

# Leeds Student

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## Lizard poo research goes down the drain

• Postgrad's seven year research into rare lizard faeces incinerated by University • "I'll see you in court," says student

Claire Freeston

A Leeds PhD researcher has threatened to sue the University after they accidentally incinerated his seven-year collection of lizard excrement during a routine lab clear-out.

The University has apologised for the mistake and offered Daniel Bennett £500 in compensation after he complained about the loss. He has refused the money and says that he will "see them in court."

Mr. Bennett, author of several books on Monitor lizards and a leading authority on the butaan, described his horror at the loss in *Times Higher Education (T.H.E.)*.

"To some people it might have been just a bag of lizard shit, but to me it represented seven years of painstaking work searching the

rainforest with a team of reformed poachers to find the faeces of one of the world's largest, rarest and most mysterious lizards."

The obliteration of his collection has hit Mr. Bennett hard. He said, "It's loss left me reeling and altered the course of my life forever."

The butaan is a species related to the Komodo dragon. It was thought to be extinct, and now only exists on Polillo Island in the Philippines where it lives in one square mile of habitat. Mr. Bennett preferred not to disturb them in their natural habitat and so researched them by studying their faeces.

Mr. Bennett's collection of lizard poo was stored at his Leeds lab in a 35kg bag. He said he was horrified to return from the Philippines to discover that the bag had been removed. "I was surprised to find my desk space occupied by another student and to see that photographs of my daughter, my girlfriend and my favorite lizards had been removed from the wall."

"The laboratory space where my samples had been stored was empty. Irritation turned to fear as I realised that my personal effects had been carefully stowed in boxes, but there was no sign of my 35-kilogram bag of lizard shit. Fear turned to anger and bewilderment when I learned that my samples had been 'accidentally' removed from the lab and incinerated."

Mr. Bennett's letter detailing his experiences on the *T.H.E.* website has attracted much criticism from viewers.

One post reads, "I doubt your material was labelled and very few people apart from yourself knew of its existence. This is sad, but it's pretty much your own fault."

However, Mr. Bennett denies any wrongdoing on his part, saying: "It is insulting and ludicrous to imply that I would spend so long collecting the material and not label it."

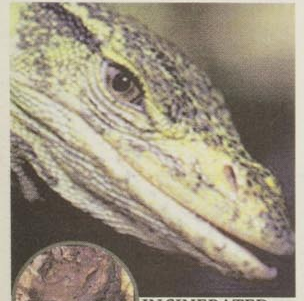
The University has stated that they are unaware of any legal action. Their statement read, "The loss of these samples was an unfortunate mistake. They were thrown away in error because they were in an unmarked bag."

"Lessons have been learned and protocols improved to ensure this cannot happen again."

"Mr. Bennett is due to graduate with his PhD this year, subject to minor corrections to his thesis unrelated to the loss of the materials."

A fellow student at the Institute of Integrative and Comparative Biology, Ben Chapman, commented, "I sympathise with Daniel, it must have been painful to lose all that hard work."

Dr Chapman, who has just finished his own PhD concerning an unusual species of fish found in the mangrove swamps of the Florida keys, commented on the costs of postgraduate research projects. "PhD students usually have access to £1000 per year budget for equipment and travel costs. Anything over and above that we must fund through external grants. My research will have cost about £3000 altogether."



**INCINERATED:**  
The butaan lizard with a sample stool

Leeds University Business School



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Leeds  
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# £110,000 up for grabs

The Leeds Student newspaper is the voice of the students of the University of Leeds. We are one of Leeds University Union's largest and most active societies with over 200 members. Whether you have aspirations of being a top journalist, or just enjoy writing and want to try something new, we want you to join us.

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Email us at [news@leedsstudent.org](mailto:news@leedsstudent.org) or call 0113 380 1450. All correspondences will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Make contact. Right a wrong.

## Corrections

If you feel we have reported something inaccurately or unfairly, we want to hear from you to put things right. Contact us at [editor@leedsstudent.org](mailto:editor@leedsstudent.org)

Candidates vying for seven elected sabbatical posts will be clamouring for attention over the next week as the ballot boxes for Exec and Newspaper Editor positions open today.

Voting for each post – which combined account for £110,000 of the Union's money in salaries – will be open from 4pm Friday 13, when Fruity will be 'election themed', to 5pm Thursday 19. Students can also cast their votes online via [luonline.com/vote](http://luonline.com/vote).

Students are encouraged to question the candidates at Hustings, from 2pm today (Friday 13) at the Info Point, located to the right of the Union foyer. The 20 hopefuls will "sell themselves" for a minute before inviting questions from the floor.

The process of democracy is one that many students shun but showing an opinion (with a vote) in these positions is important – the people elected will have a major impact on issues that affect everyone who walks through the Union doors.

In last year's elections controversy surrounded the Equality and Diversity count after only four votes separated the two candidates.

To aid your decision, *LS* offers a rundown of the hopefuls in each category.

### Activities Officer

Role: To assist and oversee the running of Union Activity Groups

### Fikir Assefa

They say: "A union that works for everyone."  
We Say: "President of A-Capella 07-08, Performance Rep on Activities Assembly 08-09, Lead female vocalist for LUU dance band 07-09. Member of philosophy society."  
Slogan: Stick with Fikir  
Facebook Group members: 160

### Owen Bradley

They say: "Bringing activities together."  
We Say: "Sports editor of Leeds Student, president of Music Theatre Society, Mine bar assistant for two years."  
Slogan: "You badly want Bradley."  
FB Group members: 236

### Josh Landy

They say: "A society a day helps work

and play."

We Say: "Leeds Uni Campus Ambassador 2008/09, LUU Jewish Soc Pres 07, LUU Crim Justice Soc 08/09."  
FB Group members: 207

### James Oliver

They say: "Space, sports and funding."  
We Say: "Captain of LUU Boxing Soc 2008/09."  
FB Group members: 174

### Rowena Skinner

They say: "Representing you with experience, passion and proven success."  
We Say: "NUS delegate 07/08 and 08/09, General Interest Rep on Activities Exec 2007-08, founding member and secretary of POLIS 2007-08, Interim President and Social Sec of Rock Gospel Choir in 2007. Wine Soc 05-06."  
FB Group members: 152

### Communications and Internal Affairs Officer

Role: To disseminate information regarding all aspects of Union activities to the members of the Union.

### Jak Codd

They say: "For an affordable LUU that puts students first."  
We Say: "Union Councillor and NUS delegate."  
FB Group members: 159

### Joshua Jones

They say: "Fighting for your interests, not mine."  
We Say: "Democracy and Communications Assembly Chair 08-09, President of Bod Hall JCR 07/08."  
FB Group members: 159

### Guy Mitchell

They say: "Listening to YOU: cheaper food, buses and laptops."  
We Say: "General Student Rep. Active campus member demonstrated by Stansted protest."  
FB Group members: 96

### Community Officer

Role: To represent students on issues of safety, crime and housing both within the University and the local community.

### Rob Damiao

They say: "Experience, passion, safety and community."  
We Say: "Community Officer 08-09."  
FB Group members: 153

### Hannah Greenslade

They say: "Positive, collective action in our community."  
We Say: "Political and Campaigning Rep, Activities Assembly 2008-09, NUS Delegate 08-09. Various positions on People and Planet."  
Slogan: "Vote Hannah Greenslade"  
FB Group members: 193

### Education Officer

The Education Officer is responsible for representing students on all educational issues, both nationally and locally.

### Abdulrahman Alhadithi

They say: "24 hour libraries; second-hand books, faster employment."  
We Say: "First Year student rep, General student Rep."  
FB Group members: 123

### Michael Gladstone

They say: "Experience, new ideas, a better academic life."  
We Say: "Currently Union Academic Rep for Faculty of Education, Social Science and Law."  
FB Group members: 185

### Alice Isbell

They say: "Greater funding, longer opening hours, future focus."  
We Say: No listed previous positions.  
FB Group members: 141

### Jack Smith

They say: "No nonsense."  
We Say: No listed previous positions.

### Equality and Diversity Officer

To ensure University Services and policies fully reflect the diversity of student needs and to promote equality of opportunity for all students.

### Eva Georgiou

They say: "For an active, inclusive, accessible and fair union."  
We Say: "Chair LUU Amnesty International Society."  
Slogan: "For changes that you want to see, vote Eva G"  
FB Group members: 162

### Sophia James

They say: "Celebrating diversity, unbiased debate and student-led campaigns."  
We Say: "LGBT Assembly Chair, Union Councillor, NUS delegate, NUS LGBT Committee."  
Slogan: "Here's an idea, vote for Sophia."  
FB Group members: 217

### Welfare Officer

The Welfare Officer ensures appropriate provision for students' general, sexual and mental health issues.

### Madeline Harris-Smith

They say: "Making happier students."  
We Say: "LUU Union Councillor, LUU Women's Assembly Chair."  
FB Group members: 84

### Yacoub Al-Ouri

They say: "Representation. Participation. Safety. Transparency. Quality. Healthiness. Integration. Productivity."  
We Say: "Treasurer of United Nations Association, Committee member of PSG."  
FB Group members: 117

### Newspaper Editor

#### Virginia Newman

They say: "New opportunities for involvement and experience."  
We Say: "News reporter 06-07, founder editor Big Debate 07-08, news editor 08-09."  
FB Group members: 109  
Slogan: "Don't be a voting virgin, vote Virginia."

#### John Puddephatt

They say: "Interaction and information. For entertainment and experience."  
We Say: "Photographer 06-07, photo editor 07-08, associate editor 07-08 and 08-09."  
Slogan: "What's new Puddephatt?"  
FB Group members: 104

#### Claire Freeston

They say: "Societies, ideas, quality: change students appreciate"  
We Say: "Proof reader 07-08, news reporter 07-08, news editor 08-09."  
Slogan: "Fight for Freeston of the Press."  
FB Group members: 125

Meet  
the  
team

#### Editor

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# “Chips smell like flowers,” say Leeds researchers

Virginia Newman

Chips smell of bitter cocoa, butterscotch, cheese, onions and flowers, according to a groundbreaking report on the aroma of the nation's potato pal.

Leeds University researchers peeled away any preconceived notions by collecting a variety of responses to the question, “What do chips smell of?”

During the information gathering, smells that could be detected by the human nose were sniffed, and the type and strength

of smell recorded. Focus groups were undertaken at Leeds Metropolitan University to look at consumer perceptions of chips.

Texture, appearance, aroma and taste were the preferred attributes in that order. There were differences among the genders with men preferring taste and

texture, while women prioritised aroma.

The researchers used a scientific process known as gas chromatography mass spectrometry, which isolated some 46 different compounds.

The scientists, combined from the University of Leeds, University of Reading and Leeds Metropolitan University, analysed the separate compounds with an ‘aroma-meter’ machine. The output of the analysis is a series of peaks on a graph or a fingerprint. Each peak indicates the occurrence and levels of a different component of the aroma.

Dr Graham Clayton from the University of Leeds said: “Whether oven-cooked or fried, the humble chip doesn’t smell of just chips - the aroma is much more complex and probably explains why chips are everyone’s favourite.”

“Perhaps these findings will see chips treated like wine in the future - with chip fans turning into buffs as they impress their friends with eloquent descriptions of their favourite fries.”

The research showed that the relationship between the potatoes, the oil, the temperature and

cooking, as well as adding condiments or foods, affects the aroma profile of the chips.

Dr Clayton said: “Like a fine perfume, chips can be made up of different aroma combinations, so there is always something for everyone and every occasion.”

“Lightly cooked or undercooked chips were found to contain three simple aromas including bitter cocoa. A little extra cooking was shown to produce a more complex aroma profile, with up to nine different aromatic notes.”



CHIPS: What do yours smell of?

Photo: Virginia Newman



FLOWERS: Chips, apparently.

# ABBA top referendum chart

Adam Richardson

Debate fever is scheduled to sweep the Union once again as motions for this semester's Referendum have been submitted.

13 motions were put forward for consideration, with tone ranging from the serious ‘Should the Union have political views which may not be representative of all its members?’ to the more comic ‘Should LUU adopt ABBA as its official band?’

Other motions include one to move the Freshers’ Fair from the Riley Smith Hall to the Sports Hall and for LUU to lobby for cheaper buses.

Richard Mellor, proposer of the motion ‘Should the Union have political views which may not be representative of all its members?’ said: “I felt that by being a member of LUU, many people are being labelled with views they do not hold, because a motion passed by a small majority in a referendum subscribes their Union to it. LUU aims to

encourage diversity and democracy, but this is being circumvented in order for individuals, who submit motions which make LUU take sides to further their political aspirations.

“When LUU represents people from both sides of an international dispute, it should not support one side over the other.”

The deadline for the submission of motions was last Friday, with 15 motions submitted. Two motions have been subsequently withdrawn.

More serious motions concerning the advertising structure of *Leeds Student* and whether LUU should adopt a limited platform for fascists are also up for debate.

Laurie Whitwell, Editor of *Leeds Student* and proposer of motion 13 said: “While the subject of referenda is boring to the majority of students it does serve a crucial purpose in changing major issues within these walls.

“Our motion aims to release the shackles that bind *Leeds Student's* advertising potential, with the aim of turning the paper into a profitable business that pays for itself and

eventually saves the Union £20,000 a year.”

Sophia James, proposer of motion five, ‘Let’s change the gender agenda’ which aims to alter the “Sex/Gender” category on Union forms to read “Gender?” said:

“After speaking to many Trans individuals about the current system of reporting gender, I found that they were upset and felt marginalised by a union that claims to value diversity. For most individuals, this will make little difference but for a small and frequently forgotten minority, it will vastly improve the situation. This motion aims to put Trans issues back on the agenda.”

The motions will now go through Steering committee who will make their recommendations to Union Council. At the Union Council on February 23, it will be decided which motions will go forward to the referendum.

Voting will take place from Friday March 6 to Thursday 12 March with the results being revealed on Friday March 13.



A CHANGE IS GONNA COME: The referendum looms.

Photo: Anthony Zupnik

# Furious fans scammed

Matthew Power

**Student events promoter Rough Hill are at the centre of more controversy after JLS fans claimed were "conned" by a ticketing scam.**

Fans of X Factor finalists JLS who bought VIP tickets for the band's gig in Leeds last Tuesday night have hit out at event organisers, Rough Hill, alleging that they were "conned" by the company's ticket sales for the event.

The band, who were runners up in this year's ITV talent contest, were performing at the city's Tiger Tiger nightclub.

Around 150 fans handed over an extra six pounds on top of the £5 ticket price to Rough Hill for VIP tickets for their event at the city's Tiger Tiger nightclub. It was advertised that their tickets granted them access to a meet and greet with their X Factor heroes after the show.

However upon arrival, Rough Hill's event management told 'VIP guests' that they were unaware of any such arrangements. Those who had paid the extra cash for privileges were left reeling after standard ticket holders were able to use the VIP section.

Serene Husseini, a Leeds student and JLS fan, said: "The main attraction of the VIP ticket was its guarantee to allow each person to meet JLS, unfortunately it was only when we

asked another Rough Hill representative about it that we were informed it had coincidentally been cancelled."

VIP ticket holders were left fuming after then received an e-Mail from Rough Hill just hours before the event yet after promising to return some of the disgruntled fans' money, refunds have not yet been issued by the company and disappointed fans are demanding compensation.

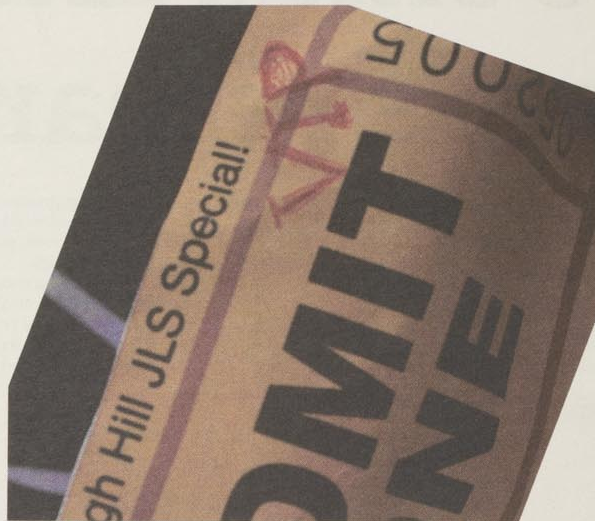
"To rub salt in the wound, those who bought VIP tickets received an 'apologetic' email. The email informed us of the sudden change of plan without explanation. A refund of £3 was offered, this meant that we still paid £5 and this hardly seems sufficient. It means we then paid £5 as if we had bought a standard ticket to just see the performance," Serene continued.

Later in the evening, security was stepped down inside the venue and those who had purchased standard tickets were able to move in and out of VIP areas.

Serene expressed her anger towards the event organisers:

"I feel thoroughly let down by Rough Hill and angry that they are able to get away with this! I do blame Rough Hill and only Rough Hill, so do not intend to attend a similar event as long as it is arranged by their company."

The event's security has also been



**VIP SCRAWL:** Our impression of what the JLS ticket could have looked like

Photo: Ali Hung

criticised with many guests complaining about a lack of crowd control and claiming that Rough Hill had oversold the event.

Rough Hill was at the centre of controversy in October of last year after University residential services threatened to evict students who worked for the company and who put up its posters in their halls of residence.

Elizabeth Sinclair, a Theology and

Religious studies student, who also purchased a VIP ticket for the JLS event, said:

"I have nothing positive to say about the whole evening. Their blasé approach to organisation meant that my friends and I had a wholly disappointing night."

Rough Hill were unavailable for comment

## Display pulled

Marcus Chippendale

**The LUU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual society (LGBT) has been left incensed after one of their displays was suddenly removed last week.**

The society's members are demanding to know why one of their presentations, which included descriptions of the Nazi's treatment towards homosexuals during the Holocaust, was removed from the Parkinson Court.

On February 4, as part of LGBT history month, the society put up a display covering various issues relevant to the LGBT community. However, one set of posters were taken down within an hour of being put up.

The display included descriptions of how the Nazis attempted to 'cure' gay men of their 'disease', and featured headings such as 'At least 15,000 LGBT individuals died during the holocaust.'

According to the LGBT, the idea was to give people a better understanding of the suffering of LGBT people under Nazi rule.

"The whole point of the display was to raise awareness of the persecution of LGBT people during the holocaust," said Matt Edwards, the LGBT Events Officer. "Everything on the posters was factual. There was nothing political on them."

However, the display was promptly

removed from the Parkinson Court after the building's receptionist received a number of complaints. It has not yet been made clear to the LGBT what the complaints about the posters were, whether it was about the accuracy or the nature of their content.

This fact has left the LGBT confused as to why they were taken down so quickly. Mr Edwards continued:

"We were told that the posters were inappropriate to display in the Parkinson building, but we weren't told why, perhaps people were offended because they were showing pictures of the holocaust. However, if there is a factual inaccuracy in our display then we want to know about it."

His opinion has been backed up by Maryam Ahmad, the LUU Quality and Diversity Officer who expressed her display towards the decision:

"We are a bit disappointed. I've not had an explanation as to why this has happened," she said. "If there was a valid reason then we will accept it."

LGBT has lodged a formal complaint to the University, claiming that it was unfair for the posters to be taken down.

The posters will go on display again on the 25th February outside the Student's Union as part of a number of ongoing LGBT history month events, and the society hopes to be able to exhibit the posters in the Parkinson Court for a full day sometime in the future.

## News In Brief

Asylum seeker speaks out

**Germain Naruhana, an asylum seeker whose father was beheaded and sister raped, gave a speech to Leeds University students last Tuesday.**

The event was part of the 'Let Them Work' campaign run by STAR (Students Action For Refugees) and the Refugee Council.

Naruhana came to the U.K. four years ago when it became impossible for him to stay in his native Democratic Republic of Congo after he spoke out against the country's government.

He told students how he was beaten and raped by government soldiers, his mother shot and his family used as bait to lure him back to the Congo. He said: "I suffer day in day out but I don't want the suffering to overcome me."

His daughter is the only member of his family that he knows is alive.

Naruhana claimed asylum in the UK but his application was refused. He is a qualified teacher but is unable to work due to his current asylum status. His case is currently being reviewed and is now volunteering for the Refugee Council.

Now a fluent in English, Naruhana explained how much it would mean to him if he were granted asylum: "I'm a free man, I can go to university, have a job, rely on myself, get my daughter, have a better life."

## Students cash in on credit crunch

**Two Leeds University students are aiming to take advantage of the current climate by launching a brand new club night called 'Crunch Club.'**

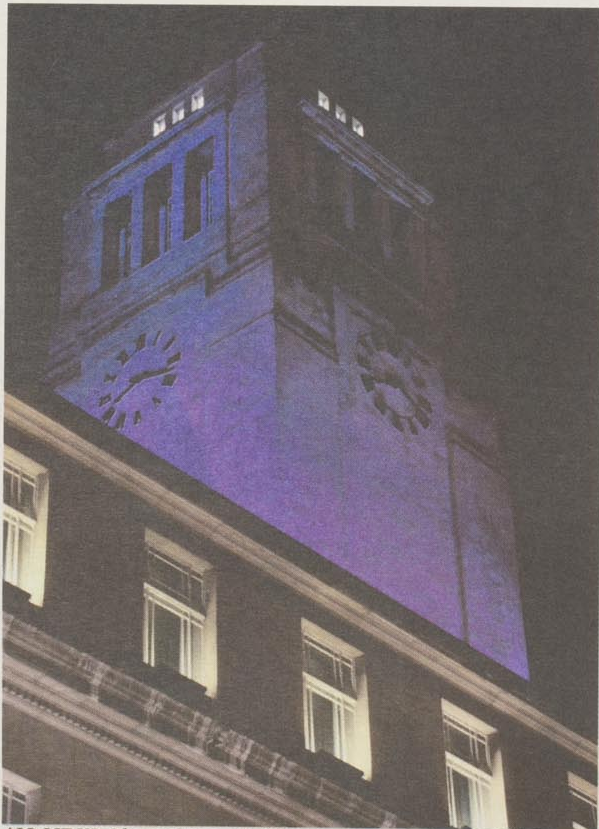
Second year students Nick Haley and Ed Coombe are out to beat the credit crunch by launching the new event which is based on 80s classics and current hits.

Coombe, a Management student, said: "We've seen a synth-electronic-pop comeback, which we call 'new80s'. The likes of MGMT, Alphabeat, and Little Boots create upbeat melodies that cheer us up in this otherwise gloomy period."

Haley admitted they had to "negotiate" with the Union in order to price all drinks at £1.50. The twosome hope that the prices will escape the controversy that has surrounded Wetherspoons in recent months after they launched their 99p drinks offers. Haley said: "The Union runs great drink aware campaigns. The offers mean at Crunch Club you can have a greater, safer night, within your budget."

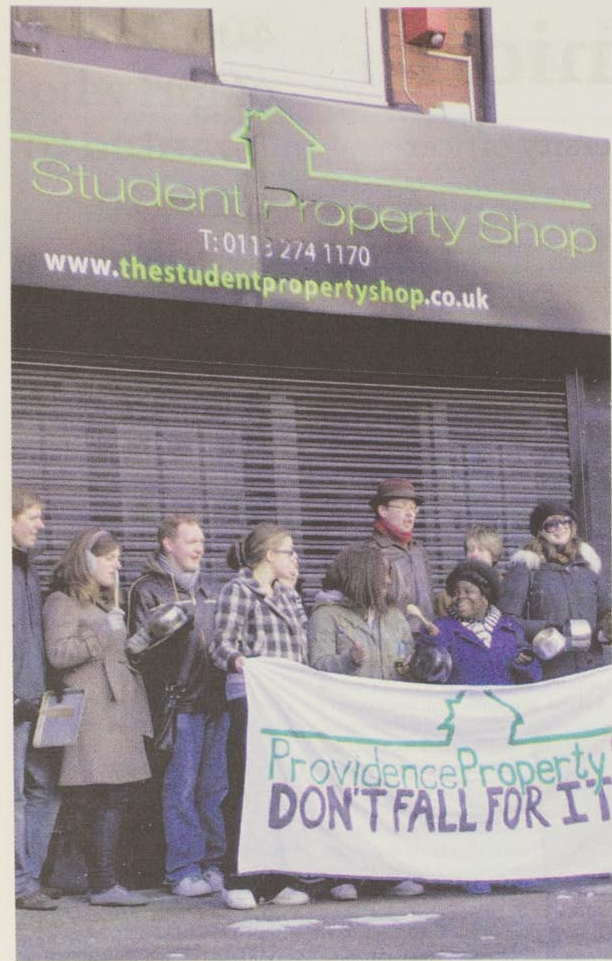
The entrepreneurial duo aim to expand the 'Crunch Club' to Universities across the UK, and they hope that it will become a nationwide brand.

Crunch Club is launched on February 23rd and will run on alternate Mondays from then on. Tickets are priced at £4 on the door with a limited number of advance tickets priced at £2.50.



**ALL LIT UP:** The Parkinson Building turns purple for LGBT history month this week. Events are being run in the coming month including films and talks from guest speakers highlighting Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transsexual people's experiences.

Photo: Ali Hung



ANGRY: Students protest outside the Student Property Shop  
Photos: Virginia Newman

# Property Shop 'plot' protest

Demonstration follows *Leeds Student* exposé

Matthew Power

**Angry student protesters forced The Student Property Shop to remain closed for business for over two hours, last Saturday.**

The protest attracted local media coverage, appearing on the BBC Look North, as students attempted to get their deposits back from Providence Properties.

The protest was held outside the offices of The Student Property Shop, on Victoria Road, due to suspected links between previous Providence Properties director Tariq Zaman and the new letting agent.

Tariq Zaman is estimated to owe students £70,000 in unreturned deposits and still has numerous court demands against him.

Students held a banner reading "Providence Property Plot, don't fall for it", whilst banging pans and shouting for the return of their deposits. Several local Student Property Shop tenants looked on and some joined in the protest.

