner with Montreal's hip-hop/reggae export Ghislain Poirier, both of which I anticipated an alternative Friday night with which would have usually been spent on the sofa watching Jonathan Ross. Still airing on Radio One, Hobbs in the past decade has not only stirred up the underground music scene to a recent heightened climax but as observed on Friday... an obvious male following. The question is is it her looks or her ability to choose safe crowd pleasers such as 'Saxon' by Chase and Status that roll in the seven pound paying punters? More than likely it's the latter that drew people off their sofas into Wire where the beats that pulsed through the room by not only Hobbs, created an atmosphere that forced the punters into hard hitting, knee jerking movements (and the occasional

skank) for the majority of the night. Some of the crowd felt her mixing skills were maybe a tad weak at times. One punter (let's say his name may have been Sam) was less patient declaring that Hobbs 'could not actually mix for shit'. Excusing the language it could only be compared to her radio show late on Tuesday nights in which she plays emerging underground music, one track after another, virtually unblended. Ghislain Poirier, described as being 'a master in the art of making people move,' did not fail in pleasing blending chilled out, slow moving pulses and then dirty, heavy bass beats. Hobbs can choose the crowd pleasers and conjure up the admirers, but Poirier has the edge on her when it comes to mixing with ease. Alongside the headliners were Daz Quayle and P45 (Room 237 resident) but despite the bill, Wire was not full to capacity. On this occasion this only added to the 'underground scene' vibe of ground breaking music that Room 237 prides

itself upon and what the acts that feature prefer to be associated with. Mary Anne Hobbs is worlds apart from when she 'went to work in an egg packing factory for the princely sum of £39 per week' and Ghislain Poirier is taking the international underground by storm, one city at a time. With a great atmosphere built up by the DJ's through the course of the evening and an impressive eardrum quaking sound system the evening was a success. Two pieces of warning though, the price of the cheapest drink was a Tiger beer at £2.50, and more importantly, invest in some ear plugs before coming to Wire, it's loud, but in the way we all like.

Catch the next Room 237 vs. Central Beatz event with Current Value live at Wire -Friday December 12th.

words/ hannah hawkins and sam donnison

INTERVIEW - Mary Anne Hobbs

"Everyone involved is working together with a common goal...to push things forward..."

Mary Anne Hobbs is one of those people who seem to literally speed through life. Be it on her motorbike, or through the music industry, you can't help but be impressed. She has worked for Sounds Music Newspaper, NME and XFM, but to most she is the face of Radio 1's Experimental show and it is through this platform that she has become one of the most significant figures in the literally booming Dubstep scene. I got in touch with her to find out from "the ultimate fan" how she feels Dubstep has changed the underground music scene, and what her own part in this has been.

Dubstep originated in Croydon and Shoreditch around 1999-2000, where the Big Apple Records store, and the clubnight FWD>> created a foundation for the sound. Now, in 2008, Dubstep is spreading around the world - Mary herself played Malawi's first Dubstep set only last month. However, as well as being amazed at the "viral transmission of sound" around the world, Mary is well aware of the importance of the local scenes which have grown most notably in London, Leeds and Bristol. She keenly points out that there are "mutually supportive, symbiotic relationships between the scenes in different cities". The term "communitystep", coined by MC Sgt. Pokes is the way that she likes to describe it; "Everyone involved is working together with a common goal...to push things forward..."

One of the biggest advocates of Dubstep has been the internet. With the latest vinyl hard to acquire, websites such as Dubstepforum have allowed music to be shared between those who have become hooked on its grimy beats and hooks. However, Mary's Radio 1 Experimental Show, formerly known as Breezblock, has come to be considered as responsible for breaking Dubstep into the mainstream. "I see my show as a bridge that connects the

most fearless producers in the world with the most ambitious global audience. I guess my response to Dubstep has been similar to John Peel's reaction to punk in the 70s. Overnight, the sound changed my life and although I will never abandon the other genres that I love, I have become a passionate evangelist for Dubstep in the last 3 years."

Mary has recently broken into the club scene, but this is a very different discipline to Radio, her first love. She's quick to point out that DJs such as Kode 9 have had 15 years more experience than her. However her sets have still drawn massive crowds, eager to hear the tunes selected by someone truly at the forefront of the scene. The fact that Mary has gone from someone championing a new genre to the public to fronting the music at a grassroots level shows a genuine passion for this music. Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed by those producing the records she plays, and this is evident from her new compilation album, Evangeline, which features tracks created personally for her. These include tunes from DJ Pinch, Dargwan and Magnetic Man, which I think stand as trophies of the respect for her and what she's achieved within the scene.

words/will coldwell



THE NINES

It will come as no surprise for me to say that music has a direct impact on fashion. A blatant statement if ever there was one. What I've noticed is that the trends in clubs seem to be well ahead of the game; more outrageous and eccentric than anything I have seen in the 'well dressed' pages of Grazia. I've come to the conclusion it is because most avid club inhabitants are willing to go that extra step to make themselves stand out in a crowd, they're dramatic and daring and I'm in love with it.

A friend told me he starts planning outfits at least 3 weeks prior to the next big night out: even down to how he will style his tresses. Amazing I thought, whilst simultaneously slightly ashamed that I put more thought into what to have on my toast than how to style my locks before a night out. I began to deliberate with myself, who was it that raised the fashion bar in the first place? Is it a proverbial chicken or the egg scenario; was it fashion influencing club music and its populace, or those outlandish club scenesters that have inspired the designers?

From what I gather, disco was the culprit, when this musical movement began, the skirts got shorter and the hair got bigger. Glitter, fake eyelashes and ostentatious threads became staple elements and that was before the DJ even got on the decks. As time has gone on different trends have influenced and become akin to different genres of club music, and now (if we're being

stereotypical) you can pretty much distinguish what club night a person will go to from the way they have styled themselves.

In days of old, the music would be the main attraction of a club and fashion trends would evolve as a result. It would be down to some new radical along with his/her pals sporting a unique look which induced others to buy the appropriate gear; the mods and Paul Smith, punk and Vivienne Westwood, the hip hop assemblage and their diamond encrusted accessories, it has all stemmed from the clubs, the music they played and the crowd they attracted. Nowadays it's almost as if the clubs and the music have become subsidiary to fashion, people are there to see and be 'scene.' The clubs have become a prolific catwalk for the fashionistas and the music has become the soundtrack.

I completely admire how much effort some people will put into their look for the club they are hitting, Brighton Beach being a prime example for this. Intricate face make-up that it understated but a statement none the less, clubs allow people to dress-up, indulge in hedonistic fantasy, be somebody they're not for one night and provide an escape from their day-to-day being. On the other hand, it can all backfire and you can end up with a cluster of clones dancing to shit music, too busy being 'cool' to realise.

Yours truly,
Jo Blogs. X

Jo...
blogs

PREVIEW - Bad Taste Party Santiagos 26/11/08

Never mind the economy, here's culture gone Bad Taste. When the economy's going to hell in a handbasket, you can trust that somewhere, a group of dirty little punks are spearheading a new movement. London has always been thought of as the heart of all cultural movements but it's often forgotten that Leeds became a centre for the New Romantic and Goth scenes in the 1980s, with Marc Almond and Chris Neate playing host to gatherings of freaks, fashionable punks and Bowie fans at The Warehouse.

Now the city is home to Bad Taste - a club night which doesn't give a shit about your carbon emissions and isn't so much off-colour as positively rotten. The club started life as a black and white DIY fanzine put together by a group of friends, a call to arms against the so-called eighth deadly sin of boredom. Soon, this developed into monthly parties.

Next week sees the night's return at its old stomping ground, Santiagos. Expect anarchy, obscenity and a complete disregard for political correctness. With a history of showcasing weird and wonderful acts (naked accordion player anyone?) the shows feature themes such as underwater perverts, ladies in drag and circus of horrors.

However, it's not all shits and giggles - previous Bad Taste guests have included

Christopher Bailey, creative director of Burberry, showing that amidst the hairspray and spandex, the club pulls in some seriously stylish punters.

Those who secretly wish they could admit they still quite like Gary Glitter will feel at home here. Expect to see plenty of make-up, even more hair and some of the most tasteless fancy dress Leeds has ever seen. Although wrong on many levels, it can't be denied that the nights have an overwhelming sense of fun.

Next week's theme is Bad Taste Gets Terminally Ill so embrace your dark side by dressing up as your favourite disease and dancing yourself to death to the sound of live performances from The Neat, This Ambulance Contains Skittles and The Nervous Shakedown. Bad Taste and New Penny DJs will be playing a mix of punk, rockabilly, 1960s garage and glam rock. You have one week left to figure out a visual representation of your favourite sexually transmitted disease, so you should probably get cracking to be the best syphilis there.

9pm - 2.30am. £4 on the door.

words/ jessica geen
photo/sarah pinnell



twentyeight/
november/
zero eight/

REVIEW/

Hunger

Director/Steve McQueen
Starring/Michael Fassbender,
Stuart Graham, Helena Bereen
Hyde Park Picture House
21st-27th November

It's 27 years on from the Irish Hunger Strike, yet *Hunger* is able to generate as much controversy now as it did then by its sympathetic portrayal of the plight of 10 Republicans who went on hunger strike during the height of conflict between Republicans and Unionists in Ireland. Directed by Turner prize winner Steve McQueen, this screen debut manages to display his talent for visual art by creating a visual collage that documents the harrowing events at its epicentre.

The man at the centre of the film, is Bobby Sands, a Provisional IRA member who led the 1981 Hunger Strike in which Republican prisoners tried to win political status and gain international publicity for their cause. McQueen denies that the film sets out to portray Sands as a martyr, yet it is extremely difficult not to empathise, and even admire many of the prisoners,

whose quest for political freedom leads them to deny their basic bodily needs and become martyrs for their cause. The film is ridden with harrowing scenes like one where the prisoners smear excrement all over their cells in protest over their treatment, and the punishment they receive at the hands of their police officers is physically and mentally draining to watch. However, McQueen prevents his film from turning into a sadist indulgence in violence and punishment by its artistic portrayal of the conditions in the prison, where the faeces on the wall are turned into an art form that symbolises the sacrifices man make for his ideals.

One of the film's strengths is its lack of dialogue, that gives it a sense of poignancy; this helps the scene of intensive dialogue, when Sands is visited by a priest, become one of the most notable sequences. The morality of the hunger strike is debated, which saves the film from being too complementary to the prisoners' actions. The distinctions between 'freedom fighter' and 'terrorist' are questioned in the film, and the issues they raise seem to strike a chord with the Western 'war on terror' and the atrocities of Abu Ghraib. Furthermore, the actions of Maggie Thatcher towards both Sands and the Hunger Strike are severely criticised throughout the film. Danny Morrison, Irish republican activist, has described Thatcher as the 'biggest bastard



we have ever known' and the film seems to adhere to this notion, through its use of her speeches on the strike, which are played to the sight of prisoners being tortured.

McQueen's success in the domain of film is marked by his choice of actors, with Michael Fassbender successfully taking on the intimidating prospect of playing Bobby Sands. Fassbender had to lose 14 kgs to play Sands, who took 66 days to die without food, and his successful recreation of the mental determination and physical anguish of Sands has led

many to draw parallels to the Method acting model that produced such heavyweights as Marlon Brando. *Hunger* has received much press attention, by winning many awards including the Camera D'Or and it premiered at Cannes with a standing ovation. Although extremely harrowing and bleak, this film is an unforgettable portrayal of the lengths to which human beings go to in their quest for freedom.

words/nali sivathanan

REVIEWS/

Quiet Chaos

Director: Antonio Grimaldi
Starring: Nanni Moretti, Valeria Golino,
Isabella Ferrari
Hyde Park Picture House
Until 27th November

Adapted from Sandro Veronesi's bestselling novel of the same name, "Caos calmo" is a film of cinematic beauty and emotional depth, a slow moving but poignant exploration of grief and guilt set amongst the lives of the rich and successful in Rome. It follows the life of Italian film executive Pietro (Nanni Moretti) as he attempts to deal with the sudden death of his wife. As he takes his 10-year-old daughter Claudia for her first day back at school he makes the spontaneous decision to cancel all his meetings and wait in the park across the street until she comes out. Though initially a spur of the moment choice it gains significance as Pietro attains a sense of comfort from his desire to be close to his daughter. The film documents Pietro's new routine in the following months; visited by family, friends and colleagues and establishing new relationships with the park's other regulars.

Moretti's nuanced central performance of a complex character struggling to remain in control in the face of great personal loss is both realistic and moving. His expressive inner dialogue as he composes lists ("Airlines I have flown with...") and makes silly bets with himself ("if she looks now I shall know I am doing the right thing...") show his attempts to keep his composure, and when he eventually breaks down into tears the effect is forceful and uncomfortable to watch. Equally important are his relationships with the other characters, the affection and support he attempts to give his daughter, his closeness and rivalry with his younger brother and his ambiguous romantic history with his neurotic sister-in-law. Moretti manages to craft a sympathetic but distinctly



flawed protagonist, who endeavours to the right thing but struggles with the new territory he encounters following the loss of his wife.

Rightly well received in the international film festival circuit, "Quiet Chaos", is well acted, aesthetically pleasing, and emotionally engaging. Criticism can be limited to what I considered a couple of inappropriate music choices, a rather graphic sex scene involving two older characters (yuk-old people sex!) and a lack of definite closure at the end, though these are all personal opinions. A touching and understated film that provoked me to consider some of the positive aspects of bereavement; the way it pulls us closer together with those who matter to us and how it makes us focus on what is important to us.

Quiet Chaos is showing at the Hyde Park Picture House from the 21st-27th November

words/ peter kawuma

Playhouse Creatures

Stage@Leeds
19th-22nd November

Advertised as "TG's most exciting theatrical event of the year," this dark and faintly comic take on British dramatist April De Angelis' historical drama, offers a certain style to a period where women in theatre were regarded under the same light as prostitutes, and where theatres had only just re-opened after seventeen years of puritan suppression. Described as encouraging coarseness and vulgar comportment, the re-opening of such places saw the creation of five of the most admirable British actresses of their time; Doll Common, Nell Gwyn, Elizabeth Farley, Rebecca Marshall and Mary Betterton.