The Student Property Shop

opened its shutters at 11am, but did not open for business whilst students protested. No members of The Student Property Shop were available for comment on the day, though they were believed to be watching from nearby cars.

Police were present at the event and moved the protesters away from the shop window for safety reasons. The protest attracted much attention from local residents and passing cars, which sounded their horns in support. Organisers said that they requested the police presence, with a direct line to the station arranged, due to Zaman's rumoured history of threatening behaviour.

Many protesters had been directly affected by the continuing deposit scandal. Steve Howie, a fifth year medical student, is owed £300 despite having written ten letters of complaint to the Providence Properties. He claimed that he left his property in "immaculate condition", but is still yet to receive a response from the company.

Harriet Callum, a Leeds University graduate, spoke of the

legal problems that she had encountered when attempting to get her money back.

She said: "A county court judgement is just a recognition from the court that an individual owes you money, it doesn't enforce it or give you any legal rights to seize anything from them. The bailiffs are about £300 or £400 to hire but they have in the past found it very difficult to determine what Tariq Zaman actually owns."

A hairdresser from the neighbouring 'Architect Hairdressing', said her business was undisturbed by the protest and that she felt sympathy for the students.

Protesters plan to take further action and say that they are determined to keep fighting until they receive all outstanding deposits.

Rob Damio commented: "The protest was really successful. Students remain very angry about not getting their deposits back but hopefully by holding a few more events and working with Zaman we will hopefully be able to return student's deposits to them."

## Council backs bursary scheme

Adam Richardson

**A recent report by Leeds City Council has come out in support of a funding campaign championed by the Union.**

The meeting of the City Council had been requested by Leeds University Union (LUU) after calls had been made to back the campaign for a single national bursary system aimed at providing clarity for students applying for financial support when coming to University.

Local MPs will now be asked to give their support to the view that there should be adequate funding of higher education without removing the cap on fees.

Similarly, they will be asked to back the introduction of a national bursary scheme. This scheme has been met with agreement by the NUS. Aaron Porter, NUS Vice President said: "The current

bursary system is overly complex and not fit for purpose. A national, regulated bursary scheme would be a better solution."

Finally, there will be a report in April to show what initiatives have been developed to promote greater co-operation between the Universities and the Council to improve help, advice and guidance to young people.

Danny Adilpouir, LUU Education Officer said: "I am pleased that this Leeds City Council report has come out in support of some of our main campaign aims."

"We will continue to lobby for these aims and to make the case nationally that to have a world class higher education system the government must provide world class funding for it, without increasing tuition fees and pricing many young people out of a university education."

## Zaman owns properties let by SPS

Virginia Newman

**The Student Property Shop was at the centre of yet further controversy this week as Leeds Student discovered two properties advertised by Student Property Shop are owned by Tariq Zaman, previous Director of Providence Properties.**

Nadia Iqbal, owner of The Student Property Shop, denied any knowledge of letting properties from Zaman in last week's *Leeds Student* exclusive. The two addresses, on Manor Drive and Richmond Avenue, are both registered on the Leeds City Council Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) website to Tariq Zaman.

As we go to press The Student Property Shop is still not a member of Companies House or Unipol, as had been promised to

us by Iqbal last week. Providence Properties however remain registered on Companies House, the country's official companies registration site.

The SPS replaced Providence at its offices on Victoria Road, Hyde Park. The swap raised questions about a possible link between the two companies, and protests followed.

Ms. Iqbal was unavailable for comment.

Andrea Kerslake, Leeds University Union Housing Specialist, has managed to arrange a meeting with Zaman.

She said: "The Student Advice Centre has recently had separate contact with both the Student Property Shop and Mr Tariq Zaman. Both discussions

were constructive. The Student Property Shop wish to work with the Student Advice Centre on any issues that are of concern. This is a very positive and welcome step forward."

She continued: "Mr Tariq Zaman has agreed to meet with the Student Advice Centre in the near future with a view to discussing the outstanding deposit cases currently involving his properties. This is very good news and again we welcome the step forward."

"It is hoped that communications with both parties will continue and will hopefully see cases satisfactorily resolved."



# Racism row engulfs Union

“LS:TV tried to brand me racist,” claims Equality and Diversity officer

Adam Richardson

**LUU Equality and Diversity officer Maryam Ahmad is at the centre of controversy after claims that LS:TV purposefully set up an interview to make her speak out against the views of the Executive and appear “racist.”**

During an interview with the Union TV station, it is alleged that Ahmad was asked about her opinions on the difference between “campaigning for the eradication of the state of Israel and endorsing the killing of Jew worldwide”. She claims she was told that the interview was regarding LUU’s recent Diversity accreditation.

LS:TV argue that the interview, which aired last week, was set up by the station for their news programme “The Essential” and deny that they misled Ahmad by asking to talk about the award.

They deny that it was ever their intention despite pressing the Equality and Diversity Officer on her opinions on the then ongoing occupation of Botany House. The Student Executive could not pass comment as they had not yet released a joint statement.

The interview was a re-recording after LS:TV claimed they had lost the original recording due to a computer error.

It was during this second interview that the question on the subject

of Israel was brought up. Maryam said: “I was pretty stunned that they slipped in such a shocking and presumptuous question in the middle of filming.” She denied campaigning for the destruction of Israel, and carried on with the interview.

Ahmad didn’t realise there was a problem until the LS:TV script of the show was left on her desk. She said: “When I read it I contacted LUU management straight away. It was clear to me and them that the producers had intended to make a programme that painted myself and members of the Palestine Solidarity Group as fuelling anti-Semitism.”

The script points to the fact that Ahmad is: “The woman with the Palestinian flag next to her desk.”

Ahmad alleges that a member of LS:TV then lost his temper upon being questioned about the piece. “He said that I just wanted to squash

“independent journalism”, that most officers would give their teeth for the kind of “exposure” he had given me and that I should stop “harassing” him.”

A statement from LS:TV read: “LS:TV is proud of our award winning journalists and we feel that it is a shame that this story (which has been covered with accurate and responsible journalism) has fallen under scrutiny. There has been a miscommunication between the parties along the way - but in this instance, we firmly believe that no error has been made on our part.”

LUU Community Officer Rob Damiao took the call to set up the interview between the two parties. “I genuinely thought they were wanting to talk to her about an equality award,” he said.

“I rang her on her mobile to see if she was free for them and said that I thought they wanted to interview her about an

equality award, whilst they were stood next to me, as that was the impression I had got and they did not correct me when I said this to her on the phone,” Rob said.

LS:TV have rebutted this: “A request was made by a member of LS:TV for an interview with Maryam Ahmad - through another member of the Student Exec. When putting in the request for this interview, no member of the Exec questioned what the subject of this interview would be.”

LS:TV claim that the interview was set up with the intention of talking about anti-Semitism. A copy of the LS:TV script suggests that the Ahmed interview was a piece of evidence for a feature on anti-Semitism. Others interviewed included Jak Codd, the outspoken member of J-Soc.

This is in reference to the controversy caused earlier in the year when a Palestinian flag appeared behind Maryam’s desk. Subsequent criticism of the move led to flags of all the occupied nations of the world appearing to remove any accusations of bias.

Emily Dexter, the interviewer in the piece, defended LS:TV, saying: “The piece was to show anti-Semitism in Leeds, and to try to find out if there had been an increase in incidents.”

Dexter told *Leeds Student* that LS:TV had been “more than accommodating” as they allowed the Equality and Diversity Officer multiple takes to “get her interview just right”.

Speaking about the incident, Ahmad finished: “I’m disappointed about what they did mainly because I went out of my way to help them out only to find that they were trying to brand me as a racist.”



RUPTURE: Relations between Ahmad and LS:TV were fraught this week

Photo: Ali Hung

## Campus watch

Vicky Littler

### Cambridge

Shocking initiation practices at the University of Cambridge have been revealed. Students have been found downing pints of beer containing live goldfish, eating raw squid and consuming copious amounts of alcohol. The often-dangerous initiation ceremonies organised by sports and drinking clubs at the University are aimed at first year students and frequently have to be carried out shirtless because they involve vomiting. While this year’s initiation featured raw leeks, uncooked squids and entire

chillies, those joining the ‘Ferretz’, an inter-collegiate drinking society, have to consume 80 units of booze beginning with a bottle of gin and finishing with a bottle of port, consumed through a condom. Although many people consider the ceremonies to be part of the “tradition” of the university, others including the National Union of Students have called for them to be banned.

### London Metropolitan University

Hundreds of staff and students protested against the potential loss of as many as 500 jobs at London Metropolitan University this week. Protesters gathered at the University’s

Holloway campus, opposing the deduction of income of up to £50 million imposed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). A recent audit of the University’s finances showed the inaccurate reporting of dropout rates. The “incorrect” data provided by the University meant that there had been “substantial overfunding” of London Metropolitan since 2005. Mark Campbell, UCU coordinator at London Met, said: “the university is facing the gravest financial crisis in its history.”

### Canterbury Christ Church University

Police were called out to student film-

makers in Faversham, Kent after one passer-by thought the students were actually killing a policeman.

Students from Canterbury Christ Church University were filming the final scenes of ‘Playground’, a short film in the style of a Kaiser Chiefs video in which the stars donned animal masks and carried weapons, when the alarm was raised. Producer Laura Hopwood said: “I had to explain the situation to the officers who let us finish the film. The scenes on the final day were so realistic they caused one passer-by to call the police.” The film is the work of Canterbury Christ Church University Student Film Unit and will be shown at festivals across the county including, it is hoped, the Dover Film Festival on February 17 and 18.

## 40ft death of girl who “wanted to come to Leeds”

Matthew Power

**A woman who died after falling 40ft from a balcony in Tenerife had plans to study at Leeds University, an inquest has heard.**

Sarah Hancock, who was from Yorkshire, had been working in a bar in Playa de Las Americas on the island and wanted to return to England to study languages. She died of multiple injuries after falling from the roof of a friend’s apartment in 2004.

The inquest in to the 23-year-old’s death has heard how she had been living a double life, confessing to her boyfriend, Keith McCord, that she had had a six-month relationship with a colleague.

Miss Hancock had met McCord in The Playa De Las Americas area of Tenerife when they worked together in a bar.

McCord appeared to have forgiven her after she ended the relationship with her colleague but she fell to her death just days later.

Miss Hancock had claimed she was being ‘emotionally blackmailed’ by her colleague, Craig Mikkelsen, after staying with her boyfriend.

The inquest has heard how Miss Hancock had feared she would be ‘hated’ for her behaviour after leading a double life.

Mikkelsen returned to Britain almost immediately after the woman’s death and was arrested by police in the UK for breach of the peace after walking in to a police station intoxicated and in an ‘emotional state.’

Police in Tenerife and West Yorkshire concluded that the woman had committed suicide and that there was ‘no evidence to support the belief her death was suspicious or anyone else was involved in it’.

The owner of the apartment and close friend Barry Pugh told the inquest how, after going to bed leaving Miss Hancock watching television, he heard an ‘almighty thud’ shortly after 9am the next morning. He rushed outside and found his friend lying on the ground.

The inquest heard how, just days before her death, Hancock had threatened to ‘jump’ from the roof. Coroner David Hinchliff said there was not sufficient evidence to prove that Sarah Hancock had taken her own life.

Miss Hancock’s family were too distraught to comment after the inquest.

# Letters to the Editor



## Leeds Student

### Rev Soc say sorry for abuse of image

**Dear Editor,**  
Earlier this term the Revolution Society placed posters around LUU as part of a campaign against military recruitment.

Regretfully an image used on one of the posters entitled "I went to school in Pudsey, now I am ordered to bomb schools in Afghanistan" contained the image of an army cadet who has never served as a member of the regular army, did not go to school in Pudsey and has not served in Afghanistan.

The text of the poster was a word play on the British Army's recruitment campaign in the centre of Leeds but did not relate to the individual in the photograph. Revolution apologises to the person concerned for any harm caused.

**Yours apologetically,  
Joel Harrison  
Revolution Society President**

### Taking sides inevitably leads to hate

**Dear Editor,**  
I found the recent activism on campus somewhat disquieting and in discussion with other students I have found that I'm not alone. There are a number of people of the opinion that whilst there is some justification for the action, it is not particularly well thought out and its impact will be minimal. There are also suspicions that there is a significant element of self-indulgence associated with it. I think that activism alone can do more harm than good. The causes of the Middle East conflict are not exclusively restricted to the formation of Israel after WW2, as is often implied, they go back literally thousands of years and have involved previous and present incarnations of a large proportion of the nations on Earth as well as numerous forced population movements and mass slaughters. Geographically it may be a small conflict, but it is truly a global one.

Thus I was somewhat shocked to hear the suggestion that we should "Look at the other [Israeli] side"

described as "moronic" by Maryam Yasin and hear of a drunken argument featuring Jak Codd of JSoc and an actual example of the normally metaphorical flag waving. These feelings drive activism and aim to change things for some perceived "better". However, these are largely variations on the previous situation and rarely manage to eradicate discontent. The outcomes of land disputes or international intervention will not matter if the people still hate each other and bring their children up hating each other. Political goals are meaningless in the long run if the people themselves are not changed. When activists mobilise against some injustice they put a barrier between themselves and that which they wish to change. No matter how noble the activist he will always alienate his opposition. It is sad that the conflict in Gaza must be fought on our campus.

The state of affairs in the world is created by the individuals that comprise it. If we want things to be different then we each have a responsibility to make ourselves different. We must engage impartially with the issues, think freely, and become, individually, the very thing that would not be a part of such a conflict. The true beacons of hope in Paul Adrian Raymond's excellent feature were those who took no side and let their balance and understanding seep in to whoever happened to be around them. These are the people who can end the crisis. It is heartening to know such people exist in the most extreme of circumstances. If they can do it, so can everyone else. Partisan activism with its banners and slogans mirrors the very conflict it wishes to resolve and is thus incompatible with the work of such individuals.

Many, many more people will die in the Middle East. If want things to change then we must effect change in ourselves, for it is us that make things the way they are and blaming it on others or the past is pointless. It is always more difficult to forgive your opponent than to fight him, but forgiveness disarms where confrontation cannot.

**Yours hopefully,  
Tom Humphrey  
Third-year Philosophy student**

### Concern as LS brands Botany protesters "extremists"

**Dear Editor,**  
I'm writing to raise my concerns about the main news story on the occupation of Botany House which featured in your last edition: "Extremists 'stir-up tensions on campus'". I was disturbed to read this headline which labelled the students that took part in the occupation as "extremists". This has become a loaded and offensive term used by many people to smear campaigners and members of religious groups in order to de-legitimise their causes.

The piece that was written explained that the protest was wholly peaceful, the students behaved properly at all times and that no-one was blocked from accessing the building and it was in fact the protestors themselves that were only people who received abuse. The nature of the protest and the fact it went so smoothly was the reason, I believe, that the University did not attempt to use the police to force protestors to leave.

The headline was completely divorced from the content of the article and there is absolutely no justification for labelling these students as extremists. Your reporters may not have agreed with protest or the way it was carried out but you have a responsibility as news journalists to remain unbiased and report the facts. I feel that you have failed in your duty to do this and therefore to reflect the views and opinions of the wider student body.

**Yours angrily,  
Mai Suboh**

**Want to voice an opinion about an issue raised in the paper? Seriously enraged by an article we've run? Want to make an irreverent comment to 15,000 readers?**

**If so, send a letter of 300 words or fewer to letters@leedsstudent.org. You should preferably include your name, year, and course. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Anonymous letters may not be published.**

## Shit happens

**University of Leeds cleaners showed a shocking lack of care when they threw out seven years worth of research material last week.**

The student, Daniel Bennett, who is quite rightly planning on suing the university, is extremely disgruntled over the whole fiasco. £500 is hardly compensation when one considers the amount of time, effort and sweat that went into the research. In addition, 35 kilos is a very large amount of excrement and the effort involved in collecting it must have been challenging in more ways than one.

This may be the first time that a research student has made the front page of *Leeds Student* and so it seems somewhat unfortunate that

the central subject of this incident is faeces.

A university like Leeds which prides itself on its world-class research should surely be taking more care of student's work. Luckily Bennett can still graduate a PhD, which certainly saves the University's neck. Maybe with Michael Arthur as the newly appointed head of the Russell Group of research universities, a new code of practise with regard to research effects will be implemented.

It is also unfortunate that Bennett lost not only his poo but also photos of his girlfriend and daughter in the meticulous clean up. It is nice to see that the University placed his nearest and dearest alongside his 'favourite lizards.'

## Make your selection

**Voting kicks off for the Union Executive on Friday, with students vying to get their chance at fame and notoriety.**

It hardly seems 12 months since we were voting for the present Exec, and what a year it has been. Students have shown dismay at the disharmony within this year's Exec. As the months have gone by, the cracks in the relationships between the Executive have grown.

And this week, with the dispute between LS:TV and Maryam Ahmad, the Exec are once again having to defend

themselves.

This follows on from the Botany House saga where the Exec appeared both divided and weak in their stance.

Students are dismayed at the friction between the Executive as they hoped when they voted them in, they would work as a cohesive group, forming a team that would make the student experience at Leeds the best it can be.

To those who want the right team, get out and vote. But vote not just for your friends, but the people you believe will be the best for the job.

# Censure dropped

**A vote of no confidence against Maryam Ahmad, LUU Equality and Diversity officer, reported in last week's Leeds Student was in fact a motion of censure about Ahmad and Leeds University student Alia Mahdi for their part of a stage occupation during a National Union of Students (NUS) Extraordinary Conference.**

Leeds Student would like to apologise for the previous misinformation.

The protest, which took place at the second NUS extraordinary conference of this academic year, was about the situation in Gaza.

Sophia James, who brought the

action against Ahmad and Mahdi, explained her reasoning: "The staged occupation used Palestine to prevent a democratic vote as the conference drew to a close and as the conference had nothing to do with this issue."

Maryam Ahmad commented: "There was a stage invasion by students who felt that they had not been listened to or represented by the National Executive Committee in light of the biased statement that they had made with regard to the war on Gaza."

Sophia James, Union Council (UC) member submitted the motion but it did not reach a vote due to the UC

speaker walking out of the meeting.

James said: "It's irresponsible for a speaker to walk out mid-debate because he didn't like the motions, sometimes we have to discuss things that are difficult and uncomfortable, however if council want to be taken seriously, this theatrical behaviour will just have to stop."

The motion has subsequently been withdrawn, James explained:

"The speaker's action put us all in a situation where censure and a potential contempt would be hanging over two members for a month. As proposer of the motion I felt this was incredibly unfair."

**The latest research to come out of Leeds University is that on the smell of chips.**

The traditional British fried potato has flirted with our taste buds and noses for many years and now we know why.

The findings associated a number of feel-good scents such as flowers and cocoa with the humble chip. But did we really need scientific

research into whether we like the smell of chips?

While the aroma of our favourite fried friends is an ever so tempting one, giving in to your temptations regularly is probably not the best idea in the long run. However, surely a small treat every now and then can't hurt anyone? Especially when you are feeling low and the chips are down...

the **MASS** debate:

# One-night stands

In anticipation of Valentines Day, Leeds Student is getting in the romantic mood and the Big Debate is no different. This weeks Big Debate asks:

## Are one night stands a good idea?

Yes

Virginia Newman  
jh06vrn@leeds.ac.uk

**O**ne night stands, by definition, last one night. You can take from them what you want.

They're not a once in a lifetime opportunity but you can make them a once in a life time occurrence. Alternatively you say that it cannot become a two night stand? Or even three night?.....

Understandably one night stands, sex out of marriage and other sexual pursuits go against the religious or cultural believes of many students. But at the same time some students see sex as just sex. As an atheist should not undermine the ideas of a religious believer and a carnivore should not criticise the choice of a vegan we cannot criticise people's choice to partake in a one night stand. Issues of this nature have no wrong or right - it is a case of what is right for you.

Today sex and sexuality are still taboo. So it is no wonder that there is a stigma surrounding one night stands. Is it, however, the act of having a one off sexual relationship that causes the controversy or the act of sex itself?

Sex must be one of the most discussed topics by young people and I see no problem in this in basic terms. When, however, discussions become groups of people passing comment on an individual and their personal choices they become problematic.

It is widely recognised that as we grow up and reach a sexually active age we are curious and interested to find out more about the new exciting world of sex. One night stands for some are one of the ways of exploring their sexuality. The world of sex is daunting and sometimes dangerous and so care must be taken but we cannot help but be intrigued. If having a one night stand is part of this journey for someone then who are you or I to disrespect their decision?

Acts of a sexual nature should be judged and discussed as appropriate to the particular case. No stigma can be fairly attached to one night stand participants. These acts mostly take place in the privacy of a home or the like and therefore are not thrust, to use an awful pun, in anybody else's faces. There is no reason to doubt,

comment or suspect.

The labelling which surrounds the sexual culture of our time is, I feel, the most important issue in this debate. I cannot, and would not want to, argue that everyone should have a one night stand. I will however argue that we live in a culture of choices and we should as good citizens respect each others' decisions. Students should be allowed to chose whether such a route is appropriate and safe for them and not be ostracised.

Specifically labels given to women who have multiple sexual partners are highly derogatory and hurtful. Yet names attributed to men are at the polar opposite of the scale. Men are celebrated for hacing multiple sexual partners and not committing to a relationship.

As some famous pops stars (Christina Aguilera and Lil Kim) one preached: "I don't understand why it's ok, the guy can get away with it, the girl gets named." You take the words right out of my mouth Cristina! Women who have one night stands or multiple sexual partners should not be negatively branded whilst men are congratulated. This is unjust.

The risks that can come with one night stands cannot be denied. Sexually transmitted diseases are rife in a sexually active student population and anyone partaking in sexual acts must be conscious of this. Students, however, are educated about how to look after themselves and their sexual health. There are some great experts and resources easily accessible to all - so take advantage of them. And let's face it, if there is one thing that the stereotypical student is well read on it is sex! There is no excuse not to be safe.

So I say, if they're not hurting themselves, each other or you then why not?



No

Sophie Armitage  
en08s2a@leeds.ac.uk

Results from last week's poll:

Was the occupation of Botany House justified?

Yes: 25%

No: 75%

Don't forget to log on and have your say at [leedsstudent.org](http://leedsstudent.org)

**A**s Valentine's Day relentlessly approaches, we are all unwontedly forced to confront the situation of our current love lives. The sickeningly happy couples are suddenly inescapable and you can't leave the house without the annoyance of the garish pink love hearts and seemingly pointless Valentine's gifts that flood the shops. At this many would confidently breathe a sigh of relief, thankful for their happy-go-lucky lifestyle bereft of all emotional commitment or any signs of being 'tied down'. The love-dovey commercial season is a holiday from hell for those who prize themselves with a series of one night stands under their belt and the freedom to do as they please. I by no means wish to argue that one-night stands are immoral or wrong, but to outline the multiple negative aspects of a sexually frivolous lifestyle over the love and comfort of being in a relationship.

By definition a one-night stand is "a sexual encounter limited to a single occasion and single partner": something many university students can relate to. You awake bleary eyed and bemused with the world's worst hangover only to be shocked at the unexpected, and unidentifiable creature lying beside you who can only be described as some sort of naked cave troll. Thrilled to see your beer goggles have come up trumps once again, you frantically grab your clothes making a swift escape. Fortunate enough to recognise your location you are able to make your way home: unfortunate enough not to be able to remember their name.

Arguably it is all a bit of fun and just part of growing up, yet we must not ignore the very serious consequences that emerge from

seemingly flippant one-night stands. Pregnancy is one obvious outcome and abortion in Britain has already reached record levels, with more than 200,000 each year. Similarly, the spread of STIs is worse than ever with 1 in 10 students having Chlamydia, and of the more than 15 million new STI infections each year two-thirds will occur in people under 25 years of age. Such frequent yet life changing consequences all from one meaningless one night stand drastically puts this little bit of fun into somewhat serious perspective.

That is not to say that all one-night stands occur under these situations, or with complete strangers we would rather forget. Even so, alongside the health issues, there are always the kiss and tell stories that have to be dealt with afterwards. Whether or not you care that your name is circling in the gossip circles, sooner or later the inevitable will come back to haunt you. What was an innocent lapse of judgement on your part could become the basis upon which others, rightly or wrongly, judge you. Regardless of what others make of you however, the issue of one-night stands is largely a question of respect, both from your peers and for yourself. Often, in a jocular sense, the very act of the one-night stand gains respect, however this may taint your reputation for times to come in the eyes of those who do not know the ins and outs of each individual situation.

One-night stands can lead to emotional confusion for either party if the terms are not outlined clearly at the start and one wrongly assumes the relationship has a future. For some a one-night stand may create a sense of attachment to that person, and if contact is not pursued either side can be left feeling used, as a redundant object. Finally, it has got to be argued that better sex comes with someone you really care about and have both an emotional and physical connection with.

Alongside the moral and religious arguments against one-night stands, surely something has to be said for keeping certain things special? Not necessarily until marriage, but at least until you are with someone you genuinely care about, otherwise, what else is there left to give or enjoy?

Illustration by Joe Jerome Newman





TELEVISION LOW DOWN MUSIC TELEVISION LOW DOWN MUSIC  
THE LIST CLUBS FASHION THE LIST CLUBS FASHION  
OBSERVATIONS BOOKS ARTS OBSERVATIONS BOOKS ARTS

photo: anthony zuanik

# 13

thirteen/february/zero nine

INSIDE

**28 PAGES OF...  
SPLIT CONDOMS?**



# SEX ON CAM

Computer clusters: checking emails, printing essays, finding mates. Trawling online networking sites reveals that there are students who trade sex for loans by accepting money for sex. Leeds Student tracked three

A ten year old will tell you how sex is the oldest business in the world. It's the sort of quip designed to interest young ears on an otherwise dull history school trip, or spewed out somewhere in the droll of a Tony Robinson narration.