Playhouse Creatures focuses on the turbulent lives of these aspiring actresses, incorporating mild humour, lewd conversations with a moving atmosphere. As the first TG play to completely sell out by opening night and to make Stage@Leeds a profit, it promised to be a night to remember. Entering the theatre, I was immediately struck by extremely modest scenery. A small chest, and a few black boxes were the only eye pleasers. Although one could quickly judge and point a finger at set designer Max Dorey, as soon as the actresses set foot on the stage, this minimalistic scenery just allowed the audience to fully focus on the actors.

One of the first characters to appear on stage is Doll Common (Stephanie James). Being the first to appear and also without a doubt the most memorable and likeable in this play is quite an accomplishment for this production. This being said, amateur would not be my word of choice as all five performers delivered notably convincing takes on these historical characters. Stephanie James' cockney



accent and broken backed winging lady gave pace and offered many moments of comic relief in a play which would otherwise be dark and sinister. Rosie Gwyn, Fenella Dawmay and Harriet Green as Nell Gwyn, Elizabeth Farley and Rebecca Marshall themselves too demonstrated high standards of acting for such a production, and observing the audiences reactions, this was the general consensus.

Joanna O'Malley's Mrs Betterton was powerful and vastly absorbing even as the play itself started to lose the momentum it has accumulated in Act one, towards the middle of the second act.

Sharply performed, the only attribute that displeased in this production was the over evident DIY costume corsets that left something to be desired even for such standards. Nevertheless hats off to Philippa Wilkinson and Emily Kempson for directing such a powerful TG play. As Doll Common would say "Cross my heart and spit on my corpse" Playhouse creatures was a treat!

words/charlotte sintrat

PREVIEW/ PETER PAN



Christmas Extravaganza

West Yorkshire Playhouse
22nd November - 31st January

Here's Leeds Student's sneak preview of the production, with rehearsal photographs and interviews with cast member James Byng and Assistant Director Justin Audibert giving us an idea of just what really goes into a full-scale Christmas extravaganza.

The WYP's annual Christmas show is upon us: the classic Peter Pan tale brought to life again. Who doesn't love the swashbuckling, fantastical world of Captain Hook, Tinkerbell and the lost boys? This show is the ideal pre-holiday treat with your flatmates, and with student discounts of £2, tickets can be as cheap as just £9.50. Spend a magical evening in the theatre with your new friends from hall before bidding adieu for Christmas with the family. Friday nights are specially themed pirate nights, aimed at students, with the WYP are allowing you to slap on your eye-patches and inflatable parrots and drink yourselves merry in the stalls! Just don't climb onto the stage, as you might find yourself tied up in an extravagant metal flying cabled, crocodile jawed, glittery Never Land death trap.

INTERVIEW/ Justin Audibert Role: Assistant Director

Justin made his way into the theatre industry by taking a Masters degree in Theatre Production, followed by an internship at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, after which, he says, "they asked me to stay on". And that's just what he did.

As the assistant director, Justin describes the job as quite challenging and suited to a more 'organised' type of person. Being assistant director involves managing cast and working with understudies. It also involves important things such as watching the production a few times a week to give the cast notes on what's working and whether the notes are being picked up on.

The assistant director has his or her hands full most of the time. Justin describes *Peter Pan* as one of the "biggest productions" he has ever worked on. A particularly stressful time is when cast and musicians are brought together to do the Sitzprobe, a seated rehearsal where the singers sing with the orchestra. This is a crucial part of production and has to run smoothly, as having the band around for a long time is costly. Justin describes it as "Like an examination, but less painful!"

Justin is certainly enjoying his time on *Peter Pan*, but claims if someone had told him a year back that he would be working on a musical, he would have been incredulous. But Justin thinks *Peter Pan* works in this format. He is very impressed with both the score and the musical ears of the sound and music directors.

So any advice for people trying to get into the industry? "Why?" Justin jokes. "You don't get paid very much!" Justin describes it as tough, but worth it. Like a lot of things, getting into the business involves lots of letter writing and asking people to take a chance on you. Some people get to the top in a very "meteoric" way, but for most people it's a slow progression. Justin was a teacher for two years, but seems to have no regrets about taking the leap to the dramatic arts. He describes this kind of job as perfect for a creative person, who loves art, "you really have to want to make it."

So should we come to see *Peter Pan*? Justin describes this production as magical. "You'll love it."

interview/ charlotte gill

INTERVIEW/ James Byng Role: John Darling

How's it going? You having a good day?
Yeah just been doing flying practise this morning. It's getting there, but it's just getting bits of technical elements that need to come together and that's a real challenge of this show.

Tell us about yourself...
How I started off as an actor? Well I sort of fell into it. I was ten years old and I went to an open audition for *Oliver!* That was advertised on Blue Peter and without ever having done anything like that before, without ever wanting to do anything like that before, and ended up playing *Oliver* in London for three years. And so, it's just sort of a baptism of fire really...and I've kind of carried on ever since...and this job sort of came out of the blue, just got phoned up by my agent the week before rehearsals started, came to audition and then the following Monday I was here reading the script.

Why do you think *Peter Pan* is still encapsulating audiences 100 years after it was written?

It's nice to be a part of the tradition that they've done it every Christmas, it's always been the production. I think it's a classic tale of good versus evil, which is always nice. And I think we've all grown up with the characters and we have a very clear idea of what they are and how they should look and how they should act...and lots of that was established, by the Disney film obviously, and I just think it's ingrained in us, that kind of story and a feeling of never wanting to grow up. And escapism, and it's just fascinating to imagine that you could drift off into another world and just exist as a child.

Can you tell us a bit about your character, John Darling, and what you like about playing him?

Urm... John fancies himself as a swashbuckling buccaneer, I think, with his umbrella as a sword and he's great fun to play, he's just like a miniature version of his dad, George Darling. And he's old beyond his years, but with the naivety that makes him clearly, in the realm of children rather than adults, but that's interesting to play. Especially as I'm 23 and he's supposed to be 10, so there's a bit of a leap and I'm playing him against an eight-year-old. So, hmm, it was a challenge not to come across as a geek, as a teenage geek...so I don't know if I've achieved that yet, but we'll wait and see! What I like when I'm playing characters is to have a real challenge there, and I've certainly got that with this.

So you don't think you're anything like John Darling?

I think probably most people would disagree with that, but I'd like to think I wasn't like that, but then I put my dressing gown on this morning and I was thinking this exactly the same as the costume in the show. I am John.

Are you slowly turning into him?

I think so...I used to wear glasses and then I had my eyes lasered, but yeah, if I started finding myself putting on glasses again, little round glasses again, then I'll know, I'm turning into him.

Is there anything in particular you like about being in the West Yorkshire Playhouse and in Leeds?

It's a really nice place to work, mainly because the atmosphere is so good and everyone is so friendly. It was a bit of a surprise really. I don't know what I was expecting really, but arriving here it felt very different to London. It doesn't seem like that now, but I'm just amazed at how friendly everyone is and how good the service is here...here is a real sort of community atmosphere, it feels like everyone is pulling together towards the same aim.



peter pan photos/ catherine ashmore

And it's nice to be part of that because you don't get that in London. Everyone just comes in, does their bit and goes off home. Or maybe just gets drunk in the pub, but here everyone there's a completely different atmosphere and that's great.

And how are rehearsals going?

Good we had um, a long week of technical rehearsals last week, where we were in about nine-thirty and didn't finish until ten, it was quite full on, lots of sort of waiting around, lots of standing in positions being lit, hanging in harnesses from a wire, feeling like a corpse, hanging there like that, when you couldn't be bothered any more, but it hasn't been too bad, and rehearsal's been quite a creative process as you'd expect. I was unsure when I started this job whether we'd have room to explore the piece and explore the characters, but we have. Rachel Kavanaugh's been enthusiastic and anxious for us to find our own way through it, and make the characters our own which is really nice. We've got a few more days of rehearsals this week to tidy some things up, we did our first show with an audience on Saturday, so it's nice to see how they react to it, and then change things accordingly.

How were the Leeds audience?

Yeah they were, they were really up for it on Saturday night, so I'm looking forward to seeing more, and of course there's always going to be an abundance of kids in the audience and it's nice to play off them, because they're going to laugh at completely different things than adults will laugh at. It's nice to have that mixture, and obviously lots of families come along, you have to be aware of the fact that you have to cater for people of a wide age range, so that's a challenge in itself. But I'm looking forward to getting to know and meet the audiences a bit more.

What would be your dream stage role?

Hmm, well there's dream roles, and then there are the roles which I could realistically play, I'm not sure, something that's a big sing would be nice, because there's not much singing in this, although it is a big musical, as John doesn't do a lot of singing. I'd really like to eventually play Frankie Valli in the *Jersey Boys*, if I could get my falsetto good enough, again, the harness might help, squeeze it all down there... Ah, maybe Curly, in *Ok!lahoma!* or something, although I might be too short for that, yeah.

Finally, if you could describe this new production of *Peter Pan* in five words, tell us why people should come and see it?

I think it's fresh, a real spectacle... It doesn't have to be exactly five!

A feast for the eyes! And it's a real adventure, I mean they're all clichés but that's essentially what it is. But it doesn't feel like any other production, I don't think, there's new twists to it, although that's going over the five word limit now! Fresh, exciting and exhilarating.

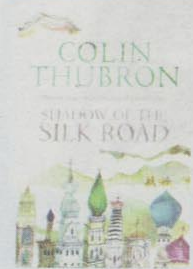
Thank you very much.
Thanks for indulging me!

interview/ laura white



Shadow of the Silk Road

Colin Thubron



In the 19th century, the term 'Silk Road' entered into circulation, describing the convoluted network of trade routes that once passed through China and Central Asia, extending as far westward as Mediterranean Europe. On an eight-month journey spanning 7000 miles, Colin Thubron's novel takes the reader on an exhilarating expedition along the remnants of the Silk Road (from Eastern China to Kurdish Turkey), on an adventure fraught with danger and excitement.

From root canal surgery without anaesthetic in Iran, to quarantine against SARS in China, Thubron's tale is full of both entertaining and harrowing accounts of life on his travels. Whilst light amusement is provided throughout (the constant staring by bewildered locals at the foreigner in their midst was certainly portrayed comically), the tragic repercussions of war and conflict are constantly discussed. Chinese victims of the Cultural Revolution (where a million died and many more were brutally tortured) recount the inhumanity of their country's past, Afghans illustrate the horror of life under the Taliban, whilst Kyrgyz and Uzbeks speak of a void left over by the fall of Communism. It certainly does not make for easy reading, yet an overall message of hope prevails for the future, and a belief by many that the worst of their sufferings can be consigned to the past.

Thubron's story presents a thorough and extremely detailed account of life in each of the countries he visits. For those who know little about Central Asian life, the book is ideal, providing both historical summaries and extensive cultural information. Many unsuspecting readers may even find themselves learning about the lives of distant relatives, with the novel's repeated references to the merging of cultures, facilitated by the road thousands of years ago, demonstrating how conceptions about people's genetic purity are more often than not illusory.

words/ nina wozmirska

Footpaths in the Painted City

Sadia Shepard

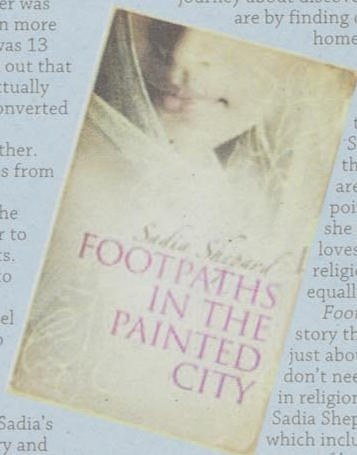
Sadia Shepard grew up in the States in a very diverse family as her father was Christian and her mother was Muslim. Things got even more complicated when she was 13 years old and she found out that her grandmother was actually born Jewish and only converted to Islam when she married Sadia's grandfather.

When Sadia graduates from university and her grandmother is dying, she tells Sadia she wants her to go and discover her roots. So she sets off to India to study the small community of Bene Israel Jews and figure out who she really is, and where she really comes from.

Footpaths in the Painted City chronicles Sadia's making of a documentary and photographic series of the Bene Israel Jewish community. It proves to be a difficult task because so many of them have emigrated to Israel. But what unfolds is an inspiring journey where Sadia investigates her religious

background and tries to figure out for herself which religion means the most to her. She also makes the journey for her grandmother, to better understand the complicated life of somebody who is so important to her.

This book is a beautiful sweeping journey about discovering who you really are by finding out where your true



home lies. And whilst there doesn't end up being one simple answer to these questions for Sadia, she discovers that the answers aren't necessarily the point because after all she has learnt she still loves all the people and religions in her life equally.

Footpaths is an inspired story that will appeal to just about anyone. You don't need to be interested in religion to read this book. Sadia Shepard writes in a way which includes you in every aspect of her journey and once you start reading you will find it hard to stop because you are constantly fascinated to know what she discovers next!

words/ noni garratt

Pommy Bastard!

John H Livings



Pommy Bastard! is the candid tale of the life of hedonistic Archie Spinks. Archie tells us his life story as both a red-blooded young man and as a reflective fifty-something having a mid-life crisis.

My first problem with the novel was; who was it really about? This is not fiction. This is an autobiography. Livings' life, described in the "About the Author" section, is the same as that of Archie. Even parts of the novel describing Archie's character are regurgitated to describe Livings.

So was Livings too embarrassed to admit that Archie is actually him? Perhaps. Some might raise their eyebrows at just what Archie gets up to. Most of the novel focuses on his time working onboard a cruise ship, taking copious amounts of illegal substances and definitely trying all the chocolates in the box when it comes to the opposite sex. I really had problems with the two-dimensional characterisation of the women in this novel, all surprisingly awful at resisting the charms of alky-Archie. But then, this is a bloke's book.

Despite the fact Archie is a blissfully ignorant sexist, I managed to fall for his charms, but at the same time I pitied him. Archie is a teenage boy trapped inside, what I imagine to be, a relatively

unattractive middle-aged man's body. Livings seems to recognise at the beginning of the novel that there's something saddening about the fact that Archie has never moved on, grown up and done something great with his life, but he never really explores why. Livings also does not explore why Archie is so terrible at having relationships with women. But perhaps this is because Livings is Archie and Archie is Livings. How can he examine Archie's faults when he does not recognise them in himself?

Livings writes with flare and has a wicked sense of humour; I was especially amused when he compared posh people dancing to 'epileptic windmills'. Despite this, his tale managed at times to sound like the kind of dreary conversation you might have to listen to when that person at the party won't shut up telling you about 'that crazy time when...' or 'that crazy time with...'. This is definitely no



Livings has a wicked sense of humour

page turner, and you might be left thinking 'point being?' on finishing the last devastatingly tedious page, but if you're a man's man looking for a novel favouring comedy over plot, this just might be for you.

words/ charlotte gill

Five of the best... travel

Not got a spare few grand knocking around for a plane ticket? That's what books are good for. See the world for the price of a paperback with the finest travel writing.

Hokkaido Highway Blues

Will Ferguson

Hokkaido Highway Blues was born – as was many a great book – of a drunken bet. Ferguson pledges to hitch the entire length of Japan, and is aided by a spectrum of characters including the police, a gangster, and a man who repeatedly shouts 'cowsex!' at him. Ferguson's experiences hilariously illustrate a certain side of Japanese culture better than any serious study could.

Notes from a Small Island

Bill Bryson

As an American who lived for 20 years in England, Bryson combines two qualities that only rarely come together to form great travelogues: an outsider's ability to recognise a country's idiosyncrasies, and a real understanding of what makes its people tick. Bryson has you in hysterics at things you see every day, but were never odd until you looked at them through the eyes of a foreigner.

The Songlines

Bruce Chatwin

Renowned British travel writer Bruce Chatwin heads to Alice Springs in the Australian outback to track the 'songlines' – invisible pathways used by the Aborigines to navigate and connect communities. His evocative account explores native Australian culture and the conflict between Aborigines and European immigrants.

Hotel Heaven

Matthew Brace

Matthew Brace, luxury travel writer, explores some of the most sumptuous hotels on earth on behalf of his lowly readers, who probably couldn't afford half a pint in one of these places. The sheer extravagance described is vaguely disgusting, but compelling in a know-you-shouldn't sort of way, and there are interesting discussions of phenomena such as ecotourism and the concept of hotel as destination.

Stephen Fry in America

Stephen Fry

Fry casts his erudite, ironic, and very English eye over the US. Travelling through each of the 50 states in turn, his book gives a good impression of the diversity of America and its citizens. The observations of often overlooked small-town life, plus stunning pictures, make it worth a look.

words/ rebecca miles



Big Brother, where art thou?

With the start of Apparitions on the BBC, Evie Prysor-Jones has been thinking about why religion on Television causes such controversy.

If you haven't heard about Apparitions, its story centres on Father Jacob (Martin Shaw), who starts as a promoter for candidates for sainthood but becomes drawn in to exorcism. Despite Catholic priests advising the production company on how to keep the stories accurate and tasteful Apparitions has been dubbed as "the most shocking TV drama ever" and the priests in question are refusing to watch the finished version. It is reported by screenrush.co.uk that "One scene sees a young man attacked by a homeless person who is possessed. The attack takes place in a gay sauna and shows the two characters fighting, naked. The subsequent shot will show the victim's skinned corpse on the sauna floor."

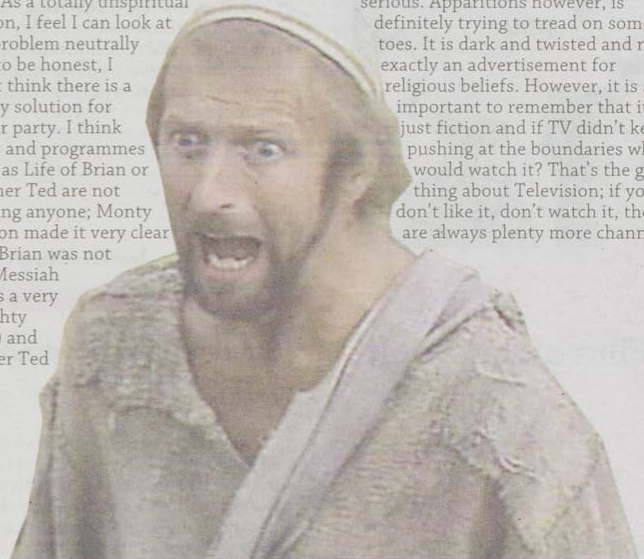
There are many worries already within the BBC that the continuation of this programme will cause uncountable outrage, especially coming so soon after the Jonathon Ross saga. Obviously then, its had one of the highest viewer ratings this year. Shaw is defending his programme by saying it isn't that unusual and that it is not laying any slander on Catholicism.

Glancing back in time at what else caused this sort of fuss for the same sort of reasons, the first thing that pops into my head is when Monty Python made Life of Brian. When it was produced it was actually banned by several town councils and people protested in front of cinemas. Shortly after the film was released, Cleese and Palin engaged in what would become an infamous debate on the BBC2 with Malcolm Muggeridge and Mervyn Stockwood, the Bishop of Southwark.

Lets not also forget our favourite Irish vicar, Father Ted. Even this hilarious programme created its own problems when first released. Many took the drunken behaviour of Father Jack Hackett and the apparent glorification of Ted and Dougal's irresponsible actions as a serious slander on the Catholic Church. I'm not entirely sure that a programme, in which one episode Ted explains to Dougal the difference between really small cows and those that are really far away, can be taken as a source of moral education.

Television is such an influencing aspect of life that it is not surprising that when something as topical as religion is openly

questioned, chins begin to wag. As a totally unspiritual person, I feel I can look at the problem neutrally and to be honest, I don't think there is a happy solution for either party. I think films and programmes such as Life of Brian or Father Ted are not hurting anyone; Monty Python made it very clear that Brian was not the Messiah ("he's a very naughty boy") and Father Ted is an



extremely silly comedy, it's obviously not serious. Apparitions however, is definitely trying to tread on some toes. It is dark and twisted and not exactly an advertisement for religious beliefs. However, it is still important to remember that it is just fiction and if TV didn't keep pushing at the boundaries who would watch it? That's the great thing about Television; if you don't like it, don't watch it, there are always plenty more channels.

6

things you didn't know about...

Emmerdale

The highest watched Emmerdale Episode was on January 6, 1994 when more than 16 million viewers saw an aeroplane explode over the village.

The Woolpack pub is fully working and has around 20 gallons of beer and lager delivered each week.

Seth Armstrong got through about 24 woolly hats in a year, but most are given away to charity.

The Emmerdale village takes up more than 11 acres in the Yorkshire Dales.

The once sleepy village of Beckindale was renamed Emmerdale in 1994 after the plane crash.

Special machines create a smoke effect from the chimneys - and yoghurt was used on some roofs to encourage lichen to grow giving the properties an old feel.

words/ evie prysor-jones and hatti cawley

The Argument

What's the story morning glory?

Trisha

Trisha Goddard is the cheese to Jeremy Kyle's chalk, and I know which one I prefer on toast. Everyone knows that the guests who appear on these kinds of chat show are both morally and socially reprehensible, but Jeremy Kyle's tyrannical approach (usually something along the lines of, "think of the children you bastards!") is not helping anybody. Trisha's show on the other hand, works by creating a subtle self-parody with ridiculous topics such as, "Fiancé, your fear of scotch eggs ruined my wedding buffet!" and "I wouldn't give my daughter cash so she stabbed me in the spine!" By appearing on films and programmes such as Shaun of the Dead, Little Britain and Doctor Who, Trisha also shows herself as a good sport who can handle a little bit of fun poked at her. And like, literally, to be honest, at the end of the day right, this is what counts.

words/ clare pidsley

Jeremy Kyle

Jeremy Kyle helps people in the same way that kicking them to a hospital would. There is no way that this programme brings any good to the world, but that really is the beauty of it, that and the fact it is on at a ridiculous time in the morning. You would not think waking up to a middle aged self righteous bloke shouting at unemployed people on the TV would work, and in fact it shouldn't, but it does. Further evidence of this is Channel 5's attempt at a poor imitation; 'Trisha' which comes on after Jeremy has finished and calmed himself down (probably). I know I sound like a typical student but who could not love a show with titles such as, 'You've Broken Up My Family By Sleeping With Brothers' and 'My Sister's Children Would Be Better Off in Care!' It's like 'love it?' magazine on steroids, and therefore I think this is one of many student traditions we should make it our duty to uphold.

words/ hatti cawley



Friday 28th November

Gavin and Stacey
BBC1 9.30pm

A prime time terrestrial slot was always on the cards for this excellent comedy that combines the best of what's funny about people from Wales and people from Essex. There's more to it than just silly accents though, with Rob Brydon and rising star James Corden on top form. This week, Smithy does a runner upon news of his impending fatherhood. Meanwhile Stacey has to come to terms with an even more daunting proposition...living in Essex.

words/ charles cooper



Saturday 29th November

Hotel California:
BBC2 10.15pm

This documentary, which remembers a time when California was the heart and soul of American music, should make an interesting watch at a time when the place seems to be suffocating in its own mass-produced cultural smog. This documentary traces the rise of Los Angeles as the hub of the American music industry, on the back of idealistic young singer-songwriters who had no idea where it would all lead and wonders what became of those 'gentle people with flowers in their hair', exploring how the heartland of hippy culture become the nasty, corporate wasteland it is known for today.

words/ charles cooper

Film of the week

The Parent Trap

Sunday 30th November
Channel 4 6.30pm

This modern remake of the 1961 original stars Lindsay Lohan, when she still had a promising acting career ahead of her and before all the drinking and sleeping with members of McFly happened. Lohan actually makes a very good job of playing herself and her twin sister, and this, combined with the seamless special effects, makes it hard to tell that there aren't really two of them. Those of us who watched 'Sister Sister' when we were children will be familiar with the plot; one twin grows up with their mother and the other with their father. When the inevitable meet up happens, in this case at an American summer camp, the twins plot to bring their parents back together. As you'd expect, it all gets very sentimental towards the end, but there are some laughs to be had beforehand and although its obviously aimed at children, I think big kids will enjoy it too.

words/ hatti cawley

Sunday 30rd November

Here Come The Boys
ITV 8:00pm

Do you feel the need for attractive chaps singing their hearts out? Well, here come the boys. This event is to highlight the work of the UK's testicular cancer charities and so the male acts were lining up to show their support. Among those performing are Will Young, Scouting for Girls and Boyzone. The very appropriate song 'It's a Man's Man's Man's World' is to be performed by Seal along with Enrique Iglesias singing his hit 'Hero'. Holly Willoughby presents the evening of entertainment and it is well worth a watch, mainly because it will be finished by the one and only Sir Tom Jones with a rendition of, in my opinion, his best ever song, 'It's Not Unusual.'

words/ evie prysor-jones

Monday 1st December

Forced to Marry: This World
BBC2 7.00pm

The idea of arranged marriages is a really strange idea to most, but for some girls it is a reality and they are not just arranged, they are forced. Saira Khan presents this documentary that takes us to Pakistan where young British Asian girls are taken by their parents and forced to marry against their will. The programme also gets an exclusive look into the Government's Forced Marriages Unit and its office in Islamabad, following dramatic rescues of young women in a remote rural area in Pakistan. If you can't fathom how terrifying this experience is for these young girls, or can't quite understand how it can be justified, watch it and the reality will hit you in the face.

words/ evie prysor-jones

Tuesday 2nd December

Sex Trips for Girls
Channel 4 10.00pm

For anyone who has ever had a dodgy holiday romance, this will make them pale into obscurity. The first of two parts following British women on the wrong side of forty going on trips abroad with the sole purpose of shacking up with local young'uns. It follows women talking frankly about their exploits with their foreign loves. My personal favourite: a sixty-seven year old with a penchant for young Dominicans. I genuinely don't know where Channel 4 goes to find willing participants for such delightful "documentaries" but I wouldn't like to end up there, highly amusing all the same.

words/ lauren dick



Wednesday 3rd December

Ant and Dec: where did it all go right?
Channel 5 10.00pm

If like me you wonder how it is that PJ and Duncan have managed to wangle their way into presenting everything on ITV, this is the one for you. This charts the success of the Geordie twosome from their days 'down the grove' in Byker, through their ill fated musical career to becoming the 'icons' of entertainment today. They have won every award under the sun from BRITS and BAFTAs to British Comedy Awards (apparently they're the best we have!?) and perhaps this programme will go into explaining how and why.

words/ lauren dick

Thursday 4th December

Never Mind the Buzzcocks
BBC2 9.00pm

I'm a little bit nervous about tonight's episode of Never Mind the Buzzcocks because Dermot O'Leary is special guest team captain and there's a lot riding on whether he and host Simon Amstell will hit it off: namely my fantasy where polyandry becomes legal. I marry them both, and all three of us live harmoniously in a spacious yet cosy country house. Even though there are plenty of other obstacles standing in the way of this dream (Simon's sexuality for example, and Dermot's lack of hair), I think if they can get along with each other tonight then we've conquered the first hurdle: Wish me luck.

words/ clare pidsley

Friday 28th November
Generation Sex
Fiver 10.15 pm

Apparently this second series of *Generation Sex*, lifts the lid on the sexual habits of young Britons, both in and out of the bedroom', but I don't think that's the reason to watch it, surely its the Z list celebrities spilling the beans on their sex lives, and the somewhat surprising statistics shown in the programme. For example, apparently research states that 74 per cent of Brits aged 18-34 have either had, or want to have, a threesome. As a student of this generation who attends a university that will not allow a pole dancing club or a spooning society, I have to say I am somewhat skeptical about these 'facts'. However it should be a good laugh to watch what else they come up with.