Not many ten years olds, however, imagine themselves, in another ten years (or less), at the centre of this carnal industry. Even now, as young adults, our image of a hooker is somewhat caricatured. Even after mainstream culture's attempts to normalise the portrait of the prostitute, we are still left with a picture of Billie Piper on the corner outside a club with thickly applied lipstick and red fishnets. Few of us imagine a straight-A student, not on the pavements of Soho but on the steps of the Parkinson building, and (perhaps with fishnets packed into his adidas satchel)... a man.

The idea of tackling this feature scared me at first. The sense of adventure was almost too much, as I envisaged myself in sunglasses noting numbers on toilet doors or in nightvision goggles climbing up trees on Woodhouse Moor to witness my subject. Luckily though, I already had a contact, my friend Kurt from 1st year who had once drunkenly told me his secret. That he sold sex. We were standing in the queue outside what used to be Bondai Beach Club, a hotspot for the freshers of 2006 that boasted all-you-can drink VKs for a tenner and a revolving dance floor. He nodded at the Queens Hotel and told me how he'd stayed there last week.

For most the whole topic strikes a dark chord, not least because selling sex is a subculture, but on top of this sex between males is something many still push into the blind spot of their conscience. What affected me more though was how friendly and middle class he was.

So when I

facebooked Kurt about this feature idea for our upcoming Sex Issue he not only agreed to be interviewed in anonymity but he encouraged me to contact other students at Leeds University who are part-time male prostitutes, not to glamorise the issue at hand (for its dangers, horrors and ties with drugs, rape and murder are all but negligible), but to at least demythologise elements of student prostitution, and to report on its realities, that is for three students right here in Leeds.

I half expected Kurt to neatly pass on the details of more people to interview, and was surprised when he told me over a coffee in Opposite cafe: "What? I don't know anyone else. What do you think we are, the WI?" I realised that I would have to explore the red light district, which for most cities is a dank lattice of back streets, but for Yorkshire is virtual. Kurt began to rap off a list of websites. "Gumtree, Gaydar, FitLads, TeenChat". Of course these sites are by

that caters for a vast array of tasks, from selling theatre tickets to hiring childminders.

So with a fully charged laptop and an empty stomach I began my online quest to find potential interviewees, but was rapidly distracted by the all-too-frank adverts on Gumtree. Under the 'casual relationships' tab one is confronted with a list of far-fetched fantasies squashed into short and largely nonsensical straplines: 'Gay Doctor 4 Dirty Skater Boys', 'Curious Guy seeks naked fun Mud', 'Day Time

meet Door Open Naked Waiting'. Overwhelmed by the complex mess of Gumtree's clot of desperate pleas, I eventually found a site where Leeds prostitutes advertise

It's just an exchange, a simple exchange. Nothing a shower can't wash off!

they go on shopping trips, or even trips abroad. My criteria for an interviewee was 1) male 2) a student at Leeds University.

I message 20 likely candidates, some don't reply and some understandably respond with an inclement tone, but I also hear back from Matthew and Tim. One says he is a fresher at Bodington and the other an MA science student, both agree to answer a few questions. Of course Kurt, Matthew and Tim have no interest in meeting each other, in fact it took a hoard of begging texts and several stood-up coffee dates to meet them at all. Eight trips to Opposite later and we have a feature:

## LS: How did it begin?

**Matthew:** When I was 16 technically, someone made me an offer on New Year's Eve but I turned it down. I was really skint a year or so later and so I gave them a look once when I saw them in my local pub. It was really awkward, but once it was over I just thought about the money in my pocket! At Leeds it's different though, I'm picky and I ask for more.

**Kurt:** It was like a mistake. I met up with someone on the internet to have sex, and

no means completely sex-based. Gaydar is mainly a social network, kind of like Facebook for the gay community, but Gumtree was the big surprise – a website

themselves. Every click brings a bite-size snippet of sex ed. The word prostitute is scrapped here in favour of escorts, and finances are only suggested with phrases like 'looking for generous person to accommodate'. Here arrives an important feature of the student sex-market: sex for exchange. These guys don't stuff dollar bills down their boxers, they eat out, they sleep in posh hotels,



# SEX FOR SALE

*Leeds Student*  
investigates the market  
for male students willing  
to sell themselves for sex





# LS2

## CONTENTS

3/	The Low Down
4/	The List: People you shouldn't fancy, but do
6/	Lifestyle: Eating in and out on Valentine's Day and clubbing - Argentinian style
8/	Music: Gentleman's Dub Club reviewed
11/	Under the radar: DanceSport Society
14/	Feature: The results of the Sex Survey are in!
16/	Fashion: Out of Africa
18/	Clubs: Bad Sneakers and Guilty Pleasures reviewed
20/	Arts: Porn - is it part of the arts?
22/	Books
23/	TV: 'Sex: How to do everything' and more
26/	Technology
27/	Observations

# THE LOW DOWN



with Kazim and Alicia  
and Lady Rebecca

## Up Yours, Cupid

This week, the nation will be overcome with a delusion of the ultimate fulfillment. That four-letter word: LOVE. As we veer perilously towards that dreaded date, February 14th, restaurant tables are booked, flowers sent and lonely-hearts columns flooded with desperate pleas for companionship. Whether you're in a relationship or not, the day is troublesome; it either calls into question the

### If your Dad still sends you a card at 21, is that a problem?

authenticity of your relationship or reinforces your desperate sense of isolation, and the belief that you are doomed to die alone with your innumerable cats. Say if your dalliance began only a few weeks prior to this day of doom, is a card too much? If your Dad still sends you a card at 21, is that a problem? What if you decide to tar the day with the old 'commercial crap' brush and your partner buys you the hope diamond, dons a cupid outfit and transforms your crappy bedroom into a boudoir laden with fresh rose petals?

I hate the reactions which ensue after gifts are exchanged as well. When receiving a Valentine's card you assume that doe eyed snotty nosed awwwwwww face...BLURGH. I imagine those individuals who have recently broken up with a partner feel like they're being punched in the face, with the numerous open expressions of LOVE being inescapable. I think we should devise an alternative called Valentine's Schmalentine's where we lament loves that never materialized, celebrate crushed dreams and sleep with whoever we wish with no relationship strings attached. So take the opportunity to lust over that lecturer you've fancied since first year. It's probably a more

healthy way to lament about past torments as well condensing it all into one day.

I think the only people who would thoroughly enjoy Valentine's Day are stalkers, a chance to really show what they're made of. It's like an annual mini wedding, where you have to make an effort to confirm your adoration. It's also a major catalyst for sickening verses, for example, 'How we gain yearly, from the love we share dearly' (sick in my mouth). It's almost like a competition, as couples showboat how much they love each other and convey how much amazing sex they're enjoying. If you do get an anonymous Valentine's, don't count your chickens too soon because it's almost certainly from someone so sickeningly awful it's actually insulting.

This opinion goes against many of my other traits (I cried at ET, I like puppies and children) but this national holiday triggers my gag reflex at the slightest mention. I also predominantly admire a masculine man, and Valentine's Day makes men do very unmasculine things, like light candles and buy knickers. To end my article on a vague hint of positivity, Valentine's Day is a day for redemption, so on my interpretation this allows a little room for misdemeanor on the other 364 days of the year.

Alicia Michael

I. F\*\*king. Hate. Valentine's. Day. I absolutely hate Valentine's Day, with a passion, and not the sort of passion that that is in keeping with this holiday: great sex, romance, tables for two etc. The sort of passion that incites irrational racial hatred. Not that I condone such illicit behaviour, but if anything or anyone was to ever encourage me to behave in that way then it would definitely be St. Freakin' Valentine or Valentine's Day itself. The thing that I hate about V. Day is the pressure. The pressure to perform as a

singleton, the pressure to perform as a boyfriend, the pressure to imagine the perfect date, the pressure to be the singleton that doesn't care. This day is literally created to satisfy the very deep pockets of those that create the love-heart cards, for those that enjoy men flapping in jewellers under pressure to perform, to buy a better gift than last year.

The question is: who actually enjoys V. Day? I'll compile a list of who likes Valentine's Day:

- Women
- Women
- Women
- Women

I haven't met a single woman who doesn't

### It's also a major catalyst for sickening verses, for example: 'How we gain yearly, from the love we share dearly' (sick in my mouth).

love Valentine's Day, and why wouldn't they? Why would the female race not enjoy a day that was created for their pleasure? A day which exists literally so men spend money on women, line the pockets of multinational corporations and make women feel loved.

One final thought: I have a girlfriend. She loves Valentine's Day (why wouldn't she?) and of course I hate Valentine's Day. What's a guy to do?

Kazim Rashid

## GOING UP ^

### Sunshine

No, I'm not just really hard pressed to think of something that's 'going up'. And yes, I hated the snow. Sunshine + snow = no more snow! Good times for everyone I think.

### Cultural Week/Give it a Go Season

It was a week of trying new things and loosing yourself in the cultures of the world! Break Dance and Street Dance give it a go's, and of course the ACS cultural show to name just a few. And no, I'm not plugging the societies to which I'm affiliated with. I swear.

### Frivolities

Now I realise that we're all supposed to be practising being reasonable adults. But life's frivolities just have a way of always being more enticing than the 'sensible' thing to do. Consider buying a pair of exclusive Nike trainers, or saving that money for a rainy day. I'm sure you see my point.

### Responsibility

Don't know about you guys but all I want to do, in life, is frolic in a field with tall grass. But when you add responsibilities to the mix, that opportunity just never seems to arise. And that makes for an unhappy Rebecca.

### Valentines Day

Sorry to all of you die hard romantics, but it's a con. A con I tell thee! Its only purpose is to force couples to buy presents, dish out their hard earned loans on expensive dinners, and make everyone who's not in a relationship want to murder everyone that is. Like I said, a con!

### Results Week

Now I could've lived a happy and fulfilled life without having to get my results for January's exams back. I know I failed Mr Leeds University, I don't need confirmatory evidence!

## GOING DOWN v

"I saw a distressing couple on a bus. They were kissing and talking at the same time. I always thought you needed your own tongue to talk but apparently you can use someone else's!" / "Warning: when ordering tampons from Tesco online do not tick the Substitute option... I once did and got bananas instead!" / "By which I mean I'm going knuckle deep whether she likes it or not." / "The worst thing about the snow is that those dancers won't be outside wearing next to nothing." / "She teased me, rolled over and went to sleep, so I came on her back!" /

## OVERHEARD

## 9

People you  
shouldn't fancy,  
but do

If you're looking for love, these are dire times. There might be something to be said for meeting your soul mate in your teens, falling in love at first sight and never looking back, but 99.9% of us don't happen to be characters in *The Notebook* and not everyone's instincts are so evolved and finely tuned as to draw them magically towards Mr or Mrs Right. In fact it's fair to say that sexual attraction is a strange and illogical thing which should be strictly vetted and controlled to avoid heartbreak or humiliation. Fortunately all it takes is a little self-reflection and self-control, and if you can steer your lusty eyes away from certain inappropriate pitfalls then you're on the right track.

## 1. Your Boss

Power is an aphrodisiac, and a powerful one at that. Whether they're the MD of a multi-million pound corporation or the supervisor at your part time job in Morrisons, those in possession of authority wield undeniable sex appeal. The way to counteract this is to take their image out of context, and imagine your boss in a slightly less dignified situation such as being given a parking ticket, or walking around with crumbs on their face. If their charm still shines through then maybe your attraction is embedded in something deeper- in which case knock yourself out, flirt away, and it might even earn you a promotion.



## 2. Sales people

It's a sad fact of life that if someone completely out of your league starts flirting with you outrageously then they are probably trying to sell you something. It's unfortunate, but eligible singles looking for love simply do not just turn up at your doorstep with a clipboard and start quizzing you about your life and preferences. Similarly the hot waiting staff in Browns are probably not genuinely thinking about what wine suits your meal and more seriously about the generous tip you'll be giving them later.



## 3. The Bitch/Bastard

No one is immune to the mysterious lure of the bad guy or girl. They stereotypically make themselves noticed by sauntering late into a room, sitting backwards on a chair and confidently lighting up a cigarette. They'll make you swoon with their blasé disregard for polite social conventions such as monogamy or the law, and their flippant attitude to everyone around them means that giving you the time of day is the sweetest thing you've ever heard. Much like a slutty Mary Poppins they'll be gone when the wind changes, so make sure you enjoy him or her while you can.

## 4. Lecturers

When you're forced to stare at someone every week for an hour at a time they're bound to take on a familiar, comfortable appeal that can easily be mistaken for sexiness, and if a professor makes a joke- however lame- in comparison to the usual monotony of lectures it's bound to seem like comedy gold. Sexperts believe it's an evolutionary tactic wherein the less options available in any given situation, the lower your standards become. If you find yourself fantasizing about your lecturers, imagine a T4 presenter walking into the room and their appeal will melt away like an ice cube on a camel's back.

## 5. Creative types

It's easy to hope that going out with a creative genius means you will finally fulfil your dream of having a beautiful haiku or drum solo written about your eyes, but it's more likely that when you break up your ex will suddenly become famous for the song he/she writes about your bad morning breath.

## 6. Cartoons

The usual culprits are Disney characters and superheroes, with Aladdin and Wonder Woman top of the pile for those who fancy a bit of 2D action. Perhaps the irresistible mixture of unrealistic body proportions and an eternally clear complexion is what makes for such attraction, but I'd bet my life on the fact that no human being has ever managed to pursue a healthy relationship with a drawing. On the bright side, it's quite easy to avoid such obsessions simply by putting down the comic book or switching off the TV. Such avoidance is especially recommended when the character in question is also an animal, such as Nala from The Lion King, or Bucky O'Hare (Jessica Rabbit is not so bad because she isn't actually a rabbit).



## 7. Second cousins four times removed

If there's any chance that you might share even a remnant of the same bloodline, just don't do it.

## 8. The otherwise orientated

In today's cosmopolitan society it can sometimes be difficult to determine who is gay, straight, bisexual or asexual. Short of asking directly (which can sometimes lead to offence) a few subtle observations of body language can avoid the embarrassment of misinterpreting the signs and making a move on someone inappropriate. If whilst talking to you their hands touch your face or inner thigh it is safe to say that you are sexually compatible, whereas touching arms or outer thigh is a more platonic signal, and touching your forehead in the shape of a cross is quite clearly a sign of celibacy.

## 9. Royalty

The Cinderella complex: everybody dreams of finding their prince or princess. But consider the practical implications of hooking up with a member of the Winsor family. The second the media take wind of it your physical imperfections are blown up all over the cover of Hello magazine, with everyone either slagging you off or taking religiously to copying your every move. Then you're invited round to Buckingham palace for dinner where you're forced to sit up straight, eat venison, laugh politely at Prince Philip's jokes and explain to the Queen why you gave up learning the clarinet. It's just not all it's cracked up to be.



The problem with this list is that sex is a primitive instinct and you can't always assess away your attraction to someone who is unsuitable. If you consistently find yourself attracted to the wrong people you only need to turn on the TV and watch Skins or Hollyoaks to discover there's many people (although admittedly fictional) worse off than you. Everyone's a fool in love and lust, and as long as your particular sexual escapade doesn't make the papers or the courtroom there's no need to be too embarrassed. Good luck my desperados, and happy valentines day.



## EATING IN/

Appetising  
aphrodisiacs...

The dreaded day is upon us, the Hallmark scam that is Valentines Day. Sam will be representing the irritatingly smug couples and, begrudgingly, I'll be representing the singletons. As is so often the case, I find that food makes everything better - especially when it comes to this day in particular.

Whichever camp you fall into, why not try these foolproof recipes? Either invite your friends over and treat them to a yummy consolatory supper, or use them to win over your valentine. Trust me, they'll go down a whole lot better than a bunch of carnations from the local Esso or a dodgy Italian meal in the centre of Leeds.

Rejecting love and romance, we've chosen ingredients to get you in the mood for hedonistic sex with no strings attached - but accept zero responsibility for the consequences.

This recipe for a delicious **Asparagus and Prawn Risotto** is laden with aphrodisiacs, so proceed with caution...

## Ingredients:

2 small shallots, peeled and finely chopped  
3 tbsp unsalted butter  
350 g risotto rice  
1 glass dry white wine  
1 ½ litres fish stock, kept hot  
20 asparagus, steamed until just tender, spears removed  
200 g cooked peeled prawns  
A few whole, hot, steamed asparagus and a handful of cooked, warm prawns, to throw on top to make it look pretty

## Method:

1. Fry the shallots and the butter together until the shallots are soft and translucent.
2. Add the rice and stir with the other ingredients to toast the grains thoroughly without browning.
3. Add the wine, and stir it in for about 2 minutes.
4. Then add the first ladles of hot stock and stir. Continue to add the stock as it gets absorbed.
5. After about 15 minutes, add in the asparagus spears and the prawns and continue to cook the risotto for 5 mins. Season.
6. When the risotto is cooked (the rice should have a bite but the texture should be creamy), remove from the heat and stir in the rest of the butter.

words/ sam leach

7. Decorate with the extra asparagus and prawns and serve.

If you don't fancy this, use any of the following ingredients to get you in a loving mood: rocket, artichokes, tomatoes, avocado, oysters, spices.

Or, if you're feeling particularly classy, there's always whipped cream and chocolate body paint. Maybe being single isn't too bad after all.

words/ laura pullman

Sadly, the majority of famed aphrodisiacs are counteracted by claims to the contrary, as studies often indicate no more than placebo effects.

Quite who it is getting turned on by dried tiger penis or shavings of rhino horn I don't know, but as I see it, if you're going to exploit the placebo effect to help get jiggy, you might as well not drive a species to extinction.

Chocolate is a widely acknowledged and highly appreciated sexual stimulant. Despite going out with possibly the only girl on the planet who doesn't like chocolate, I will bow to popular demand and give you a recipe for a **Classic Chocolate Brownie**. In this case, I've opted for one which doesn't require melting the chocolate, to keep it as quick and easy as possible. Obviously, I cannot attest to its aphrodisiac powers, but it's got to be worth a try...

## Ingredients:

170 g butter  
330 g sugar  
2 tsp vanilla  
3 eggs  
85 g plain flour  
50 g cocoa powder  
1 tsp baking powder  
Pinch of salt (optional)

## Method:

1. Preheat oven to Gas Mark 4 or 180°C.
2. Line a 33 x 23 cm cake tin with greaseproof paper and grease the tin. Melt the butter.
3. Beat eggs with sugar and add vanilla, flour, cocoa, baking powder, salt and melted butter.
4. Bake at 350°C until a wooden pick inserted in the centre comes out clean, after approximately 20-30 minutes.
5. Allow the brownies to cool and dust with icing sugar and some more cocoa.

## EATING OUT/

Recommended  
restaurants for valentines  
day...

Valentines day... you either love it or hate it. Much anticipated by couples around the globe this day has been the cause for many singletons nights in 'Bridget Jones' style with a pot of Ben and Jerry's and one too many bottles of alcohol in hand. But this year shall be different, whether you decide to take a date or just a friend here are a few dining options for how to start the 14th of February's night of enjoyable, exciting and exhilarating endeavours.

If you want to stay in the student vicinity the **Olive Tree** in Headingley has a lively and amiable atmosphere that will make anyone feel instantly at ease and not go totally overboard on valentine spirit. The restaurant serves Greek food with an excellent reputation and extensive menu without blowing the budget.

For something a little more pricey, yet still with decent value for money, **Brasserie forty 4** has created a desirable

valentines menu for £40 including a glass of Mercier Rose Champagne on arrival and a Modern European three course meal with coffee and chocolates to finish. Situated on the riverside it is undeniably romantic while still remaining crisp and classic in its presentation and service.

The crème de la crème of all Valentines specials has to be **Chino Latino**. This restaurant features Pan-Asian cuisine of the highest standard. Book in for the supper at £49 pounds a head offering a three-course meal with a glass of rose champagne in an ultra modern setting. Alternatively Chino Latino has also teamed up with Park Plaza hotels to create a perfect package featuring a superior guest room, full breakfast, valentine's dinner and chocolate platter all for £169 per couple.

Happy Valentines!

words/ antonia lyne



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Tuesday: Islam vs Terrorism, Super Secret 12:00pm  
Wednesday: Me, Myself and Islam, Super Secret 12:00pm  
Thursday: Converts to Islam, Super Secret 12:00pm  
Friday: From Mecca to Jerusalem, Super Secret 12:00pm

stalls • talks • exhibition • henna • food • calligraphy



# BURSTING THE BUBBLE/

Diary of a Leeds student abroad: 'Feliz día de San Valentín' from Argentina...



I've been in Argentina for nearly eight months now and so far it's been a fascinating experience. We were meant to be studying at the Universidad Católica here in Buenos Aires, but it turns out that the university is completely rubbish.

The professors often turn up an hour or two late for lectures, and when they do turn up, they sit and talk rubbish for three hours without stopping. So in the end, I decided that I would just take the easiest subjects and spend my time and energy elsewhere.

The two subjects I eventually opted for were 'Birds of South America', which meant practical classes in the forest at the weekends, and 'Theatre Class', which consisted of jumping around on a stage like an idiot with a load of "gringos" for three hours a week. As I signed up, I breathed a sigh of relief;

I would only have to spend a little bit of my time in a University full of "chetos" as they call them here in Argentina (very rich, stuck-up people).

As the university is catholic, there is a strict dress code. This means none of the skimpy mini skirt and flip-flop combos you're used to seeing around campus in Leeds.

Here, there are bouncers on the doors checking everyone's clothes, so even when it's 40 degrees outside, you have to dress like a conservative young lady - I guess that's one major difference between here and Leeds, the University. The students are almost entirely Argentinian and they're not particularly receptive to foreign students.

It's a different story outside of university, however, and that's where the fun starts. The night life here is really amazing, although the men become a little tiresome.

You can't go to a club here without 20 guys 'chamullaring' you (that basically means 'bullshitting') by telling you that they have never seen eyes as beautiful as yours, and that they are going to give you the world in return for a kiss. This could go on for hours-



You can't go  
to a club  
here without  
20 guys  
'chamullaring'  
you

or even weeks - but always comes to end once they get what they want.

Us foreign girls have something of a reputation for being easy in comparison to Argentinian girls. Argentinian girls are, in their majority, stick thin and pretty hot - or so I'm told. Rumour has it that they owe this to replacing their food with a strange drink/tea/magic herb called 'yerba mate'.

Yerba mate is put into a mini cauldron-like cup, sometimes in the shape of a cow hoof, then warm water is passed through so that you can suck the mate-flavoured water through a metal bombilla straw.

It is said to have many benefits; it's meant to suppress hunger, help you loose weight, keep you alert, lower blood pressure, detoxify your body and give you beautiful skin.

As you can tell by my adoring words, I've become more or less hooked on this magic herb - even though it's yet to make me as beautiful as an Argie. I might be keeping quiet about finding my soulmate this Valentine's Day, but it's no secret that yerba mate is my new best friend.

words/ becky bosanquet

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## RECORDS/

## SINGLES &amp; EPS

## New Rhodes

'The Joys of Finding and  
Losing That Girl'  
Salty Cat



Generally speaking, New Rhodes are a good, interesting indie band putting out a good, interesting single. Unfortunately, they are dealing within a genre that has, as of late, been done to death. Middle-of-the-rhode. (6)  
words/ **simon rowbotham**

## Skint &amp; Demoralised

'This Song Is Definitely  
Not About You'  
Mercury



Wakefield youngster Matt Abbott releases his first full single from upcoming album *Love and Other Catastrophes*. The cheery melody and chirpy spoken-word vocals fail to satisfy or fulfil the song's potential; we are left searching for that little bit more. (4)  
words/ **martin burke**

## Miley Cyrus

'Fly on the Wall'  
Polydor



This is not the annoying tweeny pop drivel one would expect. Think more well produced Britney. Catchy, too. The girl's grown up, and this is a more mature offering from the Hannah Montana actress. You will be singing along. (6)  
words/ **helen bhandari**

## Ida Maria

'Oh My God'  
RCA



This pop-punk nurtured record from Norwegian temptress Ida Maria is in a similar mould to her previous single. The fast thunderous drumming with cascading guitars and self-conscious lyrics sound all too similar. Once again it is annoyingly catchy and will get plenty of airplay. (7)  
words/ **will stevens**

## Emmy the Great

'First Love'  
Closeharbour



A poor man's Laura Marling, Emmy the Great has a tolerably pretty voice, and this is a tolerable single. The Hallelujah reference is a little cheap and hackneyed but as there really aren't enough angry female singer-songwriters at the moment we can let that slide. Instead let's focus on Emmy's undisputable wry wit and folksy, girly, hopefully irony-laden, album. (5)  
words/ **helena goodwyn**

## Beirut/ Realpeople

### March of the Zapotec/Holland Ba Da Bing

Beirut is tricky. Authenticity chasers among us often flinch at the contentious collision of faux-'World Music' troubadour-ism and hugely pop melodies and structures. At the heart of the material, however, is an uncannily idiosyncratic charm - and let's not let it slip our minds that the depressingly young Zach Condon simply has an excellent voice.

The first of these two EPs might be seen as Beirut-by-numbers; we can hear the pop progressions of *The Flying Club Cup* in equal measure to the more solemn horn calling of *Gulag Orkestar*, and this is all very refined



and well put together. First single 'La Llorona' is a syncopated tuba-ridden lament, the title of which translates to 'the weeping woman,' in reference to the similarly named legend in Spanish folklore. The sombre but strangely uplifting waltz of closer 'The Shrew' is another highlight, along with token ukulele work in 'The Akara' and the heartbreaking threnody of 'On a Bayonet'.