words/ hatti cawley

Saturday 29th November
Taggart
ITV3 9.05pm

As a long-term fan of *Midsomer Murders* and *Miss Marple*, I felt it was time to branch out a little, geographically, into the Scottish world of *Taggart*. Apparently it has been on our screens for twenty years and as a relative newcomer, I have to say I can see why. It is slightly shorter than *Midsomer* so you don't have to find two hours of your day to devote to a fictional murder mystery, which is always a bonus with essay deadlines due. In this episode, the charismatic leader of an all woman finance group is found murdered in a field with bank notes jammed into her mouth. Initial suspicions lie with her alcoholic husband who cannot account for his movements, but will the grieving man be held accountable in the end?

words/ hatti cawley

Sunday 30th November
The Mummy Returns
ITV 2 8:00pm

For all budding *The Mummy* fans the second instalment of the trilogy is showing at 8 o'clock on Sunday evening on ITV2. This time the cast try to prevent Imhotep from gaining control of the Bracelet of Anubis which will in turn give him control of the world. With the return of key characters such as Brendan Fraser and the addition of The Rock, showing that vintage wines do in fact get better with age, this movie is action packed with John Hannah adding a little bit of comedic relief, making it a good Sunday night movie with takeaway in tow. The state of the art digital monsters and the Indiana type Jones feel make it watchable but sadly not memorable.

words/ kimberley sawyer

Film of the week

**Austin Powers:
International
Man of Mystery**

Friday 28th November
Film 4 9.00pm

Mike Myers stars in this hilarious comedy as 60's spy Austin Powers who, after being chronically frozen for 40 years, wakes up to find the world very much changed. Austin's: "Shall we shag now or shag later?" is met with less than rapturous applause from his new partner in crime Vanessa Kensington (played by an absolutely gorgeous Liz Hurley). Of course, Austin's main quest, apart from getting in Vanessa's pants, is to save the world from the most evil of all evils, Dr Evil! (Played by Mike Myers again) Whilst all this action takes place, Dr. Evil has to cope with the trauma of getting to know his stropky son (Seth Green) and Austin is trying to cope with life without his Swedish penis enlarger. Other memorable characters are German psychopath Frau Farbissina, one of Dr. Evil's henchman, and of course the ever so smooth Alotta Fagina. Shagadelic baby, yeh!

words/ hannah perlin



Monday 1st December
Best of Top Gear
Dave 4:00pm

An hour long episode looking back at the best bits of *Top Gear* across past series with Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, James May and the Stig. Featuring Jimmy Carr who adds to the humor of the show, not only does he go on a behind-the-scenes tour of the *Top Gear* studio he also tests the track using his comedic genius to add to the dimension of the program and perhaps attracting comedy fans as well to the show. This is definitely a highly recommended watch as Clarkson and co with their wit and humor successfully keep your attention for an hour long showing of the greatest bits of *Top Gear*.

words/ kimberley sawyer

Tuesday 2nd December
Bedazzled
Film4, 9.00pm

Not, sadly, the fantastic original with Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, but still worth a shot. It must be said that this American remake lacks the first version's wit, charm, and swinging Sixties setting, but it's an entertaining enough romp that'll pass a few hours without doing any lasting damage. The plot's your typical boy meets girl, boy can't have girl, boy sells soul to the devil to get girl tale. Brendan Fraser plays the hapless hero, and Liz Hurley co-stars in an endless parade of ridiculous outfits as the Devil determined to subvert his wishes.

words/ tim boden

Wednesday 3rd December
The Professionals
ITV4, 5.00pm

If you liked *Life on Mars*, you might well like this. Forget your fancy postmodern time travel/comatose hallucination plot devices and multi-era clashes of culture - this is how they really did it back in the Seventies, big sideburns, chunky knitwear and all. Today's hour of unreconstructed machismo has the boys from CI5 dealing with blackmail, prostitution, murder and some sneaky Russian spies, most likely via the time-honoured means of hitting things. Have a pint of Double Diamond, get the missus to cook you up some spaghetti hoops, sit back, and enjoy.

words/ tim boden

Thursday 4th December
How to Rob a Bank
BBC3 9.00pm

Here's something we can all aspire to: this documentary investigates the story of Lee Barnes, a student who successfully conned various banks out of £40,000. Having said that, it might sound like a lot of money but by the time he paid off his loan debts he probably only had enough left to buy a nice pool table. Eventually though, he got bored of practising trick shots in his basement and gave himself in to the police. Now he's poor again and resorting to less imaginative money-making schemes, such as selling his abysmal story to the BBC.

words/clare pidsley



HM

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Bashing night

As I passed the Parkinson steps, on my way into town last Friday evening, I was a little surprised to have my night temporarily interrupted by a couple of guys attempting to strike up a conversation. 'Where are you lads off to tonight?' they innocuously began. 'Just a couple of bars' came the reply. 'Ah, cool, cool. Yeah, we're not sure what were up to yet.' It was then that my new friends reached the hook of their conversation. 'Have you lads heard of the CU? Here we go. My reply in the affirmative came through gritted teeth. I was then asked if I was familiar with the story of Jesus, how he died to save us, and what I believed about that. Oh dear.

For me, this situation posed two problems. Firstly, I can't stand evangelism. People can believe whatever they want, but somebody forcing their opinion on another is intolerable. As it happens, I am familiar with the story of Jesus Christ and I'm not particularly keen to discuss it with strangers at any time, let alone on the way to my long awaited Friday night out. This brings me to the second problem. If ever there was a bad time to begin a theological discussion, surely, this was it.

'What do you believe [about Christianity]?' is what I was asked. Tricky question to answer in a few sentences right? I suppose I could have summed it up with the simple defence, 'I am an atheist', but when confronted with evangelism this always seems to pose more questions than it answers.

Atheism. Whilst this denotes the absence of faith, it can be seen as a faith like any other. How can you know that God does not exist? You can't, just as the existence of God cannot be proven. It is a question of faith; the only difference is which. Atheism too can be evangelical, just look at Richard Dawkins.

I am not an evangelical atheist, but perhaps in the face of evangelism, it is the only sensible response. Maybe I should have explained to these poor beleaguered fellows that in actual fact, God does not exist, so perhaps they may like to quit standing in the cold and come and join us for a beer. I could have argued with them for hours about the logical inconsistencies of The Bible, the lack of empirical evidence supporting Christianity, and the bias of Christianity's rules, based on the time at which it was written – the immorality of homosexuality for example.

I wouldn't do this, because it is not my place to make a mockery of peoples beliefs. Faith is at the core of one's identity, and I despise the audacity and arrogance that assumes this can be changed in a short conversation. Of course, discussions of faith are beneficial, but in a constructive, rather than didactic manner, where people are willing to learn from each other.

As it happens, I simply made my excuses and continued on my way. Unfortunately mine was another soul lost; I wonder how many were saved.

words/andrew rogers



Deadline woes

It's that time of year when everyone is facing impending deadlines, as the semester ends. An essay, which a month ago would have barely ruffled a student's feathers, is now suddenly due in after the weekend. Of course, all students deal with this kind of pressure differently. However, I don't believe I've ever witnessed the kind of spectacle put on by one of my flatmates last weekend, as he frantically attempted to churn out two 3,000 word essays. His degeneration from calm and collected, to nervous agitation, to off-the-scale crazy was perhaps one of the most amusing performances, I've ever seen.

His plan of attack for the weekend was as follows. Primarily, he switched his mobile off, since, apparently, contact with the outside world was detrimental to his studies. Of course, that excluded the hour-long phone call with his friend that miraculously took place subsequent to this action. We, as flatmates, were not ostracized either, and were thus privy to frequent queries, and generally granted temporary Agony Aunt status. Re-carpeting his floor with various pages of notes and library books was the next step on his journey to essay completion. After these sources had been evaluated and highlighted to death, he proceeded to chain himself to his computer.

It turns out that producing two essays of such length in a brief period is easier said than done. Accordingly, the stress soon set in, along with some very strange behavioural patterns. Remaining hydrated was a key issue, and so my flatmate made numerous trips to the kitchen. However, squash soon failed to satisfy, with the result that he then proceeded to drink the fridge's entire contents of milk. As the weekend slipped away, he even found it difficult to nourish himself. Pleas were made for cheese on toast, since his tight schedule afforded him no time to prepare his own food. Nonetheless, he still seemed capable of wasting time pacing frantically around the flat. Taking pity on him, we granted his request, but our energies were wasted when he informed us that he was too stressed to eat, and unable to chew the crusts on his bread.

When he had finally managed to produce the required work, our advice was sought. Whilst reading through the work, I became aware of the fact that he was close to breaking a chair, through banging it on the floor in agitation. The final step in his deterioration came when, late Sunday evening, we were interrupted in the kitchen by his stumbling in, covered in shaving foam, with only half a beard. At this point, mothering instinct took over as we forced him to go to bed, ignoring his declarations that he wouldn't be able to sleep.

A nervous breakdown was only avoided by the arrival of Monday's deadline. I've advised him to seriously consider joining the drama society, on account of his hilarious performance. In contrast, during his mental collapse, another flatmate remained so unfazed by the three essays she had yet to complete, that she considered it necessary to watch 'Teachers', in order to put her in a more academic frame of mind.

words/antonio molloy



Football Fever

In my first year, I lived in halls with a group of boys obsessed with football in a way that I had not thought possible. Along with a few other football-clueless girls, I spent the majority of the first seminar in whatever packed pub happened to be showing the Premiership. The bar was always unreachable, the TV screen obscured, and our friends' attention unattainable for the full 90 minutes (plus injury time) of the game. Chelsea was the popular team of choice and 'Carefree' became a common drunken singsong on nights home, followed by spontaneous outbursts of 'who are you?'

Football fever did not stop there. As well as obsessing over club football, an intra-mural 5-a-side football team was created, duly supported by myself and the other girls. Every week the half-hour match was treated like a cup final, the result determining the mood of the boys for the rest of the night. A victory meant celebrating in town, whereas defeat often involved watching the forlorn players troop back to someone's room to play Pro Evolution and drown their sorrows.

A friend recorded the games from the Sports Hall balcony and the video was replayed after every match, complete with commentary from the sweating team. When they weren't playing football, they were watching it or having marathon sessions of Football Manager. Football was their life. Only after I spent 45 minutes hobbling 500 metres across campus on a ripped ankle ligament just to watch a 30-minute game, did I realise that football had inevitably become a big part of my life as well.

In second year, I started seeing one of the football boys. For the remainder of the year I spent much of my time curled into a corner chair in the team's lounge, forbidden to talk for the duration of whatever game was on. I was wise enough not to speak after Chelsea was beaten by Tottenham in the Carling Cup Final, despite the one Arsenal fan in the house doing a silent victory dance behind the Chelsea supporters' backs. I even stopped asking my long unanswered question of why the pitch is always mowed to look like a chessboard. It never did gain a response.

This season, self-loathingly, I recorded the first Match of the Day for my own viewing pleasure. I even find myself getting nervous during Arsenal matches (though this could be due to their appalling season start - particularly the draw against Tottenham and losses against Hull and Stoke, and of course the fact that game results continue to determine the mood of my Gooner). Despite claims to the contrary, I do not complain for the duration of matches, in fact, I believe I am quite accepting of the silent position I am forced to take during games. I know never to make the mistake of saying 'there's always next year' or - God forbid 'it's only a game'. Finally I've come to understand what Nick Hornby meant when he said that football 'is not an escape, or a form of entertainment, but a different version of the world'.

words/steph cantrell

House Hunting Talks!

**House Hunting? Want a good house?
Want to avoid living with a shocking landlord?**

If you're in Halls of Residence, and are thinking about house hunting, this could be for you! LUU Student Advice Centre is coming to you to hold a series of talks on house hunting, with tips, advice and information on how to get the best deal!



🏠 **For residents of Ellerslie:**
Monday 1st December 6.30pm
Ellerslie Common Room

🏠 **For residents of Bodington:**
Monday 1st December 7.15pm
Bodington Common Room

🏠 **For residents of Devonshire:**
Monday 1st December 6.45pm
Devonshire JCR

🏠 **For residents of Lyddon:**
Tuesday 2nd December 6.30pm
Lyddon JCR

🏠 **For residents of Charles Morris:**
Tuesday 2nd December
6.45pm
Charles Morris Bar

🏠 **For residents of Henry Price,
Montague Burton
and St Marks:**
Tuesday 2nd December 6.45pm
Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre
(Michael Sadler Building)

🏠 **For residents of Oxley:**
Wednesday 3rd December
6.30pm
Oxley Common Room

🏠 **For residents of
Clarence Dock:**
Wednesday 3rd December
6.30pm
Clarence Dock Bar

🏠 **For residents
of Leeds:**
Thursday 4th
December
6.30pm
Leeds Common Room

🏠 **For residents of James Baillie and
North Hill Court:**
Thursday 4th December
6.30pm
James Baillie Common Room

**For all others there is a talk in the
ARC Conference Room in LUU at
12.15pm on Friday 5th December.**

**For more information and advice,
please contact us:**
www.luuonline.com/help
0113 380 1290
advice@luu.leeds.ac.uk
Student Advice Centre,
1st floor of LUU building.

Don't forget that
if you do find
somewhere, get your
contract checked at
the Student Advice
Centre before you
sign it!

sexually active students.

The need for increased AIDS awareness amongst those at university was made prevalent by a survey published last year, when the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and National Union of Students (NUS) found some worrying results about our knowledge of condoms. Over a third of students thought latex condoms have holes in them large enough to allow the passage of HIV, and some did not know that condoms are the only form of contraception that protect against STIs. Others thought that condoms should be stored in a warm place, and can be washed and re-used. These final facts are false and can lead to the potential spread of HIV.

Barbara Onen is president of the Leeds Student Stop AIDS society and agrees with the need to increase AIDS awareness at universities: "Most students I talk to say the first thing they worry about if they have had unprotected sex is getting pregnant," she said. "But with HIV, there are no options. It stays in you for life irrespective of treatments available."

The stigmas associated with the virus make it particularly hard for those living with HIV to represent themselves and mean that many people remain unaware of the facts, apart from what is presented in the media. Often these media portrayals (recent examples include Mercedes' AIDS scare in Hollyoaks, and Elton John's plan to write an AIDS related comedy musical for Ben Stiller), focus solely on the emotional issues such as receiving results and telling close friends and family. This kind of media attention is obviously vital for raising public awareness of the disease and creating a culture of empathetic support, but for more practical advice on sexual health and the biological facts, charities such as THT and NAT are able to use World AIDS day as a chance to increase specific knowledge about the problem.

HIV is a virus that attacks the immune system, and a potential indicator of having contracted it is the experience of three symptoms (such as fever, rash, and severe sore throat) occurring together. Sometimes, however, the virus will provoke no symptoms to start with. The Leeds Student Medical Practice website states that HIV is passed on via three main methods: vaginal or anal sex (oral sex also carries some risk); breast-feeding or during pregnancy; and sharing needles or syringes. You cannot pass on HIV via kissing, sharing cutlery, coughing, sneezing, swimming pools, or contact with toilet seats.

Once the virus is contracted, the person is known as HIV-positive. According to the NHS website, the way the virus affects the body is to attack and decrease the number of 'CD4 cells' which are found in the blood and are responsible for fighting infection. Once the CD4 count gets below a certain level, the immune system will stop working and this leaves a person who is infected with HIV at high risk of developing a serious illness or disease. A person is described as having AIDS when they have contracted one or

more life-threatening illnesses from which their immune system has been unable to protect them.

Since the original concept of World AIDS day was devised in 1988, a lot of progress has been made. In the past, a popular yet inaccurate opinion of AIDS was as a 'gay disease,' and consequently much of the AIDS-related media was aimed at homosexuals, such as Canadian John



The Obelisk, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Greyson's musical film 'Zero Patience'. Recent statistics show that the proportion of young adults infected with HIV via homosexual contact has significantly decreased. The THT states that, "The proportion of young HIV-infected adults accessing care who were infected through sex between men has fallen from 51% in 1997 to 31% in 2006, whereas the proportion of young adults infected through heterosexual contact has doubled from 30% in 1997 to 59% in 2006."

AIDS charities are also concerned with supporting HIV-positive people through their treatment, both the practical and emotional difficulties. HIV is what is known as a retrovirus, and is therefore treated with ART (antiretroviral treatment). Treatment is usually started when the CD4 count gets below a certain level, as this is when it is most effective. The treatment is not perfect, however, because it is expensive and can sometimes have adverse effects. Occasionally the HIV develops resistance to

the drugs used to treat it, and therefore research is always ongoing for better drug treatment. The 'Stop AIDS' society is specifically concerned with the campaign for 'Free' treatment for all infected by the virus, and is currently trying to push governments to put money into patent pools which would allow poorer countries to provide treatment to those infected.

AIDS is both a worldwide and local issue, and students are by no means unaffected. Checking for HIV takes the form of a simple blood test, which can be taken during a sexual health screening. According to the Leeds Student Medical Practice website, if your results are HIV negative this means that no antibodies were found in your blood and therefore you do not have HIV. It can take up to three months for HIV antibodies to show up in the blood after an infection however, so one blood test may not be enough to rely on. When having a general STI test, patients are given the option of a HIV test and may decline on the basis of the practical drawbacks of diagnosis. For example those who are diagnosed as HIV-positive are more often than not turned down for life insurance applications. Additionally some countries will not issue a VISA or work permit unless proof of a negative test result for HIV is provided. Usually the benefits of a diagnosis outweigh

The proportion of young adults infected through heterosexual contact has doubled from 30% in 1997 to 59% in 2006

the drawbacks, as a diagnosis allows access to support networks and treatments that are crucial to the ongoing life of someone with HIV.

World AIDS day has been running for 30 years, and each year takes on a different theme to address a particular relevant concern. In the past large publicity stunts have been employed such as last year's huge red ribbon (the international symbol of HIV/AIDS support) hanging between the columns in the north portico of the White House, and 2005's 67m long 'condom' covering the Obelisk of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in order to promote safe use of contraception. This year the UK's theme for World AIDS day is 'Respect and Protect' in order to target the discrimination suffered by those living with the long-term effects of HIV. In Leeds, the Stop AIDS society is running a series of events in conjunction

Sexual Health Screening

(including HIV test) is available at:

The Citywise Clinic (under 25s only), 1st Floor, No.1 Eastgate, LS2 7LY, telephone 0113 295 4820 (also open every Saturday 10.00 - 13.00)

One Medicare centre in The Light (The Headrow) between 15.45 and 19.00 on Mondays or Thursdays (under 25s only)

The Centre for Sexual Health, Calverley Street, between 08:45 and 11:45 then 13:00 and 16:45 Mon-Fri (pre-booked appointments only - telephone 0113 3926724 or 0113 3926725)

For more information or support:

THT Direct - 0845 1221 200, from 10am - 10pm weekdays and 12pm - 6pm weekends.

There is also a section on the THT website called Sex Facts, where people can contact the organisation anonymously with questions and will receive a code in exchange. When they enter that code into the website, the answer will be waiting for them.
<http://www.tht.org.uk/howwecanhelpyou/youngpeople/sexfacts/gotaquestion/>

with SHAG (Sexual Health and Guidance) week, an idea thought up by the NUS, including a 'Take one for the Team' initiative which encourages sports and societies to get tested for Chlamydia with a possible prize incentive of £150.

The THT states that between 1981 and 2006, a total of 11,239 young adults were diagnosed with HIV. In the same period, 962 young adults have been diagnosed with AIDS and 493 have died. In order to counteract its devastating affects, the stigma and enigma surrounding AIDS still needs to be changed. As president of the Leeds Stop AIDS society, Barbara Onen thinks that one of the most important changes needed in the student community is an increase in discourse about safe sex: "Students in schools are taught sex education but by the time people get to University, the peak time of their sexual activities, there is no guidance and sexual education easily available," she said. "Forums where they can talk about all things sexual might be useful in providing increased knowledge about safe sex and break the stigma on topics such as STIs, especially HIV, where the main problem is that hardly anyone talks about it and there is still so much fear over getting tested."

The president adds that, "people need to talk amongst themselves and in addition to hearing, 'How good was so and so was last night?' include 'did you use a condom?' in that conversation..."

Clare Pidsley

Wednesday 3rd December

10am- 4pm Sexual Health Stall Info Point

12-3pm Chlamydia Testing Session Meeting Room 4

7.30-10.30pm SHAG Old Bar Pub Quiz/ Chlamydia Testing Old Bar

All Day Take one for the Team Initiative

Thursday 4th December

10am- 4pm Sexual Health Stall Info Point

11am-2pm Chlamydia Testing Session Meeting Room 4

2-6pm Chlamydia Testing Session Cromer Terrace

All Day Take one for the Team Initiative

Friday 5th December

9pm-12am SHAG at Fruity inc. Chlamydia Testing Outside Old Bar

9pm-3am StopAIDS Condom Elves and Fairies at Fruity

Sunday 7th December

8pm-12am End of World AIDS Week 'Moto Moto' Party at Mine in the Leeds University Union: poetry, spoken word, and ambient lounge, neo soul. Then party till midnight with some African rhythms from the infamous DJ Henry. Entry: £5/£4 Stop AIDS members (Tickets in Union or on door)

Thinking rationally

Initiatives to introduce the teaching of Creationism within Schools must be prohibited



Alex Smith
Third-year Politics and Philosophy
jha6as@leeds.ac.uk

In last week's Leeds Student, Jono Hall argued that creationism should form part of the curriculum for both religion and science (Creationism in a School Near You, November 21st). I would like to follow his argument to its logical conclusion and propose that another religious doctrine based on faith rather than evidence should be taught in schools. I call it 'flat-Earthism'.

I am of the belief - contrary to every piece of relevant, empirical fact - that the earth is flat. What's that? There's overwhelming evidence to suggest otherwise, you say? No, you see, anything

you may have heard from these troublesome fellows called 'scientists' who have an annoying desire to look at something called 'evidence' (basic trigonometry, etc) is merely a product of a grand illusion. A trick conjured - just as the Christian God is cleverly duping us about all that believable carbon-dated stuff - by the great flat-Earthist God. The creationist line (pandered to perfectly in the article) is that people believe in both evolution and creationism and thus, both must be reflected in the education system. I believe that the Earth is flat, so should my views not also be represented?

According to Jono, creationism and evolution 'evidently overlap' the school subjects of religious education and science. Like creationism, flat-Earthist is not concerned with the trivialities of scientific testing. It cherry-picks its way through mythology and wild inferences in a very similar way. I, like Jono, see no reason why theories such as mine and creationism should be taught only in religious education. Why are the ideas presented by Witchcraft or The Jedi similarly left out of scientific discussion? In doing so we, as Jono states, risk alienating people who "hold different points of view".

The principle that we must not offend people who do not subscribe to Darwinism leads inevitably to these preposterous conclusions. I am not saying that children should not learn about world religions. Without religious education they

would not be able to decide what to believe. However, matters of faith have no place in the science classroom. The idea that we must assess 'perceived truths in a critical manner' is all well and good. However, it would be negligent to present children with creationism as a scientific alternative to the theory of evolution. The former is unproven. The latter is supported by mountains of evidence and has withstood 146 years of critical bombardment.

It would be negligent to present creationism as a scientific alternative

Perhaps Jono's article shows how the ideologies of the Christian-right are now bleeding from the US into the UK? Some readers might argue that gaps in evolutionary fossil data invalidate Darwinism. But people who believe in creationism select their facts carefully. Given

carefully selected facts, I could construct an argument stating that the Earth is not round. Although evolutionary theorists cannot explain every detail, they are working to fill the ever smaller cracks in their knowledge. For example, the recent COBE experiment, (mapping the cosmic microwave radiation left over from the creation of the universe), has all but proved the Big Bang Theory. It seems strange that the return to archaic ideas gathers momentum despite all the evidence.

Darwin's theory of evolution argues that we are not divine creations, but inconsequential and accidental. Complex life is just arrangements of DNA, mutated by chance and prolonged through a process of competitive survival. This may sound bleak, but most of the world's scientific minds accept it.

Creationists are worried about the implications of these ideas for our view of life and death. However, any cult based on faith and not facts has no right to criticise the origin of species. To teach a religious view as part of the scientific curriculum would be as sinister a crime as indoctrination carried out by an authoritarian regime. If we do not actively oppose this erosion of empirical thought and critical thinking, our children may soon read about fantastical deities in their science books, including (if I have my way) the flat-Earthist God.

White, working-class aliens

Instead of judging far-right political parties like the BNP, we should look at the reasons for their popularity



Adam Dixon
Second-year French & Spanish
adamnorman88@hotmail.co.uk

Wikileaks is a wonderful thing. Want to know if Dubya reckons your country might be harbouring Al-Qaida and you should start building the bunker now? The CIA files will be there, complete with the invasion plans to your house. Think Primark might be telling fibs about how their clothes are ethically made? You can probably find evidence online. The site is a godsend for a free press, where any journalist can find documents that they otherwise could not. But sometimes there are very good reasons why something should not be leaked. Where ordinary people's lives are affected by the publication of sensitive information, then perhaps it is best that that information remain secret.

This week a list of every member of the BNP, everybody who expressed an interest in joining, and a few people who have nothing to do with the party, was leaked onto the internet. Despite Nick Griffin's claim that the far-right benefits from any and all publicity, the leak is very damaging to the party; people will be

The BNP hold views that are abhorrent, but they are perfectly entitled to hold those views

dissuaded from joining the BNP if they think that their personal safety or their jobs might be put in danger by their presence on a similar list.

The list also provides an interesting insight into the support the party enjoys. It seems to be concentrated largely in traditionally white, working class areas, whose demographics have been transformed by immigration. This

underlines the issues that have to be contended with. In order to reduce the influence of the BNP on British politics, and suggests that mainstream politics has turned its back on the white working-class of this country. New Labour's embrace of more middle-class friendly liberal politics suggests that they have abandoned their traditional base of support, and the far right has been quick to exploit this.

This insight comes at a price. Whilst it is true that members of the BNP hold views that the majority of people rightly find abhorrent, they are perfectly entitled to hold those views. The BNP is a legitimate political party that holds seats in several councils and one on the GLA. With the publication of the list, those people are put at risk of losing their jobs or having a brick put through their window. Not everybody listed is a member, yet everybody is now seen as fair game for vigilante justice.

This is precisely why the BNP operates under such a cloak of secrecy. The current political climate allows parties like the BNP to carry out what they do without ever having to defend their views in a public setting. It allows them to use their underdog status as a political tool. Across Europe, the far right is gaining ground and because its very existence is a political taboo in this country, it goes unchallenged and its underground support continues to grow.

Hazel Blears last week said that the rise of the BNP is the fault of mainstream politicians who have abandoned the white working class

whilst still taking their votes for granted. It goes further than that - because all of the concerns of supporters of the far right are equated with racism, mainstream politicians are afraid to touch them. This means that the BNP can present itself as the only party that cares about

Blears said that the rise of the BNP is the fault of politicians who have abandoned the white working class

immigration. Demonising individual members will only further alienate them, and that is a dangerous thing. We need to look at the root causes of the increase in the popularity of the far-right across Europe in order to combat it; simply denouncing the people who hold those kinds of views will not make them go away.

The night of a million dreams

The election of a black President has raised hopes of a better future amongst Americans



David Smith, The Observer
Former Leeds Student Editor
david.smith@observer.co.uk

When I was editor of Leeds Student in 1996-97, President Bill Clinton defeated Bob Dole in a US election no one remembers much. But everyone will remember Barack Obama's victory in 2008 – where they were and what they were doing when they heard that America had its first black President.

I was lucky enough to be in New York, where Republican voters were as rare as teetotallers on the Otley Run. Long queues started forming at polling booths from around 4am, such was people's determination to ensure that Democratic candidate Obama

would defeat Republican John McCain.