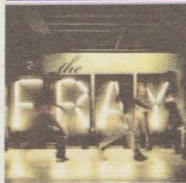
The second EP, accredited to Realpeople (the alias of Condon's pre-Beirut electronica)

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK

will raise the eyebrows of many a fan - even those who've heard the *Pompeii* EP. The electronic approach to these five tracks is in such epic contrast with the Balkan folk influence of previous output that you may need a few listens to adjust your ear-lenses accordingly. There is, nonetheless, an impressive consistency in the synth timbres, which are often sculpted to compliment brass or other acoustic instruments. The arrangements of the synths and beats are much richer and fuller than on *Pompeii*, and the horns that croon over these textures make for a distinctive overall sound. The excellent pop chorus of 'My Night With the Prostitute from Marseille' is another high point, as is the accordion-driven 'The Concubine'. The tracks here draw more from the sonic world of The Knife than the usual European folk sources; echoes of Boards of Canada can even be heard, particularly in 'Venice'.

Although far from Beirut's magnum opus, this is a predictably strong release from one of the biggest talents indie-folk has to offer. (8)  
words/ **michael waters**

## MORE ALBUMS



## The Fray

*The Fray*  
Label

Denver four-piece The Fray are as well known for their annoyingly overplayed debut *How to Save a Life* as they are for the talent of creating music for emotional television scenes.

The band's latest release promises more such wispy, heartfelt material. Issac Slade's voice is undeniably unique and has always been a major selling point to The Fray's distinctly average songwriting. Combining smooth American twang, rougher lower tones, and an endearing lisp, Slade's vocals gracefully muse over characteristically wishy-washy songs. His piano riffs hold the album together, giving some of the songs some sort of edge, a knife through a beige blancmange.

Opener 'Syndicate', for example, would be far better as an acoustic piece by Slade alone: it starts off with promise, but soon descends into almost mind-numbing monotony. In fact, the whole album stinks of commercial takeover. It feels as though The Fray have gone in with some decent, alt folk songs - quite raw and, shock horror, interesting - and their label has thrown in some epic riffs and some slow, powerful drum beats to make it marketable. It is actually a real shame; a lot of the songs, including forthcoming single 'You Found Me' have the potential to be something quite different.

Notable songs include 'Ungodly Hour' - far simpler, and almost haunting, a strong bass echoes throughout. Unfortunately, the rest of *The Fray* is quite indistinguishable.

It is, to give it its due, exceptionally good background music. The Fray are never going to win any awards for innovation. You know what they say: nice boys finish last. (3)

words/ **lizzie edmonds**



## Crystal Stilts

*Alight of the Night*  
Angular

Brooklyn's Crystal Stilts saunter through some gloomy, nostalgic guitar-pop akin to the latest crowd of shambolic rock outfits from the States. Very cool, and pulling out all the right indie stops - 60s girl groups, proto-punk, early 80s new wave - the band is surely onto a winner, at least amongst discerning hipsters who enjoy their indie ploddingly sparse and dreamy.

The good side of boring, the tracks are played with a decrepit, blasé approach, as though the band members are zombies with bits falling off them. Like the Creature from the Black Lagoon, lead vocalist Brad Hargett moans and groans his way around, just under the surface of a murky pool, brimming with thudding drums, wirey guitars, relentless tambourine bashing and floods of reverberation. Hargett's subject matter is self-pitying, doomed romanticism.

Inaccessible, to say the least, but, then again, you can hardly make out what he has to say anyway.

Noisy but not brash, the album moves persistently through gears, from a bouncy self-titled track to the wobbling heave of 'Graveyard Orbit'. On the most part, they play to the typical pop attention span, with only a couple of numbers over the four minute mark. There's somehow a sense that the band smoulder and sing their way through the fragile songs, leaving a trail of cindered, dead end hooks. Admittedly, the best things about *Alight of the Night* are filched from the likes of Jesus and Mary Chain, and there is little to expand or update these stylings. Unashamed as it may be, it is still a good racket. Not a classic with any kind of lasting shelf life, but worthy of investigation nonetheless. Store in a cool, dry place. (6)

words/ **tom keighley**



## Lily Allen

*It's Not Me, It's You*  
Regal

Lily Allen returns with a slice of almost perfectly crafted pop magic. Having made it clear in the media that *It's Not Me, It's You* is an attempt at a more grown up, 'serious' style, Allen has removed her trademark ska samples that pervaded her debut *Alright, Still*. There are times when her earnestness falls flat on its face such as in the cringeworthy take on the Bush administration 'Fuck You', but other approaches prove more fruitful. There is less camp cockney (but enough to mean she stays 'real') and the melodies are consistently catchier than a net. Allen's latest offering literally synthesizes (in the original meaning of the word) genres from folk, to country to pop. Alexis Petridis compares 'Never Gonna Happen' to an "Abba-quality 70s Eurovision entry" in his ever veraciously witty way. 'Who'd Have Known?' so blatantly rips off Take That's 'Shine' that the term pastiche is too lenient but one presumes the really quite cute lyrics saved it from the cutting room. It's Allen's hit and miss simplistic lyrical style that remains her greatest achievement and biggest downfall throughout the album. Lead single 'The Fear' is a lampooning of celebrity and a rather bleak seemingly self-deprecating look at Allen's own life. It's Not Fair' combines a mock-country shindig with a tale of a rather disappointing sexual partner who is perfect in every way but in the bedroom. Allen's lyrics are at their most coy here as she simpers "I look into your eyes I want to get to know ya, and then you make this noise and it's apparent it's all over". Despite repeatedly telling anyone who cares to listen that her music is a bit rubbish the album exudes a certain sexy swagger that suggests she might just know otherwise. (7)

words/ **helena goodwyn**



# COLUMN/ ALEX WISGARD

## NME Awards Tour Academy

08/02/09

Florence And The Machine open tonight's tightly packed bill of NME favourites. She joins the long and tedious list of seemingly ethereal, actually quite normal female artists, who think wearing a head band and reaching for something only they can see dangling in mid air, somewhere above the stage, means they are quirky. Although the persona is tired and probably humiliating for the rest of the female population, Florence has a voice so far removed from other delicate and insubstantial waifs of her genre that she can be forgiven. If she wants to be. Her gutsy and almost frightening powerful delivery is a - dare it be said - breath of

fresh air'. Florence Welch has a truly technically brilliant voice reminiscent of Annie Lennox's capabilities.



White Lies, everyone's new favourite band and formerly Fear of Flying, arrive on stage somberly announcing their presence with 'Unfinished Business'. They process through a samey yet enjoyable set with military fidelity and end with single 'Death'. Lead singer Harry McVeigh seems unaware of his Ian Curtis aping (not the dancing - there is no dancing). But, with a number one record, which Harry kindly

reminds us of, it's unlikely that he cares what I think.

Friendly Fires pick up the pace with a lively set and some very entertaining dancing (still not Ian Curtis dancing) from lead singer Ed Macfarlane. Their fast paced, funk-filled performance reinjects some energy into the crowd in preparation for tonight's headliners Glasvegas.

Glasvegas, one of the oddest collections of individuals to come out of anywhere, storm through their collection of stadium fillers with panache. Highlights, as always, include 'Flowers and Football Tops' and 'Daddy's Gone', which predictably, provides the encore. James Allan, and his sunglasses, maintain their impervious stare throughout, or so we imagine. Compared to last years' NME Shockwaves Awards Tour the line-up tonight has been both disparate and similar enough to keep the whole crowd interested throughout, although the piss missiles never cease to both baffle and annoy. (8)

words/ helena goodwyn



The Union Music Library is one of the longest-running societies in the University, but you'd be hard pushed to find more than a handful of people who know how to find it, let alone what it is. Tucked away up two flights of stairs in the Union building (on the opposite side to the Arc), the forty-year-old Music Library is the proud home of over 5,000 vinyl albums, or for those of you of a slightly more modern bent, around 3000 CDs, spanning every genre imaginable. For the paltry sum of five pounds, all this music is at your disposal for the rest of the year - a small price to pay for the chance to discover your new favourite band or stuff up the cracks in your iTunes library.

The Library's catalogue gets updated on an almost weekly basis based on the most popular items on its request board; with recent acquisitions including Animal Collective's latest album, *No Age's Nouns* (voted the best album of 2008 by the Music Library staff and clientele) and new stuff from artists as diverse as Kanye West, Neon Neon and Mogwai. The Library also runs a number of socials, from film screenings - the next one being Buena Vista Social Club at the Peanut Gallery, at 6pm on Thursday the 19th February - to the requisite trips to the Old Bar.

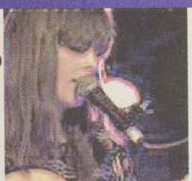
My experience of the Music Library started on my first day at uni; overwhelmed by the almost depressingly diverse array of options at the Fresher's fair, I decided to go in search of the outer reaches of the union, and came across the place by chance. The only person there was the then-president David Peat, who was, if memory serves, just pressing play on a copy of Sonic Youth's *Daydream Nation* as I arrived - a good (if somewhat pretentious) omen for things to come. We spent the next hour talking about various bands and movies, and before I knew it, I'd volunteered an hour a week to work there - possibly the best decision I made during Fresher's week, and certainly the one that had the biggest impact on my time at uni so far.

Current president Malcolm Mathieson also considers the Music Library the most rewarding society he's been involved in since he started University three years ago: "The friendly staff, relaxed atmosphere and access to a room full of amazing records made me feel at home very quickly. Through the Music Library I have been able to hear the latest releases as well as lots of weird and wonderful things I would never have heard of otherwise. UML is a fun, easy to use and inclusive resource that I would encourage anyone with a passion for music to investigate."

For more information on the Music Library, including the entire Music Library catalogue, search Facebook for "Union Music Library Leeds", email [unionmusiclibrary@googlemail.com](mailto:unionmusiclibrary@googlemail.com) or just come up and visit between 12 and 3pm every weekday.

## Sparrow and the Workshop

Packhorse  
07/02/09



Red Trees open tonight's cosy More and More Tiger bill with a set of pleasantly plaintive (and largely new) material. The relentlessly repetitive textures of tenderly plucked guitars instantly bring to mind Sufjan Stevens's *Seven Swans* and barely audible touches of glockenspiel add a wonderful shine. Next up, Mi Mye frontman Jamie Lockhart provides the most intense performance of the evening. An endearing, if sometimes slightly laboured stage presence (consisting of checking his setlist on his phone, and pausing to banter because his finger hurts) fits perfectly with Lockhart's earnest song delivery. Indirect, anecdotal lyrics are complimented by the harmonic ambiguity of the minimal violin, and enchanting imagery such as in 'Artificial Upward Wind Machines' are delivered with a poignantly brash vocal style.

The third act, Awash with Antler, are sonically very interesting, with a novel percussion setup (including a wooden crate stomped on). A certain degree of rhythmic sloppiness flits between being artful and irritating, and unfortunately, there is a certain drama school obnoxiousity about the often forced quirkiness "We tell stories like your mother used to before bedtime, only stranger" ... Wince. Folk trio Sparrow and the Workshop headline tonight, with some tight and expressive vocal harmonies, and an even tighter and infectious and drum sound. The occasional helping of reverb-soaked slide guitar brings an almost prog-rock feel to some of these nostalgic meanderings. Especially effective are the song endings which involve a capella male-female vocals. A fun and worthy headliner, though Jamie Lockhart steals the show tonight. (7)

words/michael waters

## Emmy The Great

Academy (Oxford)  
31/01/09



London based Emmy The Great has long been regarded as the Shoreditch ligger's artist of choice to fall asleep to. Spawned from the same scene that has seen Lightspeed Champion and Jeremy Warmlesley rise to prominence, Emma Lee Moss, as it says on her birth certificate, now follows them in dropping her debut album. Soon, she'll find out if her folk ditties can have a life outside Zone 4 or whether like Warmlesley, it'll fail to leave the starting blocks.

Demurely taking to the Academy stage just after nine, Emmy looks incredibly nervous, but, as soon as she plucks the first note of 'We Almost Had A Baby' she has the crowd hanging on her every nuance. Backed by a four piece it soon becomes clear she's in fine form. Unlike Hynes and Warmlesley, there's more to Moss's songs than just lovelorn pleas and twee anecdotes. Her songs are sweet yes, but the palette of emotions is that much wider. There's spite, regret, embarrassment and curiosity, all sewn into neat parcels. She's more like Regina Spektor and Fiona Apple than any UK contemporary as her songs are more short stories than anything else. And, tonight, like all good story tellers, Emmy has the audience captivated. There's the tender 'MIA', the laugh out loud 'The Hypnotist's Son' and the windswept 'Short Country Song', all of which receive rapturous applause. By the time she closes with 'Two Steps Forward', her tale of - as she puts it - 'inappropriate outdoor fun', everyone in the room is swooning. It would appear those Shoreditch scenesters are about to lose Emmy to more wide spread, well deserved acclaim. (8)

words/ tom goodhand

## InnerParty System

Cockpit  
02/02/09



InnerPartySystem's self-titled debut album and lead single 'Don't Stop' have been given a fairly full-on push from label bosses at Island. So there is presumably some serious pressure riding on this band's success State-side.

The venue isn't stuffed full of clamouring fans tonight but there is an intense interest levelled at the stage by those present. InnerPartySystem assault the crowd with one powerful punch of a tune after another.

Hailing from Pennsylvania, and clearly not intimidated by Leeds, frontman Patrick Nissley engages with the audience jovially and energetically, encouraging an intimate atmosphere. A striking light display of green strobes and piercing yellow beams creates a club-like, trippy feel, which, combined with the band's powerful opener, sets the tone for a well-executed, technically accomplished performance. The crowd, equipped with their own strobe lighting in the form of glow sticks, add to the rave-like feel of the event enthusiastically wagging their phosphorescent probes.

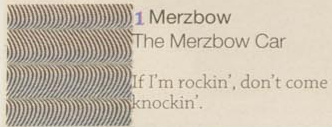
Providing the highlights of the set tonight are 'This Town Your Grave', 'Die Tonight Live Forever' and 'Obsession', during which, the greatest achievement of the performance occurs. How Nissley kept his trade mark trucker hat on his bonce when he was shaking it so vigorously I'll never know. Predictably, 'Don't Stop' closes the show and goes down better than a weasel in a burrow. The time has come for InnerPartySystem to leave the stage, and they do so triumphantly, to enraptured applause. (8)

words/ arthur boardwin

## MORE GIGS

## VALENTINE'S

## FEATURED GIG

Love to Make Music To  
Top Ten: Erotic Soundtrack

1 Merzbow  
The Merzbow Car

If I'm rockin', don't come  
knockin'.

2 Crystal Castles  
'Tell Me What to Swallow'



Characterised by their  
adaptation to aerial feeding.

3 The Hollies  
'He Ain't Heavy...'



But he is still your brother.

4 Mahler  
'Schlußszene aus Goethes  
"Faust"'



From the Eighth Symphony.

5 The Smiths  
'Some Girls Are Bigger  
than Others'



But all boys are identical.

6 Bright Eyes  
'It's Cool, We Can Still Be  
Friends'



Not in this position we can't.

7 Crosby, Stills and Nash  
'Teach Your Children'



Birds and bees cannot  
physically procreate.

8 Kevin Shields  
'Are You Awake?'



No, it's just the way I'm  
standing.

9 Lily Allen  
'It's Not Fair'



You make this noise, and it's  
apparent it's all over.

10 Bob Dylan  
'Blowin' In The Wind'



Impenetrable.

words/ helena and ramzy

## Gentleman's Dub Club

Vagabondz

The Faversham  
05/02/09

Vagabondz' resident live dub collective perform once again on their favourite stomping ground, enticing live music lovers in for what will be an exciting evening. Preceding Gentleman's Dub Club is Boyson and his boisterous MC making their debut appearance in Leeds. Plastician's grimy dubstep set, an equally electric performance, follows.

Set up under their signature red lighting, the nine extremely talented, trilby-donning, matching outfit-wearing gentlemen casually stroll on stage for another night of mayhem. Their jazz-infused dub/reggae brackets enough genres to keep everyone interested. Rodney P leads energetically vibrant sections, but equally commands heavily reverberating and mellow segments, reminiscent of Sizzla Kalonji.

New tunes such as 'Fly Away' perhaps need a little more work before being performed: the thick brass harmonies are nice enough but the vocal is too low in the mix. It is furthermore perhaps a mistake to play such a chilled-out song so early, as it pulls down the explosive mood of the rest of the set.

Nonetheless, the androphile portion of the crowd seem to love it, swooning for lead vocalist Jila as he teases them with his fluid hips and cheeky grin. The hyper-activity is swiftly regained by subsequent songs such as 'Snarl' which have a more goth-rock feel, brought about by eerie effects on electric keyboards and a LITERAL mosh-pit forming up front. Classics such as 'Great White Shark' and 'Procedure' send the audience into paroxysms of delight; many of those present know every hi-hat hit and bass line boom in both songs. The massive *crescendo* building up to the chorus of the latter are heightened by Vagabondz' staff blowing whistles to the full capacity of their lungs off-stage, whilst the bongo player's hands look as if they are about to combust. 'Party Boy' incorporates sharp melodies; vocal and guitar parts pierce the hazy bass line, and are complemented by the bohemian feel of an effects pedal.

Jila's boundless energy is what keeps the whole performance so alive; his jumping up and down like a kid in a candy-store encourages the crowd to go mental. The vibe on stage is uncontrollable. The music seems to excite the players just as much as the audience, which makes for a truly engaging set. (8)

words/ phoebe phillips



photo/ philip poodphat

# SOCIETIES/



This time...

# DanceSport

**A**ny budding dance enthusiasts may find themselves spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing a dance society to join on campus. What struck me about DanceSport when I attended their 'Give It A Go' session, though, was the fact that it was such a friendly, open society. There was as much opportunity given to the beginners who simply wanted to learn a few steps as to the hardened dancers who focused on competing nationally.

The hour-long session attracted a massive turnout of over 70 people, but there was still plenty of opportunity for everyone to learn waltz and jive routines, myself included.

The gathering was split in half, with the 'leaders' on one side and the girls on the other. The two halves were taught each routine step by step, and were then given the timings so everyone knew when to dance each move.

Once we could confidently execute this stage, each partnering came together and it was time to take hold of each other. The tricky part then was actually dancing the routine together, in time - and I have to admit to a few stumbles!

We started with the waltz, one of the ballroom dances taught at the weekly dance classes. This is a slow dance, and much more complicated than it might look on Strictly Come Dancing! My part mostly involved trying - with varying degrees of success - to look graceful whilst my partner led me around the floor. Thankfully, the steps were easy enough to pick up, and we even grasped the spin at the end of the routine.

Then, just when I was starting to get the hang of dancing in time with the music, the tempo picked up a notch and we moved onto the Latin Jive. This required an even greater amount of co-ordination. In spite of the increased level of difficulty, it turned out to be a real crowd pleaser as the ladies could shake their hips whilst dancing to S Club 7's 'Reach'. This was much more my kind of thing and definitely proved to be a bigger workout than I

was expecting. The session ended with a demonstration of the waltz and jive dance routines by two intermediate DanceSport members. This made for an impressive finale as it was really good to see the kind of standard you could achieve after a few years of practice. It offered brilliant motivation for the beginners to stick at it.

There's no way I've magically transformed into the new Ginger Rogers, but I was pleasantly surprised by how straightforward it was to learn the routines, and that I had a little ensemble to take home and impress my housemates with.

The session itself was taught by the committee, all

of whom I found to be extremely supportive. The help they gave me when I didn't quite get the steps was great. The weekly lessons themselves are taught by two professional local dance teachers, which means that members are able to learn more about technique and are taught a huge range of dances as they progress; the quickstep, tango, cha cha and rumba to name a few. These lessons are also split into beginner, novice and advanced, so it's easy for anyone to join in, regardless of their level of ability and whether or not they have a partner.

Throughout the year, there are also 8 competitions around the country, between the UK university dance

societies. These are in no way compulsory, but give something to work towards and let you show off your talent if you feel brave enough.

The biggest event is at Blackpool Ballroom and takes place at the end of this month, with up to 1,000 couples competing for the top spot. This isn't exactly a cut throat event, but it does offer the chance to dress in the society's finest competition wear and be awed by some of the dancing profession's key figures.

The society also organises a choreographed group dance workshop, which members have the opportunity to take part in, called Offbeat. Members of this separate weekly dance practice work towards the goal of performing against other universities at a number of national competitions.

At the moment, the committee are focusing their energies on organising the Leeds-Keele competition, which is taking place on Saturday 14 March. The orchestration of this event gives DanceSport members the chance to engage in the mammoth behind the scenes organisational work that goes into hosting a dance competition of this nature.

With over 130 members, it's no surprise that socials also feature heavily on the DanceSport calendar - ranging from cinema nights and pub crawls to social dances at the teachers' local dance school. What's more, the year ends with a grand ball, which includes a sit-down dinner, awards and a dance, giving everyone the chance to demonstrate what they've learnt throughout the year.

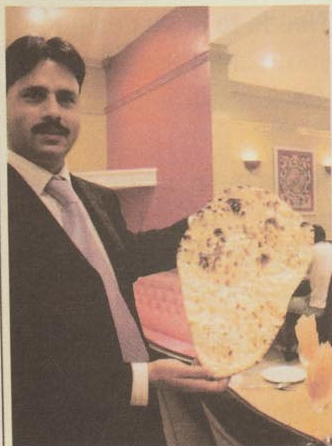
**If you like dancing and want to learn and practice new moves, I honestly can't think of a better place to go than DanceSport society, based on the fantastic time I had at their Give It A Go session. Membership only costs £15, and an extra £15 will buy you a whole semester of lessons - a bargain by anyone's standards! Find out more about the society by looking at the DanceSport Facebook group, or by emailing leeds.dancesport@gmail.com.**



DanceSport can keep you trim and teach you all the moves necessary to impress your Valentine's date.

Photo: Alex Paviou

words/ sarah blower

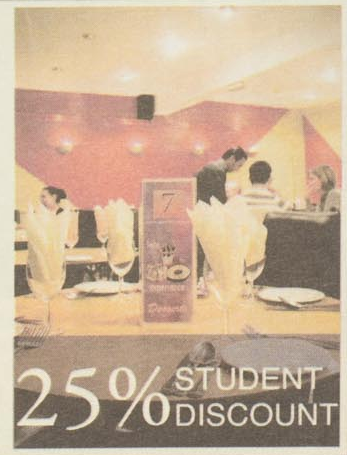


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**£7.00** 3.8% / 9.7 units  
Tetley's  
**£7.00** 3.8% / 9.2 units  
Kronenbourg  
**£9.00** 5% / 11.4 units  
Fosters  
**£7.80** 4% / 9.2 units

# LEEDS STUDENT NEEDS YOU

## Openings:

**Picture editor** [Needs to be proficient in photoshop] Send enquiries to [photos@leedsstudent.org](mailto:photos@leedsstudent.org)

**Design editor** [Needs to have design knowledge and layout skills] Send enquiries to [editor@leedsstudent.org](mailto:editor@leedsstudent.org)

**Web editor** [Needs to have online skills coupled with a knowledge of journalism] Send enquiries to [editor@leedsstudent.org](mailto:editor@leedsstudent.org)

**Copy editor** [Needs to have strong grasp of language, punctuation and grammar] Send enquiries to [editor@leedsstudent.org](mailto:editor@leedsstudent.org)

Leeds Student

Sex Survey  
2009

I have conducted a survey of...  
...to the best of a...  
...to the best of a...  
...to the best of a...

11/07/09

Gender  
Male

Do you consider yourself  
straight? Yes / No

How many times would you have sex?  
How many times would you have sex without a condom?

Yes No  
Yes No  
DRUNK YES

How many times would you have sex?  
Yes No

Are you currently in a sexually active relationship?  
Yes No

# STUDENT SEX EXPOSED

In anticipation of Valentine's Day  
we got a little voyeuristic....

**Exposed. Revealed. Uncovered.**

The results of the Leeds Student sex survey 2009 are in and your sexy secrets are finally out. These are the questions you've always wanted to know the answers to but never dared ask: is everyone else having more sex than me? Do men really masturbate more than women? What is the likelihood that someone is having sex on campus as we speak? We asked real life Leeds students to spill their load and tell us the bare-faced truth about their personal sex lives:

**The average age you lost your virginity is 16**

**Your average number of sexual partners is 8**

**Your average number of sexual partners since starting university is 5**

**We asked you how often you masturbate. You said:**

Men	Women
9% more than once a day	0% more than once a day
35% masturbate daily	9% masturbate daily
50% masturbate weekly	31% masturbate weekly
6% masturbate monthly	38% masturbate monthly
0% never masturbate	22% never masturbate

**We asked you about one night stands. You said:**

68% of you have had a one night stand  
52% of you that have did not use a condom  
Your reasons for not using a condom were:

Drunk: 67%	Just happened: 6%
Lesbian: 17%	On the Pill: 6% ( <i>what about STIs?!</i> )
Broke condom: 6%	

# THE RESULTS

## THE LEEDS STUDENT

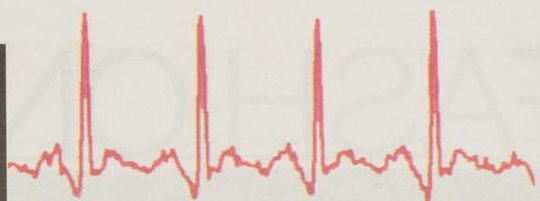




# RESULTS ARE IN

## SEX SURVEY 2

# 9



**We asked if you'd ever had sex on campus. You said:**

26% of you have had sex on campus

74% of you have not had sex on campus

Locations: back of the Emmanuel church, music depart, emt, alleyway near the Fav, behind Roger Stevens, Union toilets, Fruity, computer clusters and (unsurprisingly) halls of residence.