Here was the election that involved millions of Americans, and that was being talked about around the world as epoch-making, but when it came down to it there was the simple matter of a school gym, people administering registers at formica tables, and New York's old fashioned 'clunker' voting machines.

I spent that evening at a house party, watching the results filter through. Every time the TV called a state for Obama, another cheer

one.

I jumped on the subway to that crucible of New York drama, Times Square, where a woman exclaimed: "Being here is like being at the centre of the universe!" A huge crowd had gathered to watch giant TV screens set up by CNN and other cable news networks. This time, the seminal moment came when CNN flashed up 'Barack Obama elected President' on the big screen and riotous cheering broke out – it was one of those "I was there" moments that gives you the chills.

As CNN cut to celebrations in Chicago, New York (we all waved), Los Angeles, Atlanta and Kenya, there was palpably a great release of emotion, as if more than 200 years of black American frustration was being exhaled and exorcised, turning to disbelief and euphoria. No wonder the cameras lingered on Jesse Jackson's tears. But of course one symbolic victory cannot magic away America's troubled racial history with its deep-rooted prejudice and structured inequality.

We then awaited the night's great climax, President-elect Obama's victory speech. We watched him stride on to the stage in Chicago and advance towards the lectern. Then, at the very moment he was about to speak, disaster... the big screen went blank.

Instead of a ringside seat for History, we

got a test card with no sound. After a second or two of hushed disbelief, there were boos and howls, ironic cheers and laughter, and choruses of "What the fuck?" But then a couple of cars stopped in the middle of the street with the speech playing on their radios, and people spontaneously gathered round to listen, like a moment from an old disaster movie. Eventually, the CNN screen was restored for the second half of the speech and we all dashed back to witness it.

Meanwhile a black man knelt in the street kissing the stars and stripes. Street sellers were already hawking President Obama bumper stickers, t-shirts and condoms. We would later discover that voter turnout didn't actually go up by as much as everyone expected, and that Obama hardly won by a landslide considering the record amount of advertising money he spent. But that night there was no mistaking the electricity in the atmosphere, the sense of empire turning on its axis. The next day, in Harlem, I talked to a 43-year-old black janitor who, like many people, had voted for the first time in his life. "This was the first time I felt like my vote counted; past Presidents just stepped on your neck," he told me. "I hope Obama gets our country back in order."

A black man knelt in the street kissing the stars and stripes

went up. Democrats have learned from past experience not to count their chickens. But this time there really was no stopping them. The economic meltdown had made sure of that: even John Kerry might have won this

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LS Sport

COMMENT

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

22,000

Number of Man city fans dreaming of Kaka singing 'Blue Moon' tonight.



22

Number of Welshmen to upset Ma'a Nonu after last Saturday's Haka.

PUNDIT WATCH



"I wouldn't be surprised if he walked in one morning and said 'Actually I'm walking out'."

Mark Lawrenson clarifies the managerial situation at Sunderland.

No one likes them, they don't care

There was a sense of poetic justice, of matters set straight, as Bryan Habana put the finishing touches to South Africa's demolition job, condemning England to a 42-6 loss, their heaviest at Twickenham.

New coach Martin Johnson described the mauling as "brutal," while Sir Clive Woodward referred to it as "humiliating." Despite this damning post-mortem, interviews given before the match suggested that England were unaware of the gulf in class between the ever-improving world champions and their own developing squad of overrated newcomers.

Phil Vickery had implied that the Springboks were fortunate to win their last meeting, in the World Cup final. The prop might still be tucking

Phil Vickery might still be tucking into his humble pie at the time of writing.

into his humble pie at the time of writing.

Vickery is by no means the first to air his ill-informed opinions. In fact, English rugby players have formed a dynasty of dubious thought.

Having been reduced to a whimpering mess by Jonah Lome, Will Carling branded is opponent a "freak," while Austin Healey consolidated his 'Leicester Lip' nickname on the British Lions 2001 tour of Australia after calling Justin Harrison a "plank."

When Ben Cohen was asked about how he found the task of marking Shane Williams, the winger ignorantly grunted, "Who?" If he's still unsure, Cohen may be interested

to know that Williams is the IRB World Player of the Year. That's who.

With comments like these, it is little wonder that England are the most unpopular nation in world rugby. Their siege mentality has made them a prized scalp for Northern and Southern Hemisphere teams alike, with the Australian press in particular revelling in the Red Rose's rapid wilt.

If the players remain tight-lipped, though, they might dare to believe they can overcome their next opponents. After all, it's only New Zealand.

Daf Pritchard

Last place, wooden spoon for Bernie

Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone has announced plans this week to introduce a new system of scoring to the sport. The revolutionary idea – apparently an original from Ecclestone (or not), will see the first three finishes in each race receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal, in an effort to ensure that the man who wins the most races each year will walk away with the title.

The change is prompted by the fact that this year's Champ, Lewis Hamilton, ended the season with one win less than runner-up Felipe Massa, though had it not been for a disgusting stewards decision in Belgium the McLaren driver would have gained a win and the Brazilian

lost one, thereby addressing the problem anyway.

Ignoring that point for a moment, the reasoning behind the desired change seems a little flawed. The points system was changed to prevent the title being won mid-way through the season, and another change would re-open the door for such problems.

Ecclestone is bang on in saying

there isn't enough over-taking, but don't underestimate the tactical driving that is a massive part of motorsport. Sure, Hamilton didn't try to win some races last year. That's because he did



enough elsewhere to give himself room to manoeuvre later on. The new system won't really change anything, except promote dominance by one driver early in the season, and rule out of the challenge of solid,

consistent drivers who perform well throughout the season. Should someone who wins five races and crash out of the remaining contests win the title ahead of a man who wins four and finishes second in every other? No.

Mr. Ecclestone would be better spent looking into why there is such a Ferrari bias in his sport, or on how to cut costs to ensure there will be enough teams left to compete two or three years down the line.

This isn't athletics Bernie, it's F1. What'll it be next? A Toro Rosso going over high hurdles around Silverstone?

—Actually, maybe that isn't such a bad idea.

Owen Bradley

Referees send in the reinforcements

In Larnaca, Cyprus this past week Uefa trialled a new refereeing system designed to settle the debate on goal line technology. The guinea pig for the new system was the Cyprus-Czech Under-19 Championship qualifier, which ended one all. The trial is the brainchild of Michel Platini and is testing the introduction of two goal-line assistants to act as 'human cameras' and initial Uefa reports claim that it has been "very successful". Although the game was dull and relatively event free, the system appeared to work. Several key incidents, it was reported, went to

prove the usefulness of the system. Whenever the referee lagged behind play the extra officials were on hand to clear up any controversial decisions in the penalty area.

One of the important by products of this scheme is that referee's will be able to extend their careers by up to ten years. They will not be expected to keep up with play once the system comes in, which could be as early as next year.

This system will settle the debate on goal-line technology. The naysayers who argue that goal-line technology will remove the human element from the game will be pleased, whilst those

in favour of goal-line technology will be satisfied that there will be extra eyes on the penalty area. However, there will be some objections. One argument that will

For football fans it's just another two people to abuse on Saturday

arise will be, 'if three of them can't get it right then how can five?' Another point will be the 'too many cooks' argument. Surely there will be some amount of confusion between five officials, and who, ultimately has the final say. It would be difficult for the Ref to assert his authority while he lags behind at the other side of the pitch. For the majority of football fans however, it's just another two people to abuse on a Saturday afternoon. For the man in black this all bodes well; less running, less abuse and a bigger pension.

Joe Hibbert

Olympic dreams: in it for the Long haul

LS Sport sits down with a golden graduate, Giles Long, Leeds Uni's own Olympic champ

As a triple Paralympic gold medallist and world record holder, a Member of the British Empire, and now a London 2012 ambassador Giles Long is easily one of Leeds University's most successful sporting Alumni. But the accolades didn't come without a fight for the swimmer who won medals at three consecutive Games from 1996 to 2004. "I had dreams of going to the Olympics ever since the age of seven and I even told my mum and dad that I was going to win a gold medal. And then I had cancer as a teenager and I had to come to terms with, well, does going to the Paralympics answer that dream?" The question of whether hopes of able-bodied sporting excellence can find fulfilment in a disabled sphere is answered with an emphatic affirmative: "What doesn't kill you will make you stronger" Giles says providing validity for the maxim, "as long as you're prepared to work at it and take the set backs but then carry on and still pursue that dream you can be anything you want to be."

Giles' inspiring outlook was one that as a young boy might not have been foreseen. After being diagnosed with a bone tumour at the age of thirteen he lost the use of his right shoulder through subsequent chemotherapy and operations. The

impact of the event, occurring at such a crucial point in a person's – and a swimmer's – development was initially too surreal to acknowledge. "At first when someone tells you you've got a disease like cancer, and you're that age, it really feels like it's happening to someone else," Giles confides, "It's not until you physically start having the treatment that it really hits home."

For a time the idea of switching goals and aiming to compete at the Paralympics was not one Giles was enamoured with, "principally because it meant acknowledging that I had a disability." It was only after a chance meeting with an eminent swimming coach that Giles found the right frame of mind to continue. "He told me, 'Before you were ill you could do ten-thousand things, and now you can do nine-thousand, which means that you've got a choice. You can concentrate on the one-thousand things that you can't do anymore, or you can concentrate on the nine-thousand things that you can still do.'" It was the spark that got Giles thinking. "I decided that I wanted to go to the Paralympics because I wanted to be the best I could be. The rest is history."

Giles graduated from Leeds in 1997 with a degree in Geological Sciences under his belt. Back in Leeds to take part in the University's 'Celebrating the Games' series of

lectures, Giles found himself walking down the Otley Road for the first time in a while. I ask him what memories the trip vivifies. "Coming back from the Games in '96 as a gold medallist was a terrific time. Most of the people on my course didn't even know I was a swimmer; it was something I kept quite separate from that life. So all of a sudden after coming back from the summer having been all over the TV and they said, 'Oh my god I didn't realise!' Seeing how much some people got from what I'd done was just awesome."

Managing to balance training at an elite level with studying for a degree was done "with great difficulty" and on occasions socialising had to be come second. "There were times when I had to say 'I'm not going to the Original Oak tonight because I've got training in the morning'" Giles tells me, "A lot of people would look at that and call it a sacrifice. I'd look at it and call it a choice. Everything in the world that's worth doing is really difficult and all the fairly rubbish things, like watching This Morning when you've got exam revision to do, they're all really easy."

Looking forward to the 2012 Games, the first to be held on these shores for what will be 64 years, we chat about what impact it will have and how the Leeds graduate will be

involved. As a 2012 ambassador Giles will be at the core of the core of the momentous sporting occasion as he spends the build-up promoting the Games all over the country, sometimes being charged with persuading people of its relevance to them: "I was speaking to someone from Leeds today about this talk tonight and how 2012 will be something for the whole country and he said 'Well, it really feels like a London thing.'" Giles recalls, "So I said 'Yeah but if you live in Leeds, you can get the train down to King's Cross in two hours twenty minutes. And from King's Cross there'll be the javelin service that'll take you to Olympic Park which means you'll probably be able to get there quicker than someone that lives in South London.' Now if that doesn't mean that the Games is something for everyone then I really don't know what is!" he reasons soundly and passionately. "There comes a point at which you have to say 'This is something that's going happen once in my lifetime' and ask yourself if you'll regret it once it's been and gone and you didn't go, you weren't a part of it."

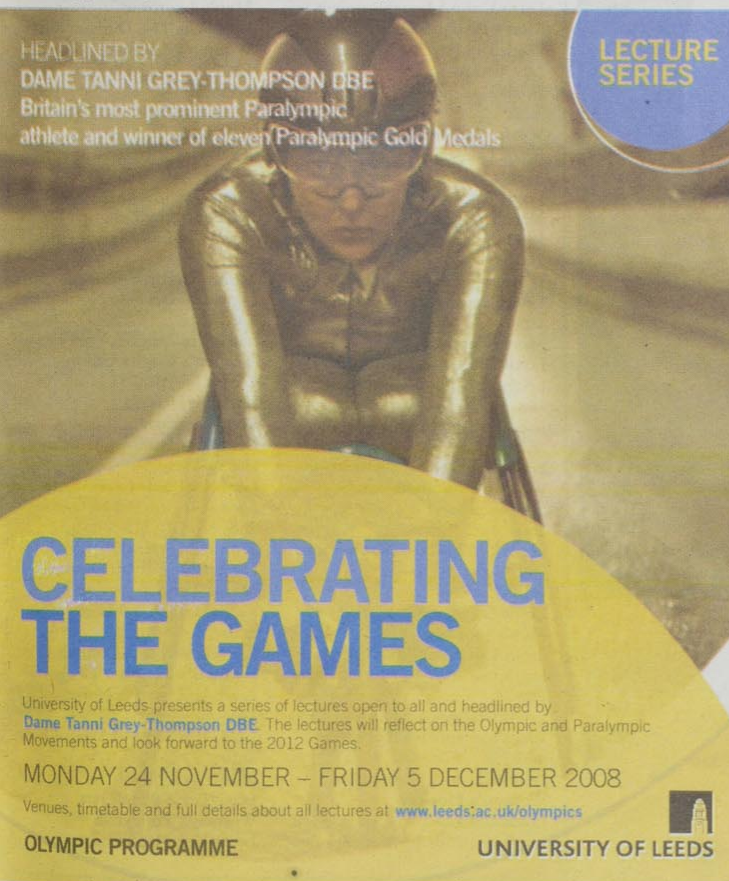
The fantastic achievements of Britain's swimmers in Beijing this summer, with a stand-out Paralympic performance from Eleanor Simmonds, came as little surprise to the man no stranger to

gold himself. "It was a personal thing for me with Ellie winning her golds [in 100 and 400 metres freestyle] because I'm her athlete mentor. My input has been infinitesimally small compared to all of the hours of slog that she spent up and down the pool but to be able to share in someone's success in whatever tiny, tiny way, well that is the essence of what we were talking about; people up and down the country taking a piece of the Olympics, taking a piece of the Paralympics, and having it for keeps."