**We asked what your favourite sex position is. You said:**

Missionary: 29%

From behind: 15%

Girl on top: 34%

Anal: 9%

Reverse cowgirl: 13%

Others: Edge of bed, ploughing, mr. muscle, girlfriend on Erasmus while I fuck boys

rs  
(days)  
st you've  
out sex

**36%**  
have had a one night  
stand without a  
condom

**We asked if you'd had an STI test. You said:**

59% of you have

41% of you haven't

**Percentage of you that are in a relationship: 45%**

**For those of you that had lost your virginity, we asked what the longest you had been without sex was. You said:**

2 years and 30 days

**We asked you what your most interesting sexual experience was. You said:**

"On safari. I was thrown to the floor by a girl and had sex with hippos grunting and lions roaring around me. It was ace" / "on a Virgin plane- ironic!" / "it involves a charity hitch-hike, a silver Mercedes, two friendly strangers, and 30 km of French autoroute" / "Threesome in a Landrover. It was awful" / "I'm a hermaphrodite. So it's their most interesting experience" / "the most interesting was the excitement the first time" *Awwwww*

So now you know. The Durex website states the national average of sexual partners for United Kingdom as 9.8, which according to our statistics means that the typical student has only 1 more sexual partner left to meet. Make it a good one by borrowing some of the most popular habits of your fellow students: try a new position such as "Mr Muscle" or "plowing"; employ the assistance of the student's most popular sex toy- the vibrator - and maybe consider their most popular on-campus sex spot - the alleyway by the Fav. To avoid repeating the more common mistakes, stay clear of landrovers, CCTV, policemen and public transport, or else find a way to incorporate all four for the ultimate most interesting experience.

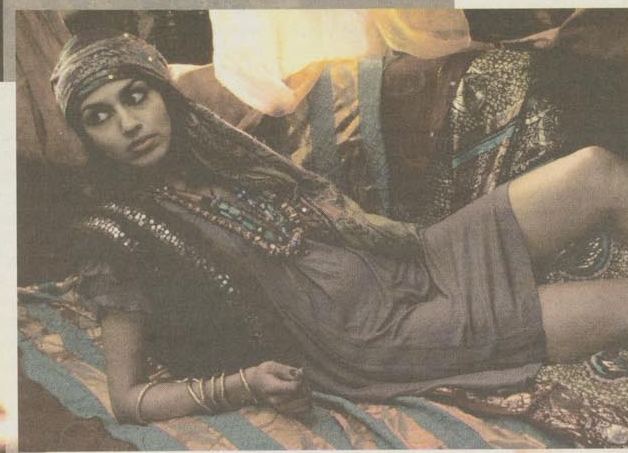
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OUT  
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AFRI

This week's Morocco inspired shoot took place right here in the heart of Leeds, in Hyde Park's Baraka. Heavily influenced by this season's tribal patterns, chunky jewellery and layered fabric abound. Ralph Lauren showed us how to embrace our inner African explorer with his latest collection of sophisticated desert wear, and new designer Marish Arora (featured this week) specialises in extravagant cuts of

CA



material teamed with excess beading, jewellery and colour. Trust us, just as the Leeds snow is melting, Africa is set to be the hottest trend for next season.

These clothes were a combination of stylist and model's own.

A big thank you to Baraka restaurant and sheesha bar who were the most hospitable of hosts.

model/ jal patel  
photographers/ alex jay and alihung  
stylists/ charlie bland, anna temby, alex haddock and hannah vasdekys  
site/ barakas restaurant

## MIA's red Carpet designer Manish Arora opens boutique in New Delhi

It seems that the whole world is being enriched with an Indian feel at the moment with the ever-growing success of Slumdog Millionaire. However, the latest Indian to turn heads is Manish Arora. As the creator of MIA's stunning and intricate Grammy dress, it would be a safe assumption to make that Arora is indeed set to make a massive impact on the fashion world with his latest ready-to-wear clothes. As a staple of the London fashion scene Arora presented a circus inspired Spring collection for 2009 in Paris last year and his heavily Indian influenced extravagant designs feature embroidered elephants. With collaborations with Reebok and MAC having already been formed we expect much more from him in the coming year.

words/ hannah vasdekys

## New York Fashion Week Previews

With New York Fashion Week taking place this coming week the general consensus is that eight days simply is not enough time for the 2009 Fall schedule planned. As a result of this, or perhaps even as a result of the current economic climate, on Wednesday Jenni Kayne is giving a presentation at her parent's Park Avenue apartment. Watch out for a review of New York Fashion Week next week!!

## HAIKU PREVIEWS

Friday 13th - New  
Bohemia, The Faversham

More New Bo goodness.  
This week there's a DJ set  
From Zero 7.

Saturday 14th - Filth, Mint

Jesse Rose, Style of  
Eye and Lee Mortimer.  
That's  
Pretty impressive.

Sunday 15th - Jim'll Mix It,  
Flares

Do you reckon this  
Is actual Jimmy Saville?  
That would be awesome.

Monday 16th - Open Mike  
Night, Carpe Diem

Who is Mike Night? Does  
He know he's being  
opened?  
That's clever word play.

Tuesday 17th - Sex Sells,  
Mezz

Come on. You can do  
So much better than this.  
What  
Would your mother say?

Wednesday 18th -  
Moveonup, HiFi

Moveonup has been  
Running for thirteen years  
now.  
That's quite impressive.

Thursday 19th - Bad  
Robot, Mint

The best robot of  
All time is Johnny 5 from  
The Short Circuit films

words/jon horner

## A Mystic Brew with James Holroyd/

PREVIEW

Smokestack 14/02/09

I did something very romantic once. I got amnesia and spent an evening denying that me and my girlfriend were together. In my first year I went on the Leeds Snowriders trip to Val D'Isere. I had never snowboarded before in my life but my friend is a qualified snowboard teacher so he said he'd get me up to speed. Big mistake.

By 'get me up to speed' he meant show me what which end was which, and then take me with him and a group of other people he knew from his ski and snowboard instructors course. At first it was fine, I got the hand of it pretty quickly and got to the bottom of my first red run in a couple of hours on the first day (despite a slightly hairy moment involving the edge of a cliff). So I started getting a bit cocky and threw myself down everything in sight, taking a few nice chunky falls on the way. At one point I had a particularly surreal experience when I crashed into a midget. Anyways, on day three I got down my first ever black run and I was quite proud of myself. Later that day I took one too many hits on the head and gave myself concussion and pretty serious amnesia. Despite the fact that I had been wearing a helmet the whole time. For the rest of that day I had about a 20 second short term memory. I knew who I was and sort of had a vague idea of where we were but couldn't remember much of anything that had happened in the last three weeks. I kept saying the same thing over and over as I forgot what I had just said. I also kept going on about the film 'Memento', which I've still never seen.

It was in these three weeks that my girlfriend and I had taken the plunge from being just

friends' to the uncharted waters of 'more than just friends'. So in my damaged little mind we were still in the friend zone and I was pretty effusive to this effect, laughing in the face of anyone who told me things were otherwise. As you can imagine the dear young lady in question was none to pleased to hear about this, especially as the tale was regaled to her thusly: "Jon got amnesia and forgot you were going out then he got off with a girl". While the former claim may be true, the latter was nothing but calumny. Luckily she didn't believe the cad who told her and all was well. On Valentine's Day it is important that you do not forget you have a girlfriend or she may well get a bit cross.

This is really weird, but Valentine's Day was originally a celebration of chicken intercourse. Seriously. There was a conventional belief in England and France in the Middle Ages that on 14th February the birds began to pair off and mate. There's a bit in Chaucer's Parliament of Fowles that says "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate". Humans noticed this trend and decided to make it their own. Very peculiar.

Valentine's is a pretty grim night to be going out. Most venues put an awful lot of pressure on people either to really get into it or to very conspicuously ignore it. You have to pick between either embracing the day and being all keen about trying to have sex with someone or participating in a sulky 'Anti-Valentine' and trying to have sex with someone to show how little you care about having sex with people. It's usually pretty easy to avoid, just stay in, but this year it's on a Saturday. And there's no

reason why some dead guy (actually there were three St Valentines, and all of them were martyrs) should spoil a perfectly good night out.

So avoid any of this silliness and go to the utterly indifferent party put on by Mystic Brew at the lovely Smokestack club. There will be the usual concoction of quality resident DJs from Asylum and Hang The DJ, there will be cheap drinks and this month entry is only £4 before 11 and £5 after. As usual they will be welcoming a high calibre guest, and in February your designated driver will be James Holroyd.

James is a proper legend. In 1992 he became one of the original residents at Back to Basics and a year later he joined forces with the Jockey Slut Magazine team to create the legendary night Bugged Out! As in Bugged Out!, the guys who put on parties in places like Milan, Japan and Matter in London, and put out those quality mixes by guys like Simian Mobile Disco, Erol Alkan and Klaxons. He's still a resident at Bugged Out! nights in Manchester. A few years later Holroyd's DJ style impressed Tom and Ed from the Chemical Brothers so much that he became their tour DJ. He's played across the world in countries as diverse as Croatia, China, Malaysia and Australia.

On the 14th he will be in Leeds and he'll be digging deep in his record box to play a set of disco, funk and rare house. Should be a good one.

Happy Chicken Sex Day everybody.xxx

words/jon horner

## Louche with Lee Curtis /

PREVIEW

Mint Club 13/02/09



FRIDAY//  
13/02/09

LEE CURTISS

(Dumb Unit, Spectral, Detroit)

Mint Club

Louche have been making a buzz for themselves in Leeds for the past year and have put on some pretty monumental parties at Mint club having played host to Seth Troxler and Lemos amongst others. This month see's their opener of 2009 and it is sure to be another big event. The lineup is as follows:

LEE CURTISS (Dumb Unit, Spectral, Detroit)

Residents:  
Josh Tweek  
Brisley Kazak  
Edward Bull

For those unfamiliar, Lee Curtis unites the original house and techno pioneers. A migrant artist with residencies in Berlin and the Motor City, his studio work is a weapon of choice for Magda and Matthew Dear. Lee is revered as a producer who fuses soulful, euphoric grooves with sinister bass and percussion. As a DJ with a decade of acclaim, he unleashes killer

tracks like 'Sexy Dancer' with a machine-like intensity. His fabled sets - a mind-altering blend of minimal house and disco loops - have exerted their force on the Rex Club and beyond. Now he's set to reprise his defining performance from Mutek.

Next month sees a special guest joining the boys at Louche on Friday the 13th March (what is with the Friday the 13th bookings, eerie) whilst the following month sees a joint party with mono\_cultto keep that bank holiday weekend interesting.

For tonight, its £9 entry, or £8 on the Facebook event list. Just be quick on that list front as its sure to be closed by later today. Get down early, Mint is going to get busy.

words/sam donnison

# Bad Sneakers with Surkin/

REVIEW

Faversham 07/02/09

Live At  
Leeds!

The world of science is usually pretty dull. However, in the last few weeks a couple of things happened which are nothing short of fucking awesome.

First up, they found an animal that lives forever. It's a type of jellyfish called a *Turritopsis Nutricula*, and after it reaches sexual maturity it just turns back into a little jellyfish foetus. Basically, it does reincarnation without bothering to die. Pretty cool.

As if that wasn't good enough, Jurassic Park is going to be very real, very soon. Sort of. Basically some sciencey chaps cloned an extinct animal from frozen cells. It was a Triceratops and it's currently roaming the streets of Antananarivo, Madagascar. Not true. Actually it was a Pyrenean Ibex and it died. But still! It's a good start! It sort of worked! Once they perfect the technology we will all be able to have our very own pet sabre-toothed Tigers.

If dinosaurs went clubbing they would probably go to Bad Sneakers. It's held every Saturday at the lovely Faversham and it's put on 'before they were massive' gigs by acts including Klaxons, Hot Chip, Lily Allen, The Gossip and the Arctic

Monkeys. Every now and then they take a break from all the guitar-based shenanigans and put on DJs. Last Saturday was one of those nights.

Opening the show were the seemingly ubiquitous house party hell raisers the Heads Up DJs. These three very busy guys seem to be getting booked for everything these days, and very good they are too, playing a very tasteful blend of techy electro.

Our headliner for the night was Surkin, a young whippersnapper from Paris. A few years ago he released 'Radio Fireworks' in the epicentre of the whole ravey sounding French house craze, and the track was as popular as Pokemon. Guys like Erol Alkan, Mylo, Boys Noize and Justice could not get enough of it.

Since then he's been playing gigs, putting out new tracks and remixing the likes of DJ Mehdi, Chromeo, Foals and more. So Surkin rocked the packed room with some crunchy electro, dropping a couple of cheeky crowd-pleasers every now and then - stuff like Rikkalicious, the Soulwax mix of Tiga's Mind Dimension 2 and his own remix of Klaxons.

Youth Attack tidied things up nicely

after Surkin had done his thing, playing some quality fidget house and general banging shit. Bit of Fake Blood, bit of Dada Life, bit of Herve - spot on. So far all very good, but Bad Sneakers had an ace up its sleeve. If the relentless duf-duf-duf of the main room got a bit overpowering, there was room 2, where Jonny Strangeways offered a delightful change of pace.

He played all those songs you love, forget about for a while, then randomly hear and remember why you loved them in the first place. There was some Iggy and the Stooges, a bit of the 5, 6, 7, 8s and my personal highlight of the night, 'Raspberry Beret' by Prince. Classic.

Bad Sneakers have some sizably stonking events lined up for the next couple of months. Highlights include Sway on March 5th, Filthy Dukes on March 21st, and the queen of (totally deserved) hype, Little Boots, on March 14th. Get on down to these and you'll enjoy yourself, promise.

words/jon horner

## Guilty Pleasures

Everyone has them, you can deny it but you'd be lying. Fact. I'm talking about the musical ones of course. In the studio last week a debate started about the best and most guilty but most pleasurable musical tracks that hold pride of place in our own collections. I faced some stark realisations that actually my music taste can be truly terrible at times. I feel like a problem shared is a problem halved and so I will come clean with you, the reader and divulge with you that my biggest guilty pleasure comes in the form of bassline and boy bands.

Phew, well now I've got that one off my chest perhaps we could all unite and discuss amongst our peers those guilty pleasures that you hold, you'd be surprised what some people are into. It's like some sort of therapy to know that I'm not alone in my bad taste and that others can sometimes be worse off. One friend's response when asked of their guiltiest pleasure replied, "Barbie Girl by Aqua." Amazing I thought to myself, I am not alone and it might help you to know that the person in question is a hip-hop MC, so that track could potentially ruin his reputation amongst his bredrin innit'.

I find that these tracks shine like a beacon of bad taste because no matter whose ipod your scrolling through the guilty ones stick out like a bad case of acne. I've learnt to mentally prepare myself for the imminent onslaught of ridicule I will no doubt receive when

someone takes a sneaky peek through my playlists. On the flipside I occasionally receive praise for these forgotten gems of our childhood, Spice Girls, Blazin' Squad, Boys II Men to name but a few, we must never forget the music that provided the soundtrack to our teenage years and hearing these tunes never fails to warm my insides like a musical hot water bottle.

Over the summer I worked at several music festivals, as we swilled cider under our Argos gazebo before heading into the festival site we would select the mp3 player of choice, hook it up to the speakers and pick the worst songs we could find and I can honestly say I've never been happier. All I can suggest is that next time you have the girls/boys round for pre-drinks you try the game out yourself, music channels work particularly well, a fave of mine of course is Channel U where N Dubz and Platnum's cover of *Loveshy* frequent their playlist and put a smile on my face.

No matter what your musical persuasion there is something quite humbling about the fact that no matter how 'cool' we perceive others to be, we all have those inner pop demons that come out whenever our iTunes comes into question. My advice, embrace the cheese and the consequential guilt and you will be at peace my friend.

Yours Truly,  
Jo Blogs. X

words/kkk



JO BLOGS

## THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON /

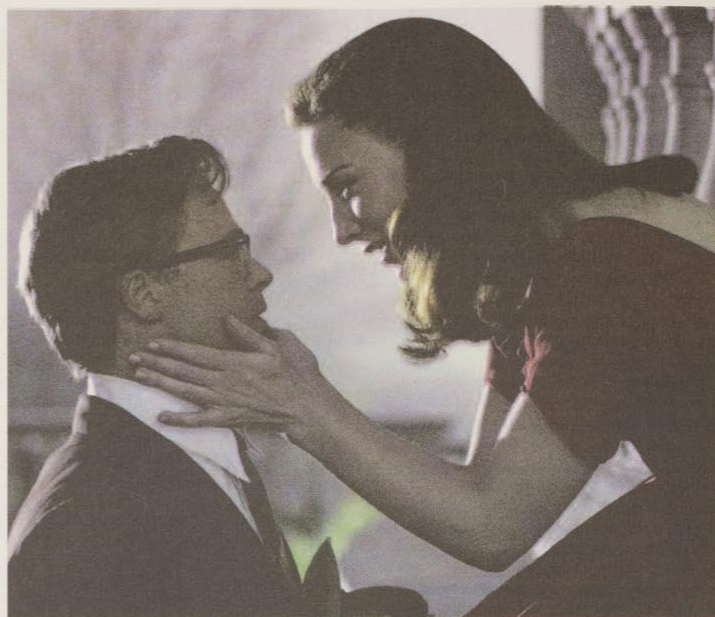


From the opening shot of an old woman on a hospital bed, you can tell that *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* is going to involve death. In fact the story pretty much begins and ends in death, making this a movie one wouldn't recommend to those prone to depression. However, for everyone else, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* is well worth its twelve Oscar nominations. The story focuses on the character Benjamin Button (Brad Pitt), who is born an old man, with all the usual accompanying illnesses, and who ages backwards. His life is recounted through his diary, left to his beloved, Daisy Fuller (played with great panache by Cate Blanchett) and read aloud to her, while she's on her deathbed, by her adult daughter.

The story is predominantly that of tragic love, with the more permeating issue of the quick passage of time resonating throughout. Daisy and Benjamin meet when he is an old man and she is a child, at the beginning of their lives. They stay in intermittent contact over the next few decades, and are finally able to begin a love affair when their ages 'meet in the middle' at forty. It is fascinating to see Brad Pitt stripped of his

good looks at the beginning of the film (although fear not, he provides sufficient eye-candy as he gets younger and younger). He contributes a great depth and intensity to his character, a reminder to all that the reasons he has become such an acclaimed name in the film industry are more than merely superficial. Blanchett, too, plays her part with gusto and the duo make a very heart-wrenching pair of star-crossed lovers. Special mention must also be granted to Tilda Swinton who plays the part of Benjamin's first love. Although a relatively minor role in the film, her upper-class English character adds a certain vitality and necessary realism.

For anyone expecting something cuddly to watch in the lead up to Valentine's Day, this film certainly defies the traditional plotlines of the romantic genre. The plot's sheer originality prevents it from ending up as just another generic Valentine's tear-jerker, perhaps unsurprisingly, as director David Fincher's previous films include the visceral titles *Fight Club* and *Se7en*. Throughout the film we are unable to escape from the inevitability of death and the transience of time. Fincher refuses to pause on the



characters' happier experiences, instead relaying each moment as perfectly equal in time span to the one that came before. This makes for dispiriting viewing, as optimism is often obscured; yet this is perhaps vital to *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button's* success as it presents a realism that the film would otherwise lack.

The only real criticism I can muster is that at times the film is consciously long, unsurprising due to its running time of nearly three hours. However, this seems a small sacrifice to make, in the face of an otherwise moving and genuinely thought-provoking story.

words/ shirin marker

## ASTA GRÖTING / ART EXHIBITION

The Henry Moore Institute

04/02 - 05/02



An exhibition featuring works by the German sculptor who died last year. The themes are the body and nature as systems, which are portrayed by very simplistic installations such as a large rotating polystyrene ball, maybe to signify the heart? It's not the most instantly gratifying exhibition, but when you consider the relation of the work to anatomy, our relationships with each other and with nature one can see what Gröting's aims were. I was impressed by the 'Space between two people having sex' sculpture (complete with a penis imprint) which showed the forms of two naked people, obviously with a space between them, it is clever and quite beautiful even.

With the constant sound of the motors in the pieces there is a sense of being in a kind of factory, which again links to the systematic fascination of Gröting's work.

In the next room there is an exhibition of British artist Keith Arnatt, who also died last year, and whose work is definitely more accessible and aesthetic. You can tell that Arnatt's career reached its climax in the



1960s: his pieces are all very fun, colourful and mod-ish. He's also very humorous in his work and one of the most striking pieces is a photo of the artist holding a sign Bob Dylan style saying 'I'm a real artist'. Another popular piece is a photo of lots of people wearing bright hats buried up to the neck on a beach; looking from a distance like strange little plants. These free exhibitions are definitely worthwhile: whilst Arnatt is more populist, Gröting is the most thought-provoking of the two artists, if not a little confusing.

words/ louise mayman

## TOSCA / OPERA REVIEW

The Grand

04/02



The curtains opened on the large sun-kissed interior of the Attavanti chapel, attentively adorned with religious icons, easels and works in progress. Sung in Italian, but sub-titled on a discreet plasma screen, the weighty story of escape, love and rape unfolds steadily through Cavaradossi's (Rafael Rojas) plight and profusions of love. It is the title character though for whom the audience await, and Susannah Glanville really wowed the audience with her portrayal of Tosca, overwhelming the audience with the intensified and heightened emotions of the tale. The orchestra stunned too, conducted by Opera North's Martin Pickard, constantly manipulating violins to toy with the audience's heartstrings, and occasionally blowing a few cobwebs from the curtains with an erratic blast of trombone.

Jon Morrel's costume design showed contemporary touches, such as Tosca's

boots and handbag (which from a distance could well have been Mulberry), but an effort was made to hold onto the opera's traditional roots too, as seen in Tosca's deep, all-encompassing gown in Act II. Puccini's *Tosca* is unusual for an opera of its stature in that it holds no real centrepiece or isolated climatic song. The notorious murder scene is to an extent diffused by its reaching sense of melancholy and twisting remorse. The final moments in which Christopher Alden's direction saw Tosca held at gunpoint, arms outstretched, against a large whitewashed wall, held the audience fixed in tremulous silence, but the scene arrived rather unexpectedly. Before the magnificence and true impact of this scene had even half the time it needed to resonate within the audience, the screen had gone down and applause echoed across the velvet landscape.

words/ jack cullen

## LOOK OUT POST

words/ james pullin

**Music! Zero 7 -** Everyone knows that Zero times 7 equals nothing. Luckily Sam Hardaker, or half Zero 7 (Zero 3.5?) is rubbish at maths. Expect his usual brand of slick, no nonsense grooves.

10pm February 13th @ Faversham

**Charity! RAG host: Slave Auction -** Ever thought of being even lazier than you already are? Ever thought of making some sort of charitable donation? This is probably your only chance to combine the two as lethargy and selflessness join forces for a good cause.

8pm February 16th @ Old Bar

**Dodgems! Valentine's Fair** Host to 'Europe's scariest travelling haunted house', and thrills-a-plenty on the 'Devil Rock from Holland', apparently. Romance isn't dead, it's just swinging from the 'Super Spin'. 13th-22nd February @ Elland Road Car Parks

# PORN - IS IT PART OF THE ARTS? /

## DISCUSSION PIECE

"YESTERDAY I WAS PORN...  
...NOW I AM ART."

These were the immortal words that flew out of the lips of former playmate and Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, after her appearance in Vivienne Westwood's latest campaign. The actress, whose biggest hit (on the net) was the release of her porn home video with Tommy Lee, has become something of an artistic muse, providing inspiration for the likes of David LaChapelle, Terry Richardson and Jeff Koons. Although she probably didn't realise it, Pamela's mystic words typify the debate that surrounds the murky waters of porn and art. Can porn ever be art? What determines whether something is either? Can Legoporn, my favorite form of erotic expression, ever be classed as art?

Porn has always found a home in the domain of art. When archaeologists excavated Pompeii, they found amulets, lamps, jugs and statues which were lavishly adorned with scenes from Bacchic orgies, complete with scenes of fellatio and fornication. It is a well-

known fact that the culture that provided the foundation for Western philosophy and refined thinking had no qualms about depicting hot shots that wouldn't look out of place on redtube. However, despite a fervent nod of approval towards porn from the Romans, there has always been an uncomfortable tension around porn's place in art, where it is a potent tool in its ability to shock people. Supposedly, porn is designed to arouse without artistic value, while elements of erotica have artistic value. However, like beauty, and indeed art, porn's definition lies in the eye of the beholder. Take the artist

Gustav Klimt, whose frank eroticism in paintings like "Philosophy", "Medicine" and "Jurisprudence", that featured nudity, women masturbating and phallic symbols, were branded 'pornographic'. However, most critics would now say that his work emphasizes the 'freedom' of art from traditional culture and the role of the dominant female, in all her nakedness. So is it time that makes porn metamorphose into art? If so, will Paris Hilton's sex video be played in the Tate Modern in a decade's time?

It isn't just time that makes people change their perceptions to elements of the pornographic. It seems that context is everything. In the case of pornographic images, what matters is not the actual content, but where the image is being exhibited, who took it, why they took it and all the circumstances surrounding it. So if you took out a photo of a page three girl from the paper, framed it and put it in a gallery, could this be art? Maybe - if you could come up with enough verbose crap to explain its significance. But this might not be enough to get critical success. Another factor in determining whether something is porn or art is the photographer or artist who creates or takes the image. If it's a renowned artist like Gustave Courbet or Goya, it is art; if it's your art degree flat mate 'experimenting' with a bit of video fun, then it's probably porn. Poor quality porn, but nevertheless porn. So, it appears that Pammy has a point when it comes to porn and art. Context is everything, content is nothing.



words/ nali sivathanan

# THE HOUNDING OF DAVID OLUWALE /

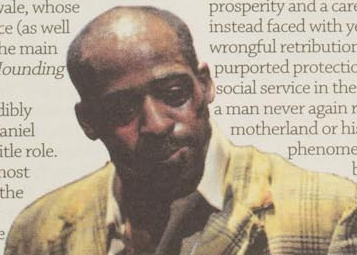
## THEATRE REVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse



*The Hounding of David Oluwale* by Oladipo Agboluaje is a chilling, bleak and defiant portrayal of a man victim to police brutality, racism and northern hospitality, but also the unconditional love between a man, his mother and country. The play is told through three parallel narratives. The first presents David Oluwale arriving in England and his journey into despair. The second is of his time in Nigeria, and the third narrative unfolds the relationship between the courageous Scotland Yard detective who is leading the investigation into the murder of Oluwale and his personal battle with both his own conscience and his crusade for justice. Throughout the production, the ghost of David Oluwale, whose addresses to the audience (as well as the detective) act as the main narrative voice in *The Hounding of David Oluwale*.

The cast are all incredibly convincing, including Daniel Francis, who takes the title role. However, perhaps the most impressive character in the story is grey, hoary City of Leeds. Leeds is for me



the unsung hero of the production; the set designer and production crew have designed and produced a set, which effectively portrays the stark yet charismatic side of Leeds' city centre in 1969. Shadowy blue lighting, cast across grey brick walls, evokes the sinister hues of the night. The plain black of the uniformed officers' attire allows them to fade into the darkness. Rounding out the northern evocation, the characters' colloquialisms are completely endearing; guttural references to 'The 'Eadrow' or 't' Corn-Exchange' work well to aurally depict Leeds as the epitome of northern misery.

The story of David Oluwale is not a happy tale: a man arriving in England in the hope of prosperity and a career in engineering, but instead faced with years of police brutality, wrongful retribution at the hands of their purported protection and a man failed by every social service in the land. Furthermore, a tale of a man never again reunited with his motherland or his mother. The cast is phenomenal, the soundtrack is brilliantly and stylishly epochal; this play is undeniably a must-see.

words/ kazim rashid

# THE MAGIC FLUTE /

## OPERA REVIEW

Riley Smith Hall, LUU



Containing an array of impressive aria mixed with comic singing, Opera Soc's *The Magic Flute* certainly engaged the audience's attention, in particular with its humorous 'pantomime' feel.

Tom Morss, who played Tamino, the leading male part, had a beautifully distinctive tenor voice, and he seemed perfect for his role in *The Magic Flute*. Emily Carew-Gibbs, who played the Queen of the Night stole the show with her performances of some of the hardest pieces in opera, where she displayed her abilities as a coloratura soprano, delivering outstanding arias with runs and leaps which had me captivated. The leading lady, Catroina Murray, Pamina, was hugely talented also, with a very clear and operatic voice. Apart from a clumsy moment where there was an awkward scripted kiss and intimate moment, her on-stage relationship with Morss was very believable.

"Having fun and making a complete tit of yourself are the cornerstones of the society" were the words of Gordon Grant, a third year music student, who directed the Opera society's performance of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. This saturated enjoyment was evident throughout, and left *The Magic Flute* a joy to behold.

words/ katie donohoe

# THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK /

## MUSICAL PREVIEW

Leeds Grand Theatre

17/02 - 21/02

Starring in this fiery fabrication of musical mayhem is Marti Pellow, famous for leading boy band Wet Wet Wet to a series of multi-platinum singles and albums, the most famous of these apparently being 'Love Is All Around' (which I presume is the one Bill Nighy's character covers and takes piss out of at the start of 'Love Actually'). According to the Pop's website, since departing from pop world domination, Marti has had a 'very successful' solo career ('very successful' I feel being the nicest way of saying 'absolutely useless', as I've certainly never heard of him), as well as West End and Broadway success as the notorious Billy Flynn in the hit musical *Chicago*. Contrary to the apparent failure of his solo career, Pellow's *Chicago* stint seemed to put him in extremely high regard with the critics, and he appears to have had further success in this show. One critic (of the extra keen variety) notes the 'slinky, serpentine, medallion-wearing grace' that he brings to the stage as Darryl van Horne, the craftily seductive, enormously eee-vil devil.

The plot concerns three artistic women misfits living in a close community in Eastwick, a small town in America. One dark and stormy night (unpredictably), they envisage their ideal man and unintentionally conjure up Pellow's devil, Darryl van Horne, who moves into the town, seduces the three women (giving them supernatural powers along the way) and generally causes mayhem in the community.

Although going to see this musical excites me about as much as listening to the entirety of Wet Wet Wet's greatest hits whilst sipping a cold cup of weak tea, the reviews of the run so far are exceedingly good and I realise that my grumpy attitude towards musicals in general could soon be changed by this production. One critic exclaims that it is 'devilishly good fun' (what a clever chap) and another that the music is 'so brilliant' it will have you 'humming the songs all night'. I feel it is time for me to accept the cringes, join in with the dancing, and embrace the pure (albeit singing) evil.

words/ david hayes

## COMPETITION!

Leeds Student are giving away a highly coveted pair of tickets to the opening night of *The Witches of Eastwick* on Tuesday 17th February. Email your name, mobile and student number to [arts@leedsstudent.org](mailto:arts@leedsstudent.org)

## Scandalous Schoolboys

### BOOKS COMMENT

Having spent seven years in a boarding school for boys in India, I have always considered boarding schools to have a distinct homoerotic context to them. Indeed, our only interaction with the fairer sex was through reading certain... umm... magazines.

A number of homoerotic social situations prevailed in school. A favored junior was very much a coy chattel, to be called at will and ordered to do menial activities. To gain favour, such an individual would be subservient to his senior and simper at his commands. A senior would have his favored juniors who were expected to sustain a fervent sense of gratitude and hero worship in response.

Until senior year, friendships were along homoerotic lines. In a pair of friends, the 'female' played the role of listener, was not engaged in sporting activities, or was engaged in them to a lesser extent, and provided counseling and advice to his 'male' friend. It was only the advent of prom nights with our sister school that transformed such friendships into off-handedly heterosexual ones.

Boarding school stories provide a similar picture of homoerotic roles, ultimately shaken up by the outer world. Such markers

as wide-open eyes and pretty hair indicate the hero's best friend's femininity. The hero typically marries his best friend's sister (who resembles him facially), thus consummating their erotic relationship.

In *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, his headmaster entrusts wayward Tom with the care of a frail and helpless new boy. Tom protects and lavishes attention on his charge and takes his friendship with another boy as a betrayal of sorts. Later, Tom is able to fantasize legitimately about his charge's mother, who is his spitting image.

Couples occur in girls' boarding school fiction as well. In Enid Blyton's *Malory Towers* series, outgoing Darrell Rivers plays impetuous hothead to quiet homebody Sally's patience. Feather-headed Alison becomes fast friends with looks-obsessed Angela. Initially a hero-worshipper, she curbs her friend's indiscretion and disciplines her. In *Jane Eyre*, passively good and virtuous Helen Burns is essential to the socialization of impetuous Jane Eyre at Lowood and they share an intimate moment in the hours before Helen's death.

Given the absence of the opposite sex, members of boarding schools feel compelled to recreate the same set of social relationships they would otherwise engage



Joseph Beattie as Flashman in Tom Brown's Schooldays

in, a process that occurs in prison as well. Female inmates have steady girlfriends and adopt other inmates as daughters, mothers or sisters. This social ordering reduces brutality in prison and softens the threat of sexual assault. In Sidney Sheldon's *If Tomorrow Comes*, the protagonist, imprisoned on a false charge, is protected by a 'chivalrous' if demanding African-American woman.

For male inmates, fixed homosexual relationships offer a feminine or weak young man protection from rapacious inmates. A marginal character in Arthur Hailey's *Moneychangers* is protected by his relationship with Karl and this helps him survive prison. Brendan Behan's *Borstal Boy* has the tough-as-nails protagonist indulge his petted 'steady' and his whims.

Having crossed the school gates, fallen in love serially, and learnt to regard women as belonging to the same planet as men, my entire high school class is happily and prolifically heterosexual now!

words/ adreyo sen

## Sexual encounters

### FIVE OF THE BEST

Dim the lights and slip into something more comfortable. This week LS2 presents five of the most illuminating literary erotic moments

#### Lady Chatterley's Lover

D. H. Lawrence

Lawrence's novel about an affair between an aristocratic woman and a working class gamekeeper started something of a literary sexual revolution when it was published. Causing widespread controversy and eventually helping to loosen British obscenity laws, it paved the way for future novelists wanting to write freely about sex.

#### Lolita

Vladimir Nabokov

Although it was now OK to write about sex by the time *Lolita* was published, it was still definitely not OK when it involved middle aged men trying it on with 12 year old girls. Despite being initially banned the novel went on to become a bestseller, proving that when it comes to literature, paedophilia pays.



#### Crash

J. G. Ballard

This infamous novel tells the tale of a group of people who, tired of doing it the old fashioned way, turn to crashing their cars into one another to gain sexual gratification. When asked why he wrote the book Ballard replied: "I wanted to rub the human face in its own vomit, and force it to look in the mirror." Nice.

#### Wetlands

Charlotte Roche

In an age when it feels that there are few taboos left to break, this book still manages to shock. Published in the UK this month, it tells the story of a girl who, whilst stuck in a hospital bed, embarks on a journey of self discovery and sexual exploration. Caution is advised as her promiscuity and lack of personal hygiene is certainly not for the squeamish, particularly in her unconventional use of avocados.

#### Secret Diary of a Call Girl

Belle de Jour

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, blogger Belle de Jour has been able to keep public diaries of her day to day sexual encounters for the world to see, garnering massive popularity in the process and proving that the general public like nothing more than a snoop into the sex lives of other people. She has had books published and still updates her blogs to this very day.

words/ tobias ginsberg

## Scandalous

### REVIEW

Laura D



'My name is Laura, I'm nineteen. I'm a modern languages student and I have to prostitute myself to pay my way through uni.' *Scandalous* is the true story of a nineteen-year-old French student, written anonymously under the pseudonym

Laura D, whose life takes a dramatic change when out of utter desperation she responds to an ad on the internet. From this point onwards Laura D's regular life comes crashing into contact with the seemingly foreign world of prostitution. Relationships are shattered and human limitations are pushed to their

extremes in this raw yet passionate story.

The main appeal of *Scandalous* is that we, as its young readership, can relate to the narrative. Okay, so it's highly unlikely that resorting to prostitution has ever crossed your mind. Mine neither. Yet throughout it is surprising how familiar and identifiable her everyday concerns appear. Thus, what I found truly remarkable about this novel is that it neither demands critique nor sympathy from the reader, but solely our capacity to comprehend.

The most refreshing aspect of this novel is undoubtedly its resounding rawness. Emerging from a period that has witnessed the glamorization of prostitution, *Scandalous* fervently opposes such sensationalistic approaches. At times the narrative is truly harrowing and brutal, becoming almost too uncomfortable to read. Yet this distress which is the reader is forced to encounter is

arguably one of the novel's greatest attributes, enabling the author to honour the corrupt world of student prostitution.

In style *Scandalous* is an easy read, receptive to its intended conversational, journal-like form. Nevertheless at times its written style becomes perhaps too undemanding so it feels disparate from its increasingly challenging subject matter.

If the novel itself fails to evoke the world of student prostitution then Eva Clouet's preface will not, her heavily factual statistics leaving an unsavoury reminder that Laura D's narrative is so far removed from fiction, it is reality.

Everybody is attracted to the idea of the true story narrative, and this is one which will not fail to shake our perceptions of society, and even more disturbingly, our very own student community.

words/ laura white

## Twilight

### REVIEW

Stephenie Meyer



After the horrors of war, global warming and economic collapse, it took in fact a pair of abstinent vampires to destroy my faith in humanity.

Topping best-sellers charts and selling over 40 million copies worldwide,

Stephenie Meyer's four-part series about a teenage vampire romance was met by hordes of screaming teenagers, and a few puzzled intelligent people. Epitomizing the very essence of bad literature - from sloppy writing to archaic sex roles - this book makes you

wonder if indeed the world has gone stark raving mad.

The new Harry Potter' were words that prompted me to claw my way through the prepubescents in *Borders* and actually purchase the dubious romp about 'star-crossed lovers' of the undead. Unfortunately, all hopes were dashed on the first page. Straight from the slush pile at Mills and Boon, the absurdly cliché writing is besieged with adjectives: throughout 500 pages we are treated with ceaseless descriptions of the hero's god-like anatomy - 'his shirt open over his sculpted, incandescent chest, his scintillating arms bare'. His 'endearing' sweetheart Bella is in fact a helpless imbecile, her every action prompting a large-scale disaster that only her sadistic 100-year-old boyfriend can avert. Less *Romeo and Juliet* and more *Fatal Attraction*, she jumps off a cliff when he moves away, while he

meanwhile alternates from thunderous brutality to disturbingly paternal domination.

Undereath the side-splittingly bad sentences are some nasty ideas of gender, with Bella threatened sexually throughout the book, apparently due to her own clumsiness and stupidity. A group of lurking men attempt to rape her in the first part, with Edward stepping in at the nick of time, and shockingly, she voluntarily returns to these men when Edward breaks up with her. Luckily, his 'voice' orders her away, so, girls, remember to listen to your boyfriends and don't go looking for gang rape.

*Twilight* has managed to massacre my faith in the general reader as well as the English language. If you're the kind of person who enjoys watching car accidents then go ahead and read the whole series, as for me I'd rather drink my own blood.

words/ caitlin vandertop



# This is not just a comment, this is a *Leeds Student* comment

## TELEVISION COMMENT

Evie Prysor-Jones wonders whether we are gagging for sex on TV

As our TV picks have demonstrated, sex in an integral element in almost any programme. This got me thinking, is sex included because the programmes feel it is educational or is it because we just can't get enough?

The soaps are an obvious place to start. Hollyoaks is dubbed as a soap for young people and likes to address those difficult issues that many youths may be suffering. These issues include homosexuality, transvestism, underage sex and sexually transmitted diseases to name a few. Eastenders has storylines that include unwanted pregnancy and they are currently tackling the controversial topic of paedophilia. These are serious issues and education is very important in helping people work through their problems but is this the only reason sex dominates so many programmes?

I personally think not. Whilst mulling over this topic I managed to come up with several examples of blatant abuse of our attraction to anything sexual.

Example one: How to Look Good Naked. Don't exclaim and say "Oh but it isn't about sex, it is about making people feel good about ourselves." Bollocks. Yes

it helps women to strut their stuff with pride, but they are getting naked, and why do we get naked? Sex.

Example two: Sexcetera. This is not education; it is bizarre and freaks me out.

Example three: Skins. Many people may jump up here desperate to defend this fast-becoming-cult programme but please remain stationary and consider my explanation. The last series was bad enough in suggesting that the lives of the characters represent normal teenage life. My teenage years were certainly nothing like that, if yours were then by all means write to the Editor, but now, the new series implies that mere 14 year-olds role around together in not many clothes, nobody wants to see that.

Example four: Adverts. By adverts I mainly want to concentrate on a certain advert that I feel enriched many lives, but adverts in general do cruelly play on our apparent need for sex and I throw out such advertising examples as perfume, cars, clothes, shoes, glasses, banks (that scottish widow is certainly innocent) computers, Wales, furniture, ASDA...maybe not ASDA but as for the rest, the subtle erotic undertones along

with the leather sofas or fruity scents are designed purely to draw us in. The best, the Queen, the epitome of sexual adverts has got to be the M&S food adverts. No one could hear that sultry voice and resist the steak pie and gravy that's being so seductively dripped over potatoes, it's practically orgasmic. Too orgasmic apparently, the voice has changed and the advert has changed because it was just too damn sexy.

These examples show how intrinsic sex is to television. Would we cope if anything remotely sexy were taken from our screens? Nobody would watch Location Location Location or Bargain Hunt if there was no sexual tension. Nothing would happen in any of the soaps, the Hollyoaks kids would attend school, the market in Albert Square would be full of people talking at

a normal volume and poor Gok Wan would have to resort to selling clothes designed for small dogs.

Maybe sex on TV is sometimes educational, maybe sometimes it is for advertising and maybe sometimes it is just for fun but there is no denying that sex definitely sells.



## Gok Wan

### Likes getting people naked

Despite his slim frame now he was 21 stone when he was a teenager.

Celebrities that he has worked with include Bryan Ferry, All Saints, Damien Lewis and Johnny Vaughan.

He wrote a book to accompany the series, entitled *How to Look Good Naked: Shop for Your Shape and Look Amazing!*, that was published in April 2007.

He appeared on *The New Paul O'Grady Show*, in which he persuaded Paul O'Grady to strip "naked".

He launched a National Glasses Day with Specsavers to encourage everyone to wear their spectacles with pride.

Gok Wan was born in Leicester, England, to a Chinese father, Hong Kong born John Tung Shing, and an English mother, Myra. [4] He grew up on one of the city's council estates and his parents ran a local restaurant there.



## THE ARGUM%!\*T

### Is that a Carrott in your pocket?

James Corden

In the harsh world of celebrity, James Corden's sex symbol potential could easily have been overlooked, luckily for us girls however it wasn't. I'm a big fan of James Corden, and it seems I'm not the only one as he's been seen out and about with Lily Allen, Agyness Dean, and his most recent girlfriend Sheridan Smith. So what is it that makes all these beautiful women fall for 5ft 7, eighteen stone Corden? Well firstly, for most girls, a sense of humour is high on the list of priorities, when looking for a man and James clearly has this, the award winning Gavin and Stacey is loved by many and was co written by him. The ability to laugh at oneself and to appear down to earth is a rarity in the world of celebrity and this is another reason why

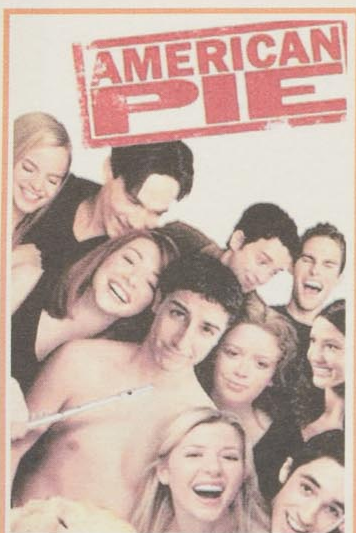
James stands out from the crowd. In 2009, we are going to see much more of James as he and Matthew Horne have been given a sketch show to write together for the BBC. This is great news for all out there who love him and it seems James Corden really is worth his weight in gold.

words/ hatti cawley

Jasper Carrott

An old and mediocre comedian from Birmingham who looks a bit like a turtle who's lost his shell, Jasper Carrott is not your run of the mill sex symbol. Born Robert Norman Davis, Carrott promptly funnied-up his name on entering the public eye and has since inoffensively meandered his way to lifelong fame via the means of singing, stand up comedy and television presenting. How else could such a self-effacing and unimpressive man achieve such success without some kind of subliminal sex appeal? Maybe it's his small and hairless head that has allowed him to gain easy and streamlined access to our hearts; or perhaps his long hooked nose that has penetrated our defences and nestled its way into our affections. More obviously though it's his Golden Balls on ITV1, dazzling our senses and reflecting back at us the possibility of all one can achieve without talent, looks or charisma.

words/ clare pidsley



## Film of the week

### American Pie

Monday 16th February  
ITV 10:35 pm

American Pie is without doubt the definitive film on teenage sexual exploration, and though boys might wince in recognition at the most cringe worthy moments, it also gave females an insight into the dark, disturbing recesses of the teenage boy's mind. Admittedly, this film did spawn a series of shockingly bad gross-out comedies; I have a vague recollection of being dragged to see Road Trip but the experience was so scarring I've repressed that memory deep down. The original however, had classic moments and lines that have supplied pop culture references for a generation. Even those who haven't seen it will no doubt know what a MILF is and it also provided sexual education for those of us still young/naive enough on first viewing to be left confused by Jim's early arrival problems. Up there with Peep Show for embarrassing sex scenes, this film is guaranteed to help those feeling insecure about their own inadequacies.

words/ naomi wells

Friday 13th February  
The Love Industry:  
Tonight

ITV1 8:00pm

Young, free and single? You're not alone – apparently there are going to be about 15 million singletons (thank you Bridget Jones) in Britain by 2011. But still, the match-making industry is worth £1 billion, and this programme sets out to find out why. This involves quizzing singletons and charting the highs and lows of three singles, desperate to be married, as they try anything from speed-dating to introductory agencies to online ads, hoping to win big at romantic roulette. Whether it's with smug satisfaction in the arms of your own Mr/Mrs Right, or a cringing 'thank God that is not me' this is sure to raise a smile.

words/ lauren fordham

Sunday 15th February  
Celebrity Come Dine with Me  
Channel 4 8:00pm

The kitchen is steaming up this week with celebrities Christopher Biggins, Edwina Currie, TV presenter Julia Bradbury and soap star Phillip Olivier competing against each other to be the best dinner party host in order to win money for a charity. In these cash-strapped times, we can look on this show as an inspiration to show off our own culinary talents, or if you are lazy like me, this is a brilliant program you can waste far too much time watching. One can only imagine the table talk between Biggins and Edwina, but I'm sure that the sparks will be flying.

words/ serena peddle



Monday 16th February  
Moses Jones  
BBC2 9:00pm

The new 'young and sexy' Doctor Who Matt Smith seems to be cropping up everywhere these days, and he is currently lending his talents to a three-part BBC drama. Detective Moses Jones is pulled off a case he is close to solving to investigate a mutilated body found in the Thames, as his ethnic background means he is more sympathetic to the Ugandan culture to which the murder is thought to be linked. Hailed as a refreshing change to ageing detectives like Frost and Rebus, it should be an entertaining watch, and the first part is still on iPlayer if you want to catch up.

words/ serena peddle

Wednesday 18th February  
The Brit Awards 2009  
ITV1 8:00pm

The Brit Awards are here; not really the most sexual event unless you're a celeb-stalking psychopath or you love your country just a bit too much. But Kylie will be hosting until the men just can't get her out of their heads, and it promises to be a seductive night with Girls Aloud offering something kind of ooh and U2 giving us a bit of vertigo. By the end you'll be begging 4-time nominee Duffy for mercy.

words/ caitlin vandertop

Saturday 14th February  
The Wedding Planner  
Five 5:15pm

On what Hallmark might have us believe is the most romantic day of the year, Five goes with the flow and offers us Jennifer Lopez as a slightly implausible spinster, in her stunning Gucci wardrobe and all-weather lip gloss. She is a wedding planner yet commits the cardinal sin of – you guessed it – falling for the groom-to-be (Matthew McConaughey.) Predictably, McConaughey is cast as a knight in shining armour, saving Lopez's character from a nasty accident and then falling in love with her. A box-office hit in America, this debut feature from director Adam Shankman is perfect if you're looking for a traditional "date" movie.

words/ lauren fordham

Tuesday 17th February  
Wild Animal ER  
Five 6:30pm

Sadly this is not a late-night version of the popular American medical drama, which is such a shame because imagine how good that would be. Substitute the crazy torrents of alien medical terms for a sizzling close-up of Dr. Kovac's rugged chest... if only. In reality, this program follows a vet as he attempts to rescue a trapped deer. So not really as steamy as the title suggests – unless you're into weird animal stuff, but lets not go there.

words/ caitlin vandertop

Thursday 12th February  
The Alan Titchmarsh  
Show  
ITV 1 3:00pm

Given this week's sex theme you may be surprised to see this recommendation. However, a number of my friends over the years have admitted to having a soft spot and even the occasional dream about the green-fingered god that is Alan Titchmarsh. So much so, that Alan is often referred to, albeit not always in jest I hasten to add, as somewhat of a sex symbol (hence his chat show's inclusion in this week's TV Picks). So why not tune in to see Alan's daily chat show which according to the official blurb 'celebrates the very best of British'.

words/ claire bowman

Friday 13th February

## Top Gear

Dave 8:00pm

There is no greater love than that of a man for his car, or so I've heard... In this episode Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May are challenged to drive from the heart of Switzerland to the North Western coast of England on just one tank of fuel. As an incentive, the first one to arrive will get to turn on the Blackpool Illuminations. Even if you aren't a huge fan of motoring, after Jeremy Clarkson's recent assessment of Gordon Brown as a 'one-eyed Scottish idiot', you just can't help but feel the love!

words/ hannah perlin

Saturday 14th February

## 100 Greatest Sex Symbols

E4 9:00pm

I'm pretty sure this countdown show is aimed at those staying in with friends and junk food this Valentine's Day, as four hours looking at sex symbols will make good background viewing for this kind of night in. However, if you can see past the depressing nature of the target audience this is probably one of the better countdown shows, providing plenty of eye candy and light-hearted entertainment. If you watch it for long enough you may even forget that not only are you staying in on a Saturday, but that it's also Valentine's Day and everyone else in Leeds appears to be having romantic nights out with people who love them.

words/ hatti cawley

Sunday 15th February

## Sex: How to Do Everything

Fiver: 10:00pm

Channel 5 and its sister digital channel 'fiver' are notorious for being unable to resist sex based programming, and the day after Valentine's is no exception. Single students need not despair at their lack of cards/presents, as here they can enjoy snooping on others sex lives, and maybe pick up some tips on how to entice 'the one'. Sex: How to Do Everything is a ten-part instructional series offering 'a fresh approach to sex advice'. Presented by American sex gurus Emma Taylor and Lorelei Sharkey, the programme aims to show the nation how to have better sex, shed inhibitions and broaden sexual horizons. Does what it says on the tin really.

words/ hatti cawley

Monday 16th February

## 90210

E4 9:00pm

I'm guessing most telly addicts will already be addicted to this modern remake of the 90's classic, as we're already five episodes into the first series. However, if you have been missing out there is still time! You can catch up online and enjoy this amazing series, with actors which make the cast of the OC look like absolute mingers. For longer-term fans, this week sees the opening night of the school musical approach and Ty begins planning an after show party with Anna. Whilst on the darker side of town, Naomi still has difficulty accepting her parents divorce and Adrianna is confronted about her substance abuse problem. It's like Hollyoaks on steroids.

words/ hatti cawley



Tuesday 17th February

## Naked: Nurses

BBC3 9:00pm

Psychologist Emma Kenny and image consultant Jonathan Phang launch an extremely radical self-confidence building course, in which a group of professionals undertake a series of challenges designed to help their self-esteem at work and at home. Five nurses are chosen to perform a sexy burlesque striptease show in Soho. During the four-day preparation course, they have to speak in front of the Oxford Union, throw themselves out of a plane at 13,000 feet and confront relationships that are holding them back. So watch out for the 'naughty nurses' taking to your screens!

words/ amy harker

Wednesday 18th February

## Louis Theroux's Weird

### Weekends

Watch 9:00pm

Louis Theroux gives viewers the chance to get a brief glimpse into the worlds of people that you would not normally come into contact with or experience up close. He continues his journey to southern California, a land of unlimited possibilities and home to swingers-couples who are strangers to monogamy. Louis meets an outgoing couple from southern California who have been hosting swinging parties for countless years. He visits one of these very popular parties to find out what drives couples to want to swap their partners. Highly entertaining, this documentary explores the world of the weird and wacky!

words/ amyharker

Thursday 19th February

## Friends

E4 8:00pm

Chandler and Monica find themselves short of funds with Chandler still on the hunt for his dream job and so they each individually turn to Joey for a loan whilst swearing him to secrecy. When Chandler, notices that Joey has already written Monica a cheque he enquires what it was for. Joey, renowned for his not so quick thinking came up with the infallible story of Monica wanting a boob job. This later escalates into an amusing crossed wires conversation regarding Monica's physical appearance and as usual Joey ends up with the blame.

words/ claire bowman

## Film of the week

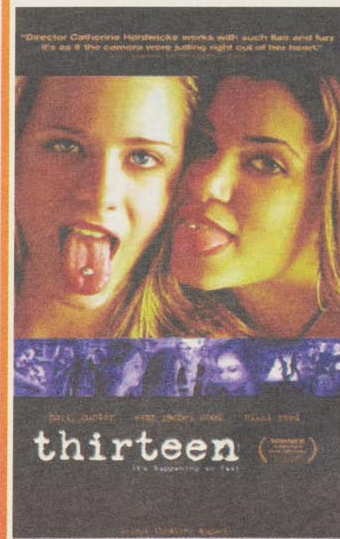
# Thirteen

Saturday 14th February

ITV2 11:10pm

This film is based around a 13 year old girl called Tracy who is searching for a sense of identity. It focuses on her extremely difficult transition from being a young girl playing with her Barbie dolls, to discovering her sexuality and individuality. Upon befriending another 13 year old, Evie, who is infinitely more advanced than any other teenager I have ever met, she is lead down a path of self-destruction. Drugs, drinking, smoking and forming sexual relationships with many boys are a couple of things which arise out of their friendship. But the film also deals with the traumatic transition that some teenagers have to go through in order to find themselves when home is just too difficult for them to cope with. Tracy's character is actually based on Niki Reed's (Evie) life and therefore you really feel for the characters and the difficulty that numerous teenagers will have to deal with in order to discover their true selves.

words/ emma chetwode



## WII'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

For Nintendo, the Wii offers little more than a return to form

The Wii has been lauded as a genius move for Nintendo. Following a decade of trailing industry leader Sony, Satoru Iwata's decision to design a console which revolutionised our understanding of video games both technically and economically reversed an apparently doomed company's fortunes. Now, as the global economic decline affects even far-off Japan, the Wii continues to generate wealth for Nintendo unheard of since the NES era.