When I ask about the forthcoming pool Giles is reflective: "It's a shame it's not a 50metre pool but there's only so much land, there's only so much money. But the brand new pool sounds like it's going to be absolutely fantastic; yet another feather in the cap that makes this university one of the best in the country."

Giles has an autobiography out at the moment entitled Changing to Win. It carries simple motivational methods that can be used to succeed in many tasks, from getting out of bed in the morning to achieving that long-term goal. To take hold of change and use that as an inspiring force. Available from all good books shops. And some mediocre ones too.

Laurie Whitwell



HEADLINED BY
DAME TANNI GREY-THOMPSON DBE
 Britain's most prominent Paralympic athlete and winner of eleven Paralympic Gold Medals

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OLYMPIC PROGRAMME **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

Date	Lecture/Event	Title / Theme	Where
Monday November 24 5:30pm	Giles Long MBE* Giles is a triple Paralympic gold medallist & University of Leeds alumnus	Changing to Win	Conference Auditorium 2
Tuesday November 25 12.30pm	Dan Salcedo & Andy Hinchcliffe Dan was head coach for Team GB Men's triathlon at the Beijing Olympics. Andy has coached Team GB divers at the Athens and Beijing Olympics.	Coaching and Supporting Olympic Athletes	Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre
Thursday November 27 12.30pm	Dr Jim Parry Jim is Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Leeds and a founder member of the British Olympic Academy	The Olympics: Philosophy, Sport & Education	Council Chamber, Parkinson Building
Friday November 28 12.30pm	Ed Coats Ed Coats has represented Great Britain as a decathlete. He is now competing in a race across Antarctica with James Cracknell and Ben Fogle	Vaulting for the Pole: From Athletics to Antarctica	Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre
Monday December 1 5:30pm	Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE* Simon Mason Tanni is Britain's most prominent Paralympic athlete and winner of eleven Paralympic gold medals. Simon is a three-time Olympian in Hockey & University of Leeds Alumnus	Seize the Day: Olympic and Paralympic experiences	Conference Auditorium 1
Wednesday December 3 12.30pm	Professor Stephen Coleman Stephen is Professor of Political Communication and Director of Research within the Institute of Communication Studies at the University of Leeds	Being There: The Media and The Olympics	Council Chamber, Parkinson Building
3rd Dec Wednesday 5:30pm	Sports Scholarship Awards Nights in association with N Power*	Olympic Scholarship Announcements	Refectory
4th Dec Thursday 12.30pm	Professor Gary Rawnsley Director of the Institute of Communication Studies and Chair of Asian International Communications at the University of Leeds	Chinese Whispers: The Beijing Olympics and Public Diplomacy	Council Chamber, Parkinson Building
5th Dec Friday 12.30pm	Gareth Smith Gareth is Head of HE & FE engagement at London Organising Committee for 2012 Games (LOCOG)	Looking Forward to 2012: Four Years in the Global Spotlight	Council Chamber, Parkinson Building

For further details please visit www.leeds.ac.uk/olympics
 * These events require pre-booked tickets.
 Please contact Sarah Stephenson Tel: 0113 3434072 email: s.stephenson@adm.leeds.ac.uk

Leeds issues a rallying call

Rallying
Joe Short

Leeds recently hosted the start of the 6th annual Roger Albert Clark Rally, an off-road rally event covering the North of England.

The event, boasting a plethora of professionally modified racing cars, has its roots firmly buried in the 1970s and 80s, where off-road rallying in Britain had the stature of what Formula 1 has today. Looking around the vast expanse of Elland Road's car park, the enthusiasm is clearly still there.

Even though the preferred choice of rally car seems to be the Ford Escort, with its hearty reliability, durable shell and athletic control, I was not disappointed by the other dirt-splattered machines on show. Vintage Cortinas,

Boxsters and 911s all lined up on the same starting point as the Escort, along with its more affordable compatriots, the Peugeot 206 and a solitary Nissan Micra.

It seemed a no-brainer as to who would win such a race, with rumours of a Cortina hiding a Ferrari V6 engine under its bonnet. I therefore asked Escort driver Martin Shaw why on Earth would you bother driving, given the competition?

"It's all about the event really" said Shaw, donned in his racing-red jumpsuit, "there's no prize money or anything like that. We do it for the fun of it, and we've also done fundraising for Children in Need through these types of events, which is always great fun to do".

Maybe a common perception of rally driving is of chunky, huge

Subaru Imprezas gliding round pine forest tracks, with a Mitsubishi Evo hot on their tails.

This is not the case however. Not all of us have a spare £600,000 to spend on a new motor, and so the amateur race events have flourished, with jocular competition and charitable intentions at the forefront of the competitors' minds.

Not that a weekend race is cheap. Overall, Martin predicts that his team will spend near to £4,500, covering car repairs, a £2,000 entrance fee and fuel costs, not to mention maintaining the 1400cc Vauxhall engine installed, in order to see their car simply start the race.

The event lasts four days, culminating in a finish on the dirt tracks of the Lake District. One cracked exhaust and usually you

would be out of the race. However, by breaking the event down into day-by-day time trials, each team has time at the end of the day to repair their vehicles, and are allowed entry into the next day's racing.

As co-driver David Evans explains, "This can save a team from spending thousands of pounds, just to blow a tyre on a dodgy corner and limp out of the race altogether on the first day."

This is what amateur rallying events are all about. Not the

animalistic thirst to win outright such as in other motorsports, but to make sure that you get as much entertainment out of a weekend as possible, whilst hopefully finishing the race.

As I walked away from Martin and David's polka dot Ford, in dedication to Children in Need, I wondered why more of us don't appreciate and participate in the sport that had its hey-day almost 30 years ago.



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BUCS Results 26th November

Men's Badminton

Leeds Uni 1sts 4-4 Sheffield 1sts
Leeds Uni 2nds 0-8 Newcastle
1sts

Women's Badminton

Leeds Uni 3-5 Loughborough 1sts

Men's Basketball

Leeds Uni 1sts 54-66 Manchester
1sts

Leeds Uni 2nds 43-82 Leeds Met
2nds

Women's Basketball

Leeds Uni 105-13 Sheffield 1sts

Men's Fencing

Leeds Uni 1sts 118-125

Manchester 1sts

Leeds Uni 2nds 91-132 Newcastle
2nds

Women's Fencing

Leeds Uni 134-106 Northumbria
1sts

Men's Football

Leeds Uni 1sts 2-1 Leeds Met 1sts
Leeds Uni 2nds 2-4 Newcastle
1sts

Leeds Uni 3rds 4-4 Northumbria
3rds

Leeds Uni 4ths 1-2 Sheffield 4ths

Women's Football

Leeds Uni 1sts 0-1 Leeds Met
2nds

Leeds Uni 2nds 0-1 Northumbria
2nds

Golf

Leeds Uni 2 - 4 Newcastle 1sts

Men's Hockey

Leeds Uni 1sts 2-2 Durham 1sts
Leeds Uni 2nds 3-5 Northumbria
1sts

Leeds Uni 3rds 3-3 Durham 4ths
Leeds Uni 4ths 1-4 Newcastle
4ths

Leeds Uni 5ths 3-1 Bradford 1sts

Women's Hockey

Leeds Uni 1sts 2-3 Newcastle 1sts
Leeds Uni 2nds 1-3 York St John

1sts

Leeds Uni 3rds 1-4 Northumbria
2nds

Leeds Uni 4ths 11-0 Sunderland
1sts

Men's Lacrosse

Leeds Uni 11-6 Durham 1sts

Women's Lacrosse

Leeds Uni 3-13 Durham 2nds

Netball

Leeds Uni 2nds 59-19 York St
John 2nds

Leeds Uni 3rds 32-32 Sheffield
2nds

Leeds Uni 4ths 83-0 Teeside 3rds

Men's Rugby League

Leeds Uni 1sts 60-20 Sheffield
1sts

Men's Rugby Union

Leeds Uni 1sts 5-46 Nottingham
1sts

Leeds Uni 2nds 6-8 York 1sts

Women's Rugby Union

Leeds Uni 1sts 0-31 MMU
Cheshire 1sts

Men's Squash

Leeds Uni 1sts 3-2 Sheffield
Hallam 1sts

Leeds Uni 2nds 1-4 Durham 2nds

Leeds Uni 3rds 0-5 Newcastle
2nds

Women's Squash

Leeds Uni 2nds 4-0 Durham 2nds

Men's Tennis

Leeds Uni 1sts 5-5 Northumbria
1sts

Leeds Uni 2nds 9-1 Leeds Met
3rds

Men's Volleyball

Leeds Uni 2-3 Hull 1sts

Women's Volleyball

Leeds Uni 3-0 Newcastle 1sts

the big debate:

Just not cricket?

After the money spinning 'Stanford Super Series', and with the commercial success of the Indian Premier League, cricket is becoming a big money business. LS Sport asks; **Is money ruining cricket?**

Cash in on the new era

Alex Abel

Ever since ECB marketing mogul Tom Harrison first introduced the then alien idea of twenty over a side matches less than five and a half years ago the world of cricket has never quite been the same. Twenty20, as it is known, was introduced in England in the summer of 2003. It has brought with it great entertainment, huge sell out crowds, a new younger audience who had seemingly deserted this great game and millions of pounds in new investment from far and wide which has without doubt brought great benefit to the English game and cricket as a whole.

It is all too easy to forget that just six or seven years ago county cricket was almost dead on its feet. Attendances for the county championship (the traditional four day format) had dropped almost twenty-five percent between 1994 and 2002, with the shorter forty over game seeing even more alarming declines. Faced with this sort of steep drop for another decade, many counties would have been in serious financial danger without promise of big investment to cricket that Twenty20 brings.

Not only has the influx of money into the game helped the county game survive and prosper, it has also breathed fresh, new life into a sport that was becoming very stale and

Twenty20 cricket has brought great entertainment, sell-out crowds and a new, young audience

predictable. Traditionalists have heavily criticised the recent 'Stanford Super Series' with its incredible \$20 million prize pool, arguing that it just 'wasn't cricket' and that it went against the long history and traditions of the game.

Far from destroying cricket, money driven inventions such as this and the new Twenty20 English Premier League (due to start in 2010) are vital to keep cricket at the forefront of the imagination for longer and not just the six weeks of an Ashes series.

When asked about the 'Stanford' games in a recent interview, the greatest spin bowler of all time, Shane Warne, put it thus "They should have just gone over there and enjoyed the moment. I was disappointed that they didn't embrace it. Barring a few players, they were whingeing way too much." That's the attitude we must all have to this new dawn in cricket. Instead of yearning for a yesteryear vision of tea and biscuits on a village green, we should embrace the new money in the game and all the exciting innovations that have come with it.

Game risks implosion

Dafydd Pritchard



As England cricketers mull over yet another feeble defeat in India, it appears that some may be consoling themselves with the possibility that their next visit to the country will not be routinely embarrassed by the likes of Yuvraj Singh but, rather, to be paid a mind-boggling sum to play alongside them.

Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff head the list of English players earmarked by Indian Premier League bosses to participate in next year's tournament, and stand to earn as much as \$1.5m each. Bankrolled by Bollywood stars and Indian businessmen, the IPL embodies cricket's new found financial allure, yet it should be approached with a sense of caution.

After the initial excitement of Brendan McCullum's record breaking innings in the first match, the tournament faded from the world's attentive glare, in its own blinding haze of fireworks and hype.

Flintoff says, "It's something I'd be keen to have a go at. It's possibly now an important development in a player's life." Regular participation in twenty over cricket can be beneficial for the fifty over format but it does little to contribute to a player's performances at the sport's highest level, Test cricket. The only real "important development in a player's life" made by playing in the IPL would be financial.

If Flintoff or Pietersen need reminding of the side-effects of a cricketing financial circus, then they need only look at the recent \$20m shoot-out, the Stanford Series, which was referred to

by England players as a "garden party", and that was before the debacle of their ten wicket defeat to the Stanford Superstars.

Sir Allen Stanford has unashamedly used West Indian cricket as a vehicle for self-congratulatory promotion. Despite his seemingly philanthropic contribution reigniting West Indian commercial interest in cricket, the Islands' Test side continues to underachieve. His investment is not a charitable deed but a foundation laid for his bid to 'break' the American market with his glitzy but unrefined brand of cricket.

Kerry Packer's break-away competition, World Series Cricket, serves as a warning from history. Launched in 1977, the series was supposedly addressing the fact that players were not paid sufficiently. The IPL, despite its obvious lucre, cannot claim to be anywhere near as important to an individual's earnings, now that centrally-contracted international players earn six-figure salaries, along with multiple sponsorship deals.

Tellingly, another factor in Packer's series was his determination to win exclusive broadcasting rights to Australian cricket. With Britain already reeling from the absence of live cricket on free to air television, the increasing number of money-spinning twenty over tournaments will mean that fewer people will have access to live action.

Lessons have yet to be learned. Inaugural IPL champions, the Rajasthan Royals, are owned by Emerging Media, a group co-run by Rupert Murdoch's son, Lachlan. As Packer sought to do, the Murdochs are forming a stranglehold on world cricket and, as long as players' and executives' wallets bulge in the process, it seems nothing will be done to loosen their grip.

Cricket is a sport so passionately played and supported across the globe that it won't be simply be destroyed by the recent eruption of money. Players, fans and board members should all be aware, however, of the distinct danger that, with a fixture calendar nearing saturation point and a turbulent world economic climate, the game is at risk of turning its boom to bust.

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Leeds coast past York to record second successive win

Netball 2nds
Ben Miles
Leeds Uni 59 - 19 York St John

Leeds cruised to their second victory in a row with a dominant display of attacking prowess against the bottom team in their division. From the outset the gulf in class between the two teams was obvious and, despite never letting themselves seem like a beaten team, York were unable to make any real mark on the game.

The home team opened the scoring and were never behind throughout the game as they delighted in turning defence into attack and broke with ferocious pace throughout the first period.