Part of what's supposed to be so wonderful about the Wii is its accessibility.



Classic controller: profit generator or nod to Nintendo's former glory?

All of the members of your family, Nintendo claims, will want to get up and play Wii Sports with you, from your newborn baby to your great-grandmother. Your mum might not have liked you playing Call of Duty 4, but she's just dying to play virtual baseball with you. The Wii, then, is the ultimate social games console. It is Nintendo's revolution. Games will never be the same again.

The only problem is that we've seen this all before.

I make no secret of the fact that I devote most of my waking hours to video games. Everyone in my building knows that they only have to knock on my door to start playing with the latest games. Admittedly, some people do. But I have never seen my room so busy as it was this week, when I dusted off my NES and started playing through the Super Mario Bros. and Mega Man games I keep on my bookshelves. I have a Wii, and an Xbox360, but no-one seems to care. They only want to know if they can have a go against Bowser.

This last week, I have hosted Super Mario Bros. drinking games, taught people where (precisely) to stand in order to avoid this Bullet Bill or that laser, explained the names of more Mario villains than I care to recall, and watched as friends of mine discovered secret 1UPs I could never have found on my own. When two friends can sit in a room doing the same thing for six hours without standing up, something special has happened. If there was ever a games console which brought people together, it's the NES.

They aren't all gamers, either. I had to explain to some of them just who Mario is.

The difficulty arises when you confuse a return to principles with innovation. With the Wii, Nintendo aren't turning a page; they're returning to form. There is one significant difference between the NES and the Wii, though. Games on the NES were accessible, but they were also of high quality. With things as they stand, the Wii runs the risk of diluting the Nintendo brand.

words/spencer greenwood

## SET YOUR DESKTOP SPINNING

Hello future. I have an email for you

If you've got a million icons, files, and programs on your desktop and struggle to find a better way to organize these, this may be the right solution for you. Otaku software enables users to organise icons and programs on multiple 3D desktop environments. You are able to switch between these using the mouse and the keyboard; by holding down Ctrl, Alt and Shift to spin the desktop the way you want.

This software is free to use for 14 days, however requires a payment after this period. It also only works on Windows 2000, XP and Vista.

Nevertheless, it is easy and quick to install. Users may also customise the visual appearance of each desktop and leave documents or web pages open and accessible while working on multiple programs. It's worth a trial.

words/ana santos



Six faces of fun: Seeing your windows spin around on a 3D cube may be just the distraction from work you need

words/ana santos

## FACE THE MUSIC

Keep Facebook secure or deal with the consequences

You probably remember when you left your Facebook page open, went downstairs for a while, and when you got back to your laptop saw that your status alleged something horribly embarrassing, while some of your friends had commented on it already. Well, in America, Bryan Rutberg's Facebook status update last month caused much more turbulence than your experience, believe it or not.

"Bryan NEEDS HELP URGENTLY!!!" This was what Bryan's status alerted on the 21st of January, last month. Many of his friends saw this and immediately posted concerned messages on his public profile asking what he needed and what was happening. One of his friends, Beny Rubinstein, received a message in his inbox saying Bryan had been robbed at

gunpoint in London and needed money to get back to the US. Beny, as a good friend of Bryan's and trying to help, wired \$1,143 to London. Meanwhile, Bryan was safe and sound at his home in Seattle, knowing nothing about this.

Beny later told reporters he missed the money but was more upset that he was tricked by someone impersonating his friend online: "It's an invasion of your whole privacy, who your friends are", he told CNN.

Extortion and false impersonation have been reported in the past with regards to phone calls and fake e-mails, however it hasn't been reported on Facebook until recently. Facebook spokesman Barry Shnitz, said in a statement that impersonation schemes affect fewer than 1% of Facebook's

150 million users. He also mentioned that these problems could be arising due to the fact that the site is growing by 600,000 users per day.

Bryan warned: "all internet users should be aware of that their identities can be compromised, and every user of the web should be better educated". However as one can imagine, hacking cases like Bryan's are difficult to solve and expensive to pursue, and police in Washington are not investigating the case, alleging it is "pretty much at a dead end".

Although we may think it will never happen to us, it is worth having a look at our profile security settings on Facebook, as well as the information we give out on our personal page – you never know.

words/ana santos

## COMING TO A CINEMA NEAR YOU

Will 3D projection really add another dimension to viewing?

Disneyworld may have been doing it for over a decade, but if there's one important lesson to learn about technology in Britain: this isn't Disneyworld. We are one step closer though, now that the Odeon (still the largest cinema chain in the country apparently) has announced it's rolling out 3D screens across 30 of its cinemas.

3D films are a bit hit and miss, but a lot depends on how the effect is achieved. I still remember eagerly enjoying the pictures in *Dinosaur* magazine as a child with slightly too big a pair of red and blue filter glasses balanced on my nose. Unfortunately anaglyphic images just aren't capable of generating a convincing 3D effect once you pass the age of eight. Clubbers

who have witnessed *Novak 3D Disco* at the Union night *Bad Robot* will be able to pay testament to this fact, although many may not have read this far such will be their disillusionment with 3D projection.

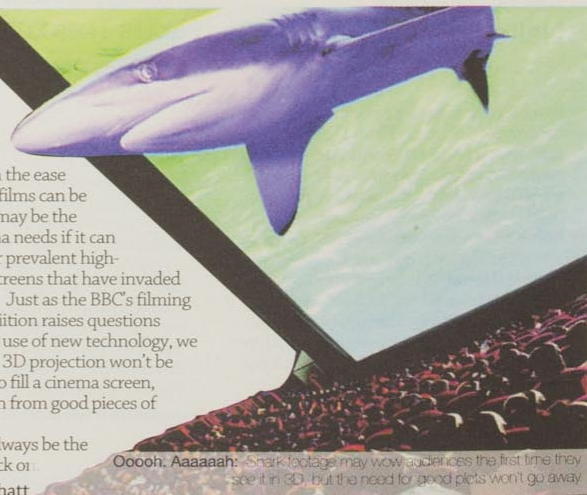
Enter polarised glasses. They'll still make you look slightly ridiculous, since even Spanish tourist resorts don't sell sunglasses designed with such emphasis on function over style, but at least the lenses aren't coloured, and the 3D effect, achieved by projecting the two different camera angles with different polarisations, is much more convincing.

Requiring a completely new projection system (but offering 1080 lines of resolution into the bargain) the new set up will not have

come cheap, but given the ease with which animated films can be converted into 3D, it may be the stimulation the cinema needs if it can compete with the ever prevalent high-definition high-area screens that have invaded Britain's living rooms. Just as the BBC's filming of *Doctors* in high definition raises questions about the appropriate use of new technology, we must live in hope that 3D projection won't be seen as the only way to fill a cinema screen, becoming a distraction from good pieces of cinema.

Of course, there will always be the local screens to fall back on.

words/john puddephatt



Ooooh. Aaaaaah: Shark footage may wow audiences the first time they see it in 3D, but the need for good pics won't go away



## Manic street preachers

**A**s I was casually strolling back to my house in Hyde Park after another strenuous day at Uni I was accosted by two youths who emerged suddenly from the darkness to block my path. Clad in expensive looking suits and wearing disarmingly confident grins, these were no ordinary muggers. They represented something far more sinister, something that would make the usual pre-teen nocturnal bandits that stalk the streets of Hyde Park run for cover. For these two young gentlemen were not after my phone, my iPod or even my fresh new copy of Leeds Student. They were after my soul, and no less. They were Mormons.

"Hey, are you going this way?" the first one asked me, his voice tainted with the thick drawl of a mid-Western American accent. Slightly taken aback by his upfront manner I responded that yes, I was indeed walking in the direction he was indicating, as indeed I obviously had been before he asked me. "Oh cool! We're going that way too!" Well, you weren't, I felt like replying, you were standing on the corner waiting for the next innocent bystander to walk past so you could assault him with your religious claptrap. I kept walking, praying that God would spare me this encounter and make them disappear. Unfortunately it appeared that God was on their side, and soon I was being subjected to an intense line of questioning. "So, have you ever just thought to yourself that life just doesn't make sense?" came the first well rehearsed question. Yes, I thought, especially when I find myself being interrogated by two bizarre American strangers on a cold, dark night.

They insisted on kindly offering me a free copy of the book of Mormon which I warned them I probably would not read. I'd like to think that my reasoning was fair; I said that to make a balanced judgement on the book's authenticity I'd have to read all the other major religious texts and make a comparison, something which, frankly, I don't have time for. They then assured me, as most religious folk do, that their version of events is definitely the right one, but congratulated me on my open approach. And so we parted on amicable terms, me smugly revelling in my superior sense of rationality and them secretly smugly thinking how I will one day go to hell along with all the other ignorant non-Mormons.

What exactly is in it for all these manic street preachers and doorstep clerics? Do they genuinely want to save us from going to hell, or are they more interested in the contents of our wallet than our wretched souls? After the Mormons released me from their passive-aggressive interrogation I found they had slipped what can only be described as a flyer into my pocket, featuring a pretty picture of Jesus as well as a website and phone number. The site featured a "free" introductory video after which viewers were encouraged to donate to the church if they felt their souls needed further saving. Part of me couldn't help thinking that I had been treated as more of a quick investment than someone in need of spiritual guidance. Oh well, it turns out that the book of Mormon makes for great toilet reading, so all was not lost (except for, perhaps, my soul).

words/ paul haydon



## Snow fun

**W**alking home through Hyde Park last Friday evening, I set to thinking what I might put into this article. The sun had just set and the contrast between the dusky orange of the sky and the blue-white of the snow was really quite beautiful.

My iPod was playing The Kinks' 'Waterloo Sunset' and a vague plan was forming in my head that involved buying some biscuits in One-Stop and dipping them in a warming mug of coffee once I was home. These brisk, snowy days aren't so bad after all I thought to myself. Then I slipped on the ice and fell heavily on my arse.

Now I have a bruise the size and colour of a nine-day-old mango and probably won't be sorry to see the back of this Arctic weather. By the time this is published it should have all gone. It has all gone hasn't it? If it hasn't look out for my disgruntled self waddling round campus like a penguin with a bruised arse.

Though I must confess that snow, or more particularly people's responses to it, raised many smiles last week. In what other circumstance would The Guardian offer its readers advice on 'How To Walk Like A Penguin'? And there was only one story on BBC News 24:

Anchorman: "Now the latest news: it's snowing. In other news: everyone's stuck in the snow. Jenny, what's happening where you are?"

Snow Correspondent: "Well Clive, it appears to be snowing."

"Thanks, Jenny. We've had an email from Tim in Shrewsbury, he says 'Ooh, look at the snow, its all cold and white.' Thanks for that Tim, remember to keep your snow-related emails coming in."

My flat mate is a skier, and reacted to the first snowfall with more excitement than could have been mustered by anyone except Santa. On speed.

And with nearly all of Britain under the same blanket of snow, for a short time it seemed everyone in the country had something in common to grumble, or laugh or just to talk about.

Indeed, I read an article on the BBC website which suggested that snow has a unique power to subvert social norms. When else would anyone tolerate strangers lobbing cold projectiles in their direction?

Snowballing reached near-anarchic levels last week. Returning home from the pub last Monday, three friends and I indulged in a little casual snowball throwing, only to find ourselves embroiled in a pitched battle with eight militant snowballers, all complete strangers. At one point I honestly thought they were going to take the house.

The Battle of Regent Park Terrace, as historians will remember it, ended in us keeping our house. However I did take a snowball to the face. One of the hard ones no less.

So in conclusion, I have learned that snow is fun for a little while but soon becomes, quite literally, a pain in the arse. And the face.

words/ charles cooper



## Paraskevidekatriaphobia

**L**ast week I was at Otley hospital arranging an operation and as the nurse flicked through the available dates I laughed; there was an entirely blank date in the operating theatre. "Nobody wants that day!" I smiled. My Dad couldn't see which day we were referring to and asked which it was.

I was surprised by his reaction when the nurse told him it was Friday the 13th of February - I had never considered him to be superstitious.

"No way!" He said, suddenly becoming animated. "13th of February is a black day for the Macdonald's... and if it's a Friday, you can't have that date!" he said intriguingly.

Later he explained why. On the 13th of February 1692 seventy-eight members of the Macdonald Clan had been murdered by orders of the Secretary of State for Scotland. The 'Massacre of Glencoe' was an infamous act of ethnic cleansing, regarded as the beginning of the destruction of the Highlanders.

My Dad then told me another family account. On February 13th 1943 my Grandpa's Lancaster bomber had crash landed in Lincolnshire whilst returning from a raid over Germany. Knocked unconscious, Jim's colleagues pulled him out of the wreckage moments before the plane exploded. His mother Hannah was informed that he was dead. Later that day she was informed that her younger son William Macdonald had been lost when his merchant ship was torpedoed off Murmansk. After six weeks in hospital Jim returned home and eighteen months later Hannah answered the door to a ghostly apparition of William, who had had been pulled out of the icy Arctic waters. He weighed six stone, his skeletal frame evidence of a struggle with starvation and typhoid. To say Hannah had a nasty fright would be a gross understatement. Luck is a "wholly other" concept.

Friday the 13th brings on paralysing fear for the sufferers of the P- word. To others it's a complete joke. For me, history dictates that Friday the 13th of February could go a number of ways. I could receive terrible news that could eventually prove false, or someone could save my life. It could be an uneventful day but with my luck that's highly unlikely.

I am what you would call 'accident prone'. One Sunday when I was nine I returned home from Church Parade to my dad showing me the charred remains of my bedroom carpet, the fire noticed by sheer luck. My brother had returned to the empty house after forgetting his wallet to find that my bedroom was ablaze. I wept uncontrollably while receiving the quintessential no bluff bollocking. It was ironic that I was wearing a 'Fire Safety Awareness' badge on my Brownie sash. Throwing clothes and a wet towel on-top of a clip-on IKEA lamp wasn't exactly being safe or aware.

So if you need me I'm in bed. Hopefully I'll still be breathing but I definitely won't be answering the door...

words/ jess macdonald

# "I stand for..."

VOTE IN THE **STUDENT EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS** FROM 13TH FEBRUARY TO 19TH FEBRUARY. READ THEIR MANIFESTOS ONLINE AT [WWW.LUONLINE.COM/ELECTIONS](http://WWW.LUONLINE.COM/ELECTIONS)

## Activities Officer:



"A union that works for everyone..."  
**Fikir Assefa**



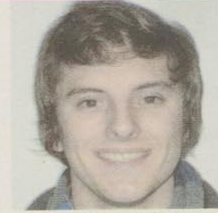
"Space, Sports and Funding..."  
**James Oliver**



"A Society a day, helps work and play..."  
**Josh Landy**



"Banish careerism, enable interaction, achieve greatness..."  
**Marya Yasin**



"Bringing Activities Together..."  
**Owen Bradley**



"Representing you with experience, passion and proven success..."  
**Rowena Skinner**

## Communications & Internal Affairs Officer:



"Listening to YOU; cheaper food, buses and laptops..."  
**Guy Mitchell**



"For an affordable LUU that puts students first..."  
**Jak Codd**



"Fighting for your interests, not mine"  
**Joshua Jones**

## Community Officer



"Positive, collective action in our community..."  
**Hannah Greenslade**



"For Experience, Passion, Safety and Community..."  
**Rob Damiao**

## Education Officer:



"24 hour Libraries; second hand books; faster employment..."  
**Abdulrahman Alhadithi**



"Greater funding, longer opening hours, future focus..."  
**Alice Isbell**



"No nonsense..."  
**Jack Smith**



"Experience, new ideas, a better academic life..."  
**Mike Gladstone**



"For an active, inclusive, accessible and fair union..."  
**Eva Georgiou**



"Celebrating diversity, unbiased debate and student-led campaigns..."  
**Sophia James**

## Equality and Diversity Officer:

## Welfare Officer:



"Making happier students..."  
**Madeline Harris-Smith**



"Representation, Participation, Safety, Transparency, Quality, Healthiness, Integration, Productivity..."  
**Yacoub Al-Ouri**

## Leeds Student Editor



"For Societies, Ideas, Quality; change that students appreciate..."  
**Claire Freeston**



"For interaction and information. For entertainment and experience..."  
**John Puddephatt**



"New opportunities for involvement and experience..."  
**Virginia Newman**

# POUS

to fuck for cash.  
Leeds who supplement their  
down to learn more.

then afterwards they paid me. I don't feel like, you know, a male whore or whatever. I only meet guys that I fancy anyway, so it's like a bonus.

**Tim:** Ages ago, at a dinner party funnily enough. It's not like some big deal though. You make it sound like a career choice! I suppose it is (laughs), yeah, I suppose you could say that.

**LS: What do you do?**

**Kurt:** Haha, shut up, you know what I do! (Pause) I go to their hotel, I watch TV, I fall asleep. (Smiles)

**Matthew:** When people think of a gay escort they think of some muscular tanned guy with a bowtie around his neck and whipped cream. Yes, I have sex, but only if I want to. Sometimes I meet someone and they're nothing like the photos they emailed me, so I just say sorry mate and leave.

**Tim:** Haha. Wouldn't you like to know! (LS: Yes...) Well, whatever they want really, within reason. I usually have a few drinks. The sex trade or whatever you call it is massive. I'm sure you get brothels full of drugs addicts and all that, but this is different. It's just an exchange, a simple exchange. Nothing a shower can't wash off!

**LS: Is it just men?**

**Kurt:** Yeah, totally. I'd probably do a woman, but I don't know how to go about it. I already have enough guys in my phone, it's not a full-time job!

**Tim:** You mean who I meet? Yes, just men, they're easy to meet, it's straightforward and I know what I'm doing.

**Matthew:** Yeah, although one guy I saw dressed up as a woman. It was odd, when I think of that night it's like remembering some fucked up film or something!

**LS: How much do you earn?**

**Kurt:** No comment! (Pause) A lot of people want it for practically nothing though. It's so easy for gay guys to just find a shag anyway. So it's mainly gross guys, rich guys or married guys. I don't do

gross guys (laughs).

**Matthew:** It's good money obviously, I wouldn't do it otherwise. I've never had problems with people paying either. There are some types of people that I just don't go with; people that I suspect could be problematic. Once someone said they didn't have any money, so I said I was going to take his DVD collection, and then suddenly he found some money. They're probably married and scared!

**Tim:** No comment! I know you want to know. You can just think what you like. Millions and millions!

**LS: When will it stop?**

**Matthew:** When I get a job and a partner I suppose. I'd never say no to someone attractive.

**Kurt:** When I get too old, like, next year

It's mainly  
gross guys,  
rich guys or  
married  
guys. I don't  
do gross  
guys.



or something. 22's getting old, like every year adds 5 years to the age of the guy if you know what I mean. I don't really wanna do old guys, like old old. When you're 18 they just want you whatever, but when you're in your 20s you're like a real escort I suppose.

**Tim:** Who knows! When I get bored.

I was shocked and perhaps impressed even by the complacent and casual answers that the three guys gave. They all study respectable courses, go to the same student clubs, wear the same clothes. What is most striking and perhaps the biggest differentiation from street walkers is that none of these guys are forced to prostitute themselves. Kurt boasts how "Once I needed to change my bed sheets, like they got beer all over them at a house party and I just thought fuck it - texted one of my guys and spent the night in the Hilton! It was ace." All three boys have student loans and financial support from their parents, for them Sex for Exchange is a kind of university hobby; perhaps we could even say extreme sport? Unsatisfied with my failure in finding out how much money they earn, I asked around a few friends and discovered that several of them had been propositioned themselves. One arts student told me: "I've turned down propositions. Someone offered to pay me £25 an hour if he could just sit and suck my cock all night in a hotel once."

In many ways the gay community benefit from a patriarchal system, an almost ancient Greek exchange of sex and wisdom. Since homosexuality is swept under the carpet throughout education, men are forced to embark upon their own journeys of self-discovery, and so encountering slightly older guys is essential in learning the ropes in a sexuality that certainly has a lot to learn about.

Is there really that much difference between a man buying a girl six drinks in Gatecrasher and a man paying a student for sex? At least with the latter there are no ulterior motives, the cards are all laid face-up on the table.

What is most interesting is how Kurt, Matthew and Tim are probably amongst hundreds of undergraduates who have sold their sex. They are living proof that the demographic of the sex industry operates across all levels, regardless of creed and class. All three tell me that they would never tell their children in the future about their 'phase' at university. Tim puts it simply, "Why would I? Do any parents talk to their kids about sexual encounters?", which begs the question as to how many of us have fathers who sold sex in their youth? An interesting thought. We begin to understand how sex is the oldest business in the world and how it will always persist. We realise how some of the ten year olds being awarded gold stars in classrooms around the country this morning will find themselves in four star hotels in 2019.

NAMES IN THIS ARTICLE HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE INTERVIEWED.

Interviews and words: Jack Cullen

# Complaint culture

Endless manufactured media outrage against broadcasters is a depressing reflection on our priorities



**Tim Boden**  
Second-year Politics student  
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It is rare now that a week passes without another scandal emerging in the world of broadcasting. In only the past couple of weeks, flurries of complaints have rushed in over both a racist remark made by Carol Thatcher, and the choice to sack her afterwards. Jeremy Clarkson has apologised for referring to Gordon Brown as a 'one-eyed Scottish idiot' at a news conference. Jonathan Ross has only recently made his return to television after the interminable Sachs saga. We live in a complaint culture. Fury at trivial mistakes is not just expected, but encouraged.

The subjects of offensive language and the bounds of taste have been done to death by commentators. However, another bothersome undercurrent of the endless media scandals is exactly who is making all these complaints, and why?

No doubt, most of us could on any given day find something to be offended by on television or radio, from the senseless waste of life reported on the news, to the patronising nonsense served up as entertainment. Most of us, however, are capable of operating an off switch. If really vexed, we may grumble to a partner, friend or pot plant, or perhaps hurl something in the direction of the set. It takes a particularly intense outrage to drive people to ring up producers and demand their pound of flesh.

It is a depressing reflection on human nature that we are willing to sit idly by while atrocities are committed on a daily basis, not only worldwide but frequently on our own doorsteps, but we'll be roused to action by a broadcaster making a ill-thought-out remark. Maybe the success of 'complaint culture' is precisely because it is so trivial – when real politics offers the same from all sides, and protest takes a lot of hard work to succeed, complaining to broadcasters means one can vent one's rage without ever getting up from

the sofa.

However, maybe the real amount and power of complaints has been overstated. While people can and do make comments to

It is a depressing reflection on human nature that we are willing to sit by while atrocities are committed

broadcasters of their own volition, the real floods only come in when people have been told to be outraged by someone else.