Off the ball the visitors' marking was broken by quick, well thought out movement from the Leeds attack as they were able to exploit space given to them to extend their lead to ten points after less than ten minutes.

The home team's cause was helped by some sloppy passing work from the St John's team as passes regularly went astray or were easily blocked out by the well-drilled Leeds players. Up front, goal shooter Alice Grimwood was on form for the home team, who were able to end

the first period with a healthy twelve point lead.

The opening exchanges of the second quarter were in stark contrast to the first, after Leeds had again opened the scoring the game went flat for the first half of the period with neither team able to find any consistency in their play.

York were eventually able to string some more coherent play together and began to force the issue a little more than they had done previously. This turned out to only be a short break in the pattern of the game as Leeds found their form again to reach thirty points before the first half came to a close.

Soon after the second half began the home team's lead reached the quarter century mark but Leeds again had trouble getting going after the break as their play became scrappy and less fluid. Only good work from Leeds goal keeper Tash Corner meant that their opponents were unable to capitalise on their problems, adding just five points to their total in the whole period.

The balance of the game soon returned to the state it had been in during most of the first period, allowing Leeds to open up a commanding thirty point lead before the period came to a close. With the game all but over the impressive

Alice Grimwood was reintroduced and Leeds stretched the game.

Looking far more energetic than their opponents, their play became smarter and quick passes were interspersed with the ability to read the game well, meaning that Leeds, playing with more guile than York, were able to sit happily atop a fifty point lead with eight minutes still to go.

Little of note was produced, with Leeds happy to keep the cushion at forty points. The final score was no surprise to anyone who witnessed the game and Leeds will be happy to have secured a great win.

From the outset the gulf in class between the two teams was obvious. York were unable to make a mark on the game

Sheffield trampled in derby rout

Men's Rugby League
Michael McHale
Leeds Uni 60 - 20 Sheffield

After last week's disappointing defeat to TASC, Leeds Uni's resolve was put to the test for the first time in the league. The team responded to last week's setback with a strong display that saw them score eleven times on a sorry visiting team.

It was clear right from the kick-off that the team's game plan was to play quick and aggressive rugby. Luke Donlan looked to unsettle the opposition early on with some direct running, pressing Sheffield back into their own half.

However, a combination of poor discipline and a lack of defensive organisation allowed the visitors to open the scoring. Undeterred, Leeds kept to the plan with some big hits and equalised when George Heath finished out wide after a neat offload from Ash Johnson.

A much-improved Leeds defence allowed Johnson to use his blistering pace to good effect. The centre ran from his own 22, stepping around and powering through the majority of the Sheffield defence to take his team into the lead. He was on hand again to allow Adam Fairhead to score and convert the try that took the score to

16-10.

There was a clear lack of concentration from Sheffield as the resulting kick-off was hit straight to Johnson, the one man they did not want to have the ball. Unsurprisingly they were duly punished with captain Mark Galustain eventually powering over.

The second half played out in a similar fashion to the first. Leeds lost possession too often in the first phase and conceded two sloppy tries. In the opposing half however, they were ruthless and made the most of every opportunity Sheffield gave them.

It took Scott Warner less than a minute to continue the scoring. Jez Coldrey, still nursing an injury (fractured rib cartilage) from the previous game, made a brief appearance in the second half. His fifteen-minute stint saw him notch up two tries and set up Fairhead for his second of the day.

Wing Robin Dickinson was next on the score sheet to take it to 40-20. Fairhead proved why so many Super League clubs were after his signature with a lovely chip and chase over the lacklustre Sheffield defence, which he latched onto to complete his hat-trick. Matt Hammond managed to stroll over the line twice before the referee called an early end to the rout.

Commanding Leeds have title in sight

Women's Fencing
Michael Glenister
Leeds Uni 134 - 106 Northumbria

Leeds Uni Women's Fencing celebrated a richly deserved victory over rivals Northumbria on Wednesday, which puts them in pole position to claim their BUCS league title. Having already beaten Durham, their other main adversary for the league crown, Leeds entered into the contest knowing that victory would gift them the advantage in the title race, with only fights against lesser opposition remaining.

Officiated by Duncan Rowlands, internationally qualified referee and member of the Board of Directors for English Fencing, Leeds captain Hayley Beaumont got the vital contest underway. The first of the afternoon's three disciplines, Epee, proved to be a close encounter to say the least.

Through nine match-ups the scores remained almost constantly neck-and-neck until the final bout between the two team captains. Leeds' Hayley Beaumont and her opponent, Helen Dack, remained level until the final point, but despite being roared on by vociferous Italian team-mate Iralia Corda, Beaumont lost out meaning

that Northumbria triumphed 45-44.

The team was not to be deterred however, with the aggregate score across three events being the deciding factor, as opposed to the number of disciplines prevailed in. Only if the aggregate score were tied would the number of disciplines won come into effect. It was with this in mind that Leeds put the disappointment of the Epee behind them and appeared reinvigorated in the Foil contest which followed.

Leeds quickly went about opening up an impressive lead over their North East opponents, finding themselves in front 20-2 after just four bouts, by virtue of some excellent performances from Izzy Case-Punter and Rachel Anderson.

As well as taking command of the match, Leeds were also able to add a little insult to the proceedings for Northumbria captain Helen Dack. An enthusiastic lunge resulted in an embarrassing stumble by Dack, who had previously competed for Guernsey at Commonwealth level. Her efforts were in vain though as an eventual score line of 45-22 in the Foil contest meant that Leeds led 89-66 going into the final round of bouts in the Sabre discipline. Despite the

sizeable advantage though Leeds entered into the final round with a little caution, knowing that they were without a Sabre specialist amongst their ranks.

Any fears of a Northumbria fight-back proved to be wide of the mark though as Leeds produced some fine fencing in the most aggressive of the three disciplines. Despite an improvement from the Foil contest, Northumbria never really threatened to launch a revival and it fell to a delighted Hayley Beaumont to register the winning point. 'That was amazing I love getting the winning point. Love it. Great feeling', said the Leeds captain after her side won the match by a final score of 134-106.

The win cued celebrations amongst her team mates on the sideline and Beaumont was quick to praise their performance. 'Everyone did very well today. As a team we're very good at meshing together as a unit'.

The result left her confident for the rest of the season as well - 'last year although we were very good we didn't quite win the league but I think after winning today we're definitely on track for this season. We've had our two hardest matches of the season and we've won them both'.



Photo: Alex Pavlou

Fourths suffer agony of last minute loss

Men's Football 4ths
 Jamie Presland
 Leeds Uni 1-2 Sheffield

A stoppage time winner handed visitors Sheffield the victory after the home team had battled back from a 1-0 half time deficit to control the match. The result was tough on the hosts, who seemed more likely to score after a great second half equaliser.

"We had enough chances to win so it's disappointing to lose at the end like that, but we were definitely the better team in the match", said a visibly disappointed Adam McKenzie after the match.

The visiting team had begun the match in ominous style for the hosts, with a good chance in the opening seconds, but it was Leeds who had the first shot on goal through Dom Chivens after a neat counter-attacking move.

The ball was stuck in midfield for the first ten minutes, neither side able to play their strikers in. Leeds had a great chance with a free-kick from 20 yards-out after fifteen minutes, with Johnny Rogers curling the ball over the wall but straight into the arms of the Sheffield keeper.

Leeds were nearly made to pay for that miss; keeper Dan Johnson alert to come off his line and block the onrushing Sheffield forward, but the visitors weren't to be denied for long, as five minutes later Leeds failed to clear a corner and the ball was hammered past Johnson into the roof of the net.

The home side stepped up their

attack in an attempt to draw level before the break, but shots by John Thorpe and Sean Scantlebury were well saved.

Sheffield began the second half again in the ascendancy, passing with purpose and testing the home defence, but were shocked as Leeds unexpectedly drew level. A poor throw from the visiting keeper only found John Thorpe, who played in strike partner Rogers to round the keeper and slot home, as the Sheffield defence appealed in vain for offside.

This sparked a period of intense pressure from the hosts, more neat and incisive than before the break. Chivens fired wide before Ben Tuck saw a golden opportunity saved. Missed passes were still an element of Leeds' play, however and as wasteful finishing saw them fail to take a lead going into the final ten minutes, they were made to pay right at the death.

A needless corner was conceded, and from that Sheffield headed high into the net past the despairing dive of Johnson. Scantlebury hit the side netting late on with a header on his own, but the visitors held on to deny a Leeds team who should have taken all three points on their second-half display.

The result was tough on the hosts

Bold Leeds victorious

Women's Volleyball 1sts
 Helen Chandler
 Leeds Uni 3-0 Newcastle

In a fairly one-sided encounter, an energetic Leeds led from the starting whistle to triumph over an unsettled Newcastle. The girls put in a confident and polished performance which proved too much for their rivals, and now sees them lurking in second place in the BUCS league.

Despite conceding the first point the Leeds side got off to a strong start. They soon began to string winners together, increasing their points tally and ultimately their lead over Newcastle.

They were working better as a team than their challengers, consequently making fewer errors. It was this, along with some excellent serving from Leeds' Karin Maasel, which allowed them to quickly tie up the first set.

With the momentum going Leeds' way as the second set started, it seemed as if the set was a must-win for Newcastle if they were going to be in with a chance. Leeds attacked from the first point but a series of clumsy mistakes followed, giving Newcastle an opportunity to put their mark on the game. The second set was certainly closer as the visitors found some rhythm, but in the end it was just as convincing as the first for Leeds. They coped well with the pressure and did not allow Newcastle to get ahead.

Encouraged by the positive scoreline the girls did not let up their attack going into what was to be the third and final set. Captain Kim Smith played an important part in her team's success, seizing any opportunity to smash the ball to the feet of her opponents. The diminutive Bre Grayston played an equally vital role, working hard to provide her taller teammates with the chance to put some points on the board.

The final set was over almost as quickly as the first; a demoralised Newcastle left wondering where the match had gone.



Photo: Sarah Greene

Dour affair ends in narrow defeat for Leeds

Men's Rugby Union 2nds
 Ior Mary Duncan
 Leeds Uni 6-8 York 1sts

The state of the Weetwood pitch ended any hope of playing an expansive running game before kick-off, and a depleted squad saw the seconds' squad fall in an unsightly encounter.

The undulating surface and the slope of the pitch, in addition to the effects of recent weather restricted this game to a succession of knock-ons, indiscretion and set pieces.

The seconds have suffered from a number of injuries recently, particularly up front where York had sustained spells of dominance. This was only exacerbated when

the strong centre pairing of Tom Henderson and Hubert Brown was broken up early on, the former aggravating an existing injury to his ankle. Henderson was replaced by the elusive presence of Tom Cutts.

The game went through very scrappy periods dominated by untidy rucks and inevitable scrums, where the York second row had the upper hand. York's inability to convert their chances highlighted not only the strength of the University's defence, but also York's inefficiency in the final third. Eventually York did score midway through the first half, breaking the deadlock with a confused scramble of pick and drives in the Uni's twenty-two.

The match had little pattern

The match had little pattern other than the continued setting and re-setting of un-clean scrummages

other than the continued setting and re-setting of un-clean scrummages. This was not a good game for the spectator, as was reflected in the continued struggle to secure any kind of ball, let alone clean ball. Scrum-half and Captain Duncan Pollock, however, was persistent in his efforts to release a frustrated backline. When they were allowed some ball, they threatened the opposition defence. On one of these few occasions substitute wing Luca De Besi made a strong break down the left before being tackled and isolated.

Unfortunately effective play like this was balanced by moments of ill discipline. Nowhere was this more obvious than in the sin-binning of lock Angad Jahair, who

Man of the Match
 Duncan Pollock

Sensible with any ball he retrieved, and was not afraid to seek contact when no options presented themselves.

was judged to have blocked a player chasing his own Garryowen.

Neither side showed much quality, but the seconds' real quality in the backs was nullified by the awful state of the surface and the dismal weather.

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Dominant Leeds lose

Visitors take vital win with final period surge

Men's Basketball 1sts

James Green

Leeds Uni 63 - 73 Manchester Uni

Visitors Manchester stole a ten-point victory over Leeds to leave the home side languishing at the bottom of the BUCS table, throwing away a positive performance that saw the Yorkshire team leading for most of the

encounter.

The first quarter started badly for Leeds, who next face a tough trip away to top-of-the-table Sheffield Hallam, losing their captain Martin Whalley within the first minute to a blow to the face.

Both sides worked hard to break the deadlock but it was Leeds who were really starting to dominate in both attack and defence. This

dominance paid off when a lovely passing move led to Carl Reine scoring the first points of the match. That set the tone for most of the match with Leeds staying in front for the rest of the quarter, mainly due to some excellent attacking play between Aaron Lawmarn and Martin Vagn Hansen.

Manchester started the second quarter with a three-pointer, taking the lead for the first time, before Leeds responded quickly. This led to a few minutes of free scoring in which neither side was able to dominate. Leeds were able to re-establish their dominance though with some amazing breakaway moves. With Leeds scoring regularly again and with their free-throws missing far too frequently Manchester resorted to a policy of aiming for three points at every opportunity. This high-risk strategy did not help at all with Leeds having no problem picking up the rebounds and taking the ball down the other end to add to their lead.

Lawmarn started the third quarter in emphatic fashion, scoring a brilliant three-pointer. Leeds then showed their defensive skills as well; content to let Manchester attack and then score on the break. This tactic worked wonders with Reine, Joe Hall and Lawmarn all scoring with increasing ease. With one quarter to go Leeds were completely in control.

However the match was turned on its head in the final quarter when Manchester took the lead for only the second time in the match, and would not relinquish it. No matter what the home side did they could not get back into the play. Manchester's desperate three point attempts finally started to pay dividends and with Leeds giving away more and more fouls, the match unfairly slipped away from them.

Man of the Match
Aaron Lawmarn

Scored 24 of the Uni's points and was at the heart of the attack for most of the game.

Photo: Alex Pavlou



Action from the seconds, who lost 82-43 to the Leeds Met seconds. More reports and results inside.

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