This someone else is generally a print

journalist, and that's where another agenda comes into play. Newspapers are owned by media conglomerates. These media conglomerates are rivals to broadcasters, and thus stand to benefit from turning their readership against broadcast media. Moral crusading and polemic sell papers. Anger makes for a more interesting read than even-handed contemplation. Furthermore, the public can make their voices heard with little thought or effort on this issue, compared to other potential subjects of protest. The result? A hesitant, wary, defanged broadcast media, reluctant to pursue innovation or boldness. Which suits media barons just fine, but has little benefit for the public.

That said, broadcasters themselves have not helped their case – with constant phone-ins and exhortations to 'have your say', the public have been given the impression that television and radio are in some way democratic, that we are in fact entitled for them to satisfy our every whim. This is, plainly, unworkable.

The power behind some of these media crusades clearly demonstrates that the general public are not as apathetic as they are often claimed to be. It is just a shame that it is directed to such trivial ends, for the end benefit of so few.

# The sham of Union 'democracy'

A group of self-destructive anticapitalists have subversively duped students to further their goals and restrict freedom of choice



**Matthew Power**  
First-year Spanish student  
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With this semester's referendum just around the corner, the inevitable harassment of students in and around Leeds University Union (LUU) is in the reckoning, with flyers being shoved in your mouth here, there and everywhere.

LUU promotes democracy with their annual student executive elections and multiple referenda. The idea of this democratic process is to actively practise free speech with a 'platform' policy and equal rights. However, is it not a basic right to buy a bottle of water to hydrate yourself? Or do we now have to buy a chemically packed fizzy drinks instead, because a group of narrow-minded and brainwashed tree huggers aren't in the real world?

Experts advise that even the old recommendation of eight glasses of water per

day may not be sufficient to keep the body hydrated. If students spend the majority of their time on the University campus then that is where they are going to consume the majority of their water.

Do we now have to buy fizzy drinks because of a group of tree huggers?

All that is now going to happen is that students will either turn to Coca Cola or not buy at all, possibly causing dehydration, affecting their academic performance and general physical and mental health and leaving a gap in LUU's finances.

If we're going to ban bottled water then what about Coca Cola and Lucozade? There's clearly no difference as they all come from the same manufacturers and are made from the same materials.

What these bottled water oppressors don't realise is that £32,940 will be missing from the pot at LUU and this is going to directly affect the funding of the societies of which they are members.

This isn't the first time that a motion such as this has been passed. The 'Paper bags, not plastic' motion was passed in 2007 and now Leeds Students don't have the choice of a plastic bag or a paper bag to take their shopping home in. It is common sense that a paper bag is going to turn in to mush on a rainy day and having your shopping thrown all over the Hyde Park is not the most pleasing of experiences.

LUU also need to be questioned. Are they deadly serious in charging 25 pence for a brown paper bag? It costs 30 pence to print a copy of Leeds Student newspaper in full colour.

Nestlé is also a tender issue for Leeds students. In the 2007 referendum it was decided that LUU would continue to boycott the company's products. But what if you fancy a Kit Kat? It is the choice of each individual student to decide whether to boycott the company's products or not, depending on their own ethics and opinions. First year students didn't get the chance to vote in the 2007 referendum and so haven't been given the choice to participate in the boycott or not. Now, we're living in the shadow of the students that aren't even here anymore and are off in the real world drinking bottled water, eating Smarties and taking them home in plastic bags.

I'm not saying I'm going to go out of my

way to use as many plastic bottles as I can, I understand that Nestlé isn't the most ethical company on this earth but all that is needed is

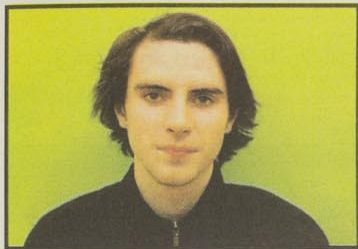
It is the decision of each student whether to boycott the company's products

democracy and some common sense. A referendum is the best way to make decisions in and around LUU. However, there are just some decisions that should just be left down to the individual. If certain products are not sold then LUU would soon remove them from its shelves. There are far too many people on ego trips trying to make a name for themselves with these ridiculous motions.



# Unionise me, bitch

The recent case a forced withdrawal of a *Leeds Student* candidate highlights how easy it is to poke holes in Union democracy



**Rob Heath**  
Comment Editor  
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It's election time again and Union politics is once more engulfed in scandal as a candidate for the *Leeds Student* editorship, Claire Freeston, was disqualified just two days before the ballot boxes opened, though she was reinstated by the Steering Committee on Thursday night. So far, so boring. What makes this withdrawal interesting is the fact that Freeston was removed after (bear with me) it was pointed out that there is a policy enacted by a referendum motion from November 2006 barring her from standing due to arbitrary numerical limits.

So let's get this straight. Your student Union pays huge sums of money - money that could

be given to funding societies and enabling students to get more out of their time at University - to the people in charge of running elections, only for them to remain completely oblivious to something as high-profile as a referendum result. What are you, the electorate, the very core of this Union going to do about it? Nothing? Yep, probably. It seems that no-one outside of a small, hardcore group of Unionites actually care enough about Union politics to actually do anything.

The bye-laws of Leeds University Union (section 2.20, in fact) state that the Returning Officer is obliged to check the applications of everyone running for election. Why is it that he didn't? Could it be that outside of the policy document, which I believe the Returning Officer isn't mandated to check, the ineligibility of candidates isn't mentioned once? Could this, in turn, be why someone ineligible for election under current policy was allowed as far as two days away from election before a concerned student decided to point out that she wasn't able to? How can we call our Union democratically-run when the mechanisms for implementing this 'democracy' are seemingly completely implicit? According to policy documents, the Returning Officer is appointed by the Union Council - again, voted for by students. Does your lack of control bother you yet?

Our Returning Officer is well qualified for the responsibility: he's Regional Organising Manager for the National Union of Students North, Midlands and East. He knows the

Vote in the election. Put your ideas forward to referendum. It's your union.

gravity of his role as arbiter of elections, and the policy documents outlining his role are available online, so there's surely no reasonable case against him for his failure to apply this policy. Referenda that pass should be written into policy immediately, and written into it in such a manner that mistakes like 'Freestongate' aren't able to happen.

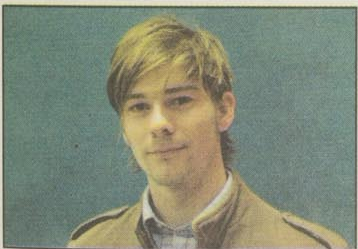
Meanwhile, it transpires that the current Editor of the *Leeds Student*, Laurie Whitwell, was unaware of the policy that the Returning Officer ruled on, while, by his own admission, he is required to have some responsibility for ensuring the eligibility of the candidates. Why was this? Whitwell puts it down to the sheer amount of Union bureaucracy: "To read all of it would send you mad, but for such an important piece of legislation to get lost after just two years is mind-boggling." He then added: "It's a baffling severing of communication."

The retroactive withdrawal of the candidate at this late stage, for what was no individual's mistake, seemed positively cruel. The Steering Committee who met on Thursday had the power to overrule the Returning Officer's judgment and reinstated Freeston on the back of her experience. Let's hope their judgement was for the betterment of our wobbly democracy.

Serious questions need to be asked about the failures of our Union democracy. This Union requires the participation of everyone. So vote in the election. Put your ideas forward to referendum. Join the Union's "Keep your Coins - I want Change" campaign. Complain if you feel wronged. After all, it is your union: make it work, and make it work for you.

# Blame it on the impoverished

Refugees the world over are unduly criticised for the superficial problems faced by people



**Lawrence Carter**  
English Masters graduand  
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*'Laid out on the beach before me was a writhing mess of human misery. Three rows of about 75 men lay face down, bogged, roasting in the hot sun. Their captors, a team of about eight Thai Royal Navy stood among them in long sleeved, blaze orange neoprene shirts, all of them stone faced and equipped with an M16. All but one. He held a cat-of-nine tails and walked back and forth whipping the helpless men in his charge.'*

Just over a month ago I received this disturbing email from a friend in Thailand describing the horrific scenes that he had witnessed on the picturesque Similan Islands. Although he did not know it at the time, these acts of brutality formed part of a savage new Thai policy towards Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

It has subsequently emerged that the Thai military have been severely beating asylum seekers before placing them on flimsy boats and towing them

The total lack of empathy shown towards the vulnerable betrays a failure of basic human values

back out to sea. Provided with little food or water, the Rohingya are then left to die as they drift upon the open ocean.

The reason for this treatment is that the Thai government see the Muslim Rohingya as a security threat. Army officials claim, without any evidence, that refugees could join the ongoing Muslim-led separatist movement in Southern

Thailand and that they consequently represent a danger to the state. This is an all too common rhetorical ploy amongst those who seek to turn refugees away from their borders. Whether it is the BNP, The Daily Mail or the Thai military, the tactic is to assume the position of victim and portray the refugee as a threat.

The perversity of this role reversal is breathtaking. The average Daily Mail reader will, at worst, have a regular income, a roof over their head and three square meals a day. Yet the newspaper is awash with venomous attacks upon the UK's asylum system and the amount of 'hardworking taxpayers' money that is wasted upon it. Although the newspaper took a sympathetic position on the plight of the Rohingya, the negative attitudes that it has fostered towards refugees means that many of its readers are not so generous. One comment posted on its website and approved by 179 people, read: 'how long before the bleeding hearts demand their entry into [the] UK along with their Guantanamo brothers?'

This statement is symptomatic of the ruthless attitude that has led the Thai military to carry out their appalling human rights abuses. The total lack of empathy and, even worse, the outright hostility shown towards some of the most vulnerable human beings imaginable betrays a failure of basic human values that is alarmingly prevalent. While the majority of people in this country would condemn Thailand's actions, a significant number

would do so largely due to the extreme nature of its actions, rather than out of any solidarity with the cause of the Rohingya people.

Similarly, when domestic debate turns to the forcible removal of refused asylum seekers, many of whom have had their applications turned down in controversial circumstances, these same people point out the costs to the tax payer and question whether we should enable the UK Borders Agency to use more force. An article in the Daily Express, for example, tacitly laments the fact that 'UK Border Agency staff can only use approved restraint methods, and [that] any attempt to drug the asylum seeker would be deemed unlawful.'

Although the cost of the UK asylum system is significant, I believe that it represents outstanding value for money. While the government wages war in two countries, bails out our banks and allows corporations to avoid paying billions in tax, spending money on saving fellow humans from potential torture and death ought to be something we celebrate. Instead the issue of asylum has revealed a moral fault line in society. While there are those who are proud of our role in providing a safe haven for refugees, there are others who worry about how this might negatively influence their own lives. To these people asylum seekers are negative headlines in newspapers rather than fellow humans. I would advise them to reread the first paragraph of this article, so eloquently written by my friend Noel, and question how different they really are from the Thai authorities.

# The editor's sex test

As the man who engineered this sex special it seemed only right he should be the one to put the speediest clinic in Leeds through its paces

Getting tested for sexually transmitted diseases is often a mythologised process loaded with rumour and falsehoods. As a member of the male population, about to embark on my first sex test, I inevitably worried about having something Mary Poppins would float from the sky with inserted in a place only a nanny like her should see. Memories of my housemate's rather crass warning that, "They shove an umbrella up your cock," circulated in my mind like a hamster on speed.

So it was with trepidation that I walked to Oxford Chambers, an archaic-looking building home to the Terrance Higgins Trust (THT), an HIV and sexual health charity that specialises in fast-track sex tests for students and under-25s. Situated opposite The Light (there's an analogy in there somewhere but bugger me if I can find it) on Oxford Place the THT runs free sessions twice a week for people who want to be checked for STIs quickly and confidentially. The clinic is famed for its ability to test for HIV in just 15 minutes with only a pinprick of blood.

Naomi, manager of the THT in Leeds explains the ethos behind the clinic: "It's what we call community testing. So it's very informal, relaxed environment, separate from NHS clinical services. Your records will be kept completely confidential. It's a drop-in, with no appointments. You just turn up."

Once you have just turned up and into the building there is only one route down to the level the THT occupies, via a small lift. The six-foot square space forces a few moments of awkward silences should you be squeezed in with another human pincushion looking for sexual peace of mind – a situation that befell me later in my visit – you can't really

make small talk about HIV.



ONLY A LITTLE PRICK: The nurse who came with a smile forces blood from the 'deceased' hand of an editor

Photo: Ali Hung

Any anxiety is offset as soon as I walk through the entrance though. The atmosphere of the THT is very different to NHS services and is one designed to put you at ease. Carpet replaces rubber floors, t-shirt and jeans are worn instead of smocks and radio music plays in place of tannoy announcements.

"The THT in Leeds is unique for people under 25 and students, who are identified as the 'at-risk' group," Naomi tells me later, "It's very simple for those kinds of people to come along here so the more complex cases can get seen at the GUM clinic."

"It was set up as a pilot two and a half years ago because the waiting times at GUM were so long. So it's really for people who haven't got any symptoms but are concerned about sexual health just because they're sexually active."

Without wanting to be too candid it transpires I fall into the group the clinic is specifically aimed at, which helps with the authenticity of this trial run. I ask for a test at the desk and am handed a self-assessment questionnaire determined to work out how much risk I'd put myself at. After liaising over my answers with nurse Laura I was told I was a 'low-risk' patient – sigh of relief.

As I enter the consultation room I ask Laura if any dialogue between nurse and testee has ever caused any raised eyebrows: "Nothing shocks us any more! We've seen and heard most stories."

"If people don't want to disclose information it's up to them. Sometimes it helps though as they don't have realistic view of sexually transmitted diseases and talking can help that. People may have false concerns."

Laura's easy humour coupled with a warming Yorkshire accent encourages open speaking. Our discussion leaves me feeling fully informed when opting for my tests: a pee-in-a-pot for

EDIT THIS: Can anyone else smell the fear?  
Photo: Ali Hung



Chlamydia and the Abbott Determine for HIV.

The latter comes first. "You must be clinically dead," Laura jokes after feeling my cold hands. A moment of rubbing commences before she braves the jab – a very small scratch – which leads to a few minutes of squeezing blood from the tip of my icy finger before we have enough to dab onto the paper gauge. "It is usually a lot quicker than this," she offers in mock apology.

15 minutes later and I'm called back for the results. "You're negative!" I'm told gleefully. A minuscule line in one section of the paper strip compared to another is apparently the difference between being given life-changing news. This quick test can only indicate a positive result and would need to be confirmed by three separate blood tests but it is still a stark illustration of the thin line we sometimes tread in our mission to get laid.

The THT's other main aim is to reduce the spread of Chlamydia, a disease that's on the rise in Leeds. According to oft-quoted stats (from a 2007 survey) one in ten under 25s in the UK currently has Chlamydia without being aware, while those in the 16-24 age bracket account for nearly half of all STI diagnoses.

"Part of the reason Chlamydia is so widespread," Laura explains, "is that most people with the infection have no symptoms, and it only takes one sexual encounter to pass it on. If left untreated Chlamydia can lead to serious health problems, including infertility."

I gulp in anticipation. "We ask that

you haven't been to the toilet in the last two hours as it takes that period to allow the bacteria to develop – it can give a false negative if enough time hasn't elapsed."

Luckily my bladder hadn't moved in the last 120 minutes so I could produce a sample in full knowledge that the results would be accurate. Delivering into the small cylindrical container is a bit of a logistical challenge – 'How to hold? When to release?' – but one managed after only

Last year's Valentine's Night was packed! There were loads of couples waiting to be tested.

the briefest of struggles. I chirpily drop the package off at reception afterwards.

On the dintel of the THT, Laura says: "We often get couples in, who've just started a sexual relationship and want to get a full scan together. We also get groups of friends come in together, which is great because it gets people talking about sexual health."

"Last year Valentine's Night fell on a Thursday and it was packed!" she says, "There were couples, groups of girls and boys. Freshers' Week is always a busy time, we usually get through 25 tests a night during that period."

As I make my excuses to leave I'm offered bountiful condoms, lube and a C card, a bit of merchandise that entitles any under-25 to free condoms and morning after pills at certain outlets. Useful.

At the time of going to press my mobile remained eerily silent on the matter of Chlamydia. By the time you're reading this I will hopefully know though, buy me a drink in the Old Bar if you're intrigued.

**The THT operates on Mondays and Thursdays, 4pm till 8pm. They ask people to try to arrive by 7pm as the whole appointment can take up to an hour, after waiting to be seen and getting your results.**

**There is a special Chlamydia Screening on Briggate, Friday 13, look out for the big tent. Visit [leedssexualhealth.com](http://leedssexualhealth.com) for more info.**

Laurie Whitwell

# LS Sport

## COMMENT

### Fans are priced out by club bosses' greed

The recession has an incredible domino affect. Here's a basic affect on football; football fan loses job, football fan can't afford ticket prices, football club loses revenue, and finally, football club becomes bankrupt. Therefore, common sense would dictate that clubs need to offer ticket prices in line with the current economic climate. Manchester United and Tottenham have proven this week that they are not dictated by the aforementioned common sense.

Man United's new ticket policy is to literally steal from its fans' bank accounts, while Spurs' new credit crunch fighting policy involves asking fans to pay for the next two seasons' season ticket in one colossal, bank balance-breaking lump.

The commercial dynamos at Old Trafford created the compulsory 'Automatic Cup Scheme' which forces season ticket holders to buy tickets for cup games (although they are generously allowed to opt out of Carling Cup games) whether they like

it or not. As a result of this scheme, the Old Trafford faithful were furious to find last week that their beloved club had lifted prices of up to £50 out of their bank accounts for the Inter Milan game, which takes place in eight weeks

time. I can picture it now, the Glazer brothers donning balaclavas, stripey jumpers and dollar sign bags, sneaking into your bank account late at night.

Spurs fans were equally enraged by their club's recession-solving offer,

which generously promises to freeze ticket prices for two years, but here's the punch line...season ticket holders need to pay for both seasons by April. That could mean that the fan who currently sits in the cheapest parts of the ground would have to pay out £1,600 in the next eight weeks.

Both clubs need to look down the leagues to Bradford City. The Bantams have won awards for their forward thinking ticket policies which offered season tickets as low as £99 in December. I'm not suggesting Man United and Spurs should drop their prices this low, but they should take inspiration from the success of Bradford's initiatives, such as their famous quid a kid scheme.

Most importantly, as Niall Quinn said this week as he offered Sunderland fans reduced ticket prices, "football clubs have a moral responsibility to their fans."

Joe Hibbert



The Brothers Dim: Conspiring to steal from your bank account

### THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

63

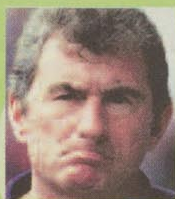
Average number of nonchalant hair-flicks made by members of French rugby side per match.



37

Percentage of Australian cricket team given Christian name of Brad, Brett or Shane.

### PUNDIT WATCH



"That was a great pass from Inin... Iniesta."

David Pleat struggles to cope with the linin... linguistics of Spain's playmaker, Andres Iniesta.

### Sexy rugby

While Ruud Gullit was renowned for enthusing about the "sexy football" of his Chelsea side in the nineties, the most attractive sporting spectacle of this century comes from the Welsh rugby team.

Last Sunday's stylish 26-13 win over Scotland had fans and pundits drooling. Powered by the force of Alun Wyn Jones and Jamie Roberts, and the finesse of Shane Williams and his cavalry of backs, the visitors graced Murrayfield with a sporadically brilliant display.

Rugby stereotypes may lead some to expect this side to be made exclusively of unkempt behemoths, and there is a rugged quality to the likes of Andy Powell and the shaggy-haired Adam Jones. Not quite as hairy but twice as scary is assistant coach Shaun Edwards, whose relationship with M People lead singer Heather Small proved that rugby - both union and league - is a hit with the opposite sex.

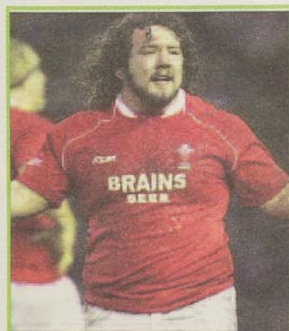
It is not all burly beefeakes in Warren Gatland's squad, though. Sporting what a tanning salon might refer to as 'Warm Magenta', James Hook showed that Swansea is the place to go for February bronzing.

Hook is in good company. His Ospreys team-mate Lee Byrne caught the eye as much for his skin's radiance

as he did his imperious kicking and catching display, which enhanced his reputation as the world's outstanding full-back.

Byrne and Hook are continuing a trend set by fellow Grand Slam winner Gavin Henson, but it is Wales' exhilarating brand of rugby which truly catches the eye. Without ever needing to operate at full capacity, the reigning champions poured forward with such panache that even Scottish fans were forced to abandon their dour silence and voice their approval.

Dafydd Pritchard



Adam Jones: Sexy rugby personified

### Impatience denies the donkey his chance

Last December the now former Chelsea manager Luis Felipe Scolari disseminated a pearl of wisdom to today's footballers: "The best thing for a player... is to have a good wife." Perhaps what he should have said is that the best thing for a club is to show some patience with their managers.

The individual I have most sympathy for is Tony 'the donkey' Adams. John 'Portsmouth Football Club' Westwood said to a certain sports rolling-news channel this week that Portsmouth's recent poor form is not directly related to Adams' appointment.

Rather, the club's slide-down the table is in continuity to the last games of Redknapp's regime. Before Redknapp left for Spurs on the 26th of October Portsmouth had only won twice in their last eight games; the six-nil destruction at the hands of fellow relegation battlers Man City in September the worst result.

Recent years have seen a call by many for more British players and managers in the Premier League. When clubs like Portsmouth and Blackburn sack their managers after only a few months of their tenure you have to question the

level to which the clubs really care about the development of domestic talent.

It seems clubs are far more worried about short term form in the face of potential long term success. It is perhaps no coincidence that the two most successful current managers in the Premiership are also the longest serving.

Another thing that has come to my attention this week is the three game suspension handed to Shaun Wright-Phillips. In hindsight, after his retaliation against Stoke's Rory Delap, Delap has spoken out against the England winger's ban, "It would probably be harsh for him to get banned from any games. After what I did, his reaction towards me was to be expected really".

This in the same week that the F.A. decided not to take any action against Chelsea full-back Jose Bosingwa for kicking Yossi Benayoun in the back while the latter was shielding the ball. This evident hypocrisy adds to my increasing disillusionment with the F.A.

Ifor Duncan

# Football's final taboo

The taunts Sol Campbell endured recently highlighted how homophobia remains a glaring problem in football. With homosexuality still a taboo in the sport, LS Sport speaks with the ex-boyfriend of Justin Fashanu, the only footballer ever to have come out as gay.

Dalydd Pritchard  
Jack Cullen

It is almost nineteen years since Justin Fashanu became the first professional footballer to come out as gay. With the subsequent homophobic abuse taking its toll, Fashanu committed suicide in 1998 and, at the time of writing, he remains the only renowned footballer to have publicly announced his homosexuality.

With an estimated 1.8m gay men and more than 2,500 professional footballers in the UK, Fashanu's lone declaration means that he continues to be a conspicuously lonely figure.

Fashanu started his career at Norwich City and became the first black footballer to cost £1m when he moved to Nottingham Forest in 1981. A fraught relationship with manager Brian Clough (who called him a "bloody poof"), however, was symptomatic of a stop-start career which saw Fashanu play for over twenty teams. One such spell was the year he spent at the Scottish club Hearts, and it was at Edinburgh that he met Oliver Cook.

Oli is now a consultant for Gmap, a large company in Leeds,

"I don't think a footballer will come out in the near future, mainly because of the potential reaction of the fans."

and was Justin's boyfriend while

studying as an undergraduate at Edinburgh University. The pair first met in a popular gay pub. "I knew who he was - everyone knew who he was. I was at The Laughing Duck with my flatmates, where we met Justin, and he invited us back to his house for drinks."

The relationship lasted for a few weeks but being Justin's boyfriend was both a blessing and a curse for Oli. "He was a bit of a bull shitter. He used to say he'd got off with loads of blokes, and footballers that hadn't come out, but it was hard to sort fact from fiction."

Fashanu came out in an interview with The Sun in 1990. His announcement led to incessant taunting from opposition fans, as well as strained relationships with fellow players and managers.

Oli thinks that it was financial greed that drove Justin to come out to the media. "That's why he came out in the first place - just to make money. I don't think it was anything to do with coming out for the good of gay people."

As a result of the interview, Fashanu became increasingly alienated not only professionally but with his family. His younger brother John told The Voice newspaper, "My gay brother is an outcast", as he became disillusioned with Justin's absence on the field and prominence in the tabloid press.

According to Oli, it was Justin's apparent desire to make his announcement a money-making opportunity that riled John, not his sexuality. "His brother disowned him, and I don't think it was because he was gay. It was because

he was being a twat, selling all these stories."

Following the hysterical media attention and fatal conclusion to Justin's story, Oli doubts that a footballer will come out in the near future, if at all. "I don't think it can work, mainly because of the fans' reaction."

Football is not a sporting exception. Apart from the tennis player Amelie Mauresmo,

"Justin came out in the media to make money. I don't think it was anything to do with coming out for the good of gay people."

prominent gay athlete currently competing has discussed their sexuality. Moreover, even those who have come out after retiring, such as NBA basketball player John Amaechi, have faced a hostile reaction from fans and former team-mates.

There is, however, the international rugby union referee Nigel Owens, who came out in 2007 with the backing of fellow professionals and players, and is regarded as one of the game's best officials. Owens may find rugby crowds to have been supportive but recent incidents, such as the homophobic abuse Sol Campbell endured from Tottenham fans, suggest

that football authorities still have much to do to rid the sport of this lingering prejudice.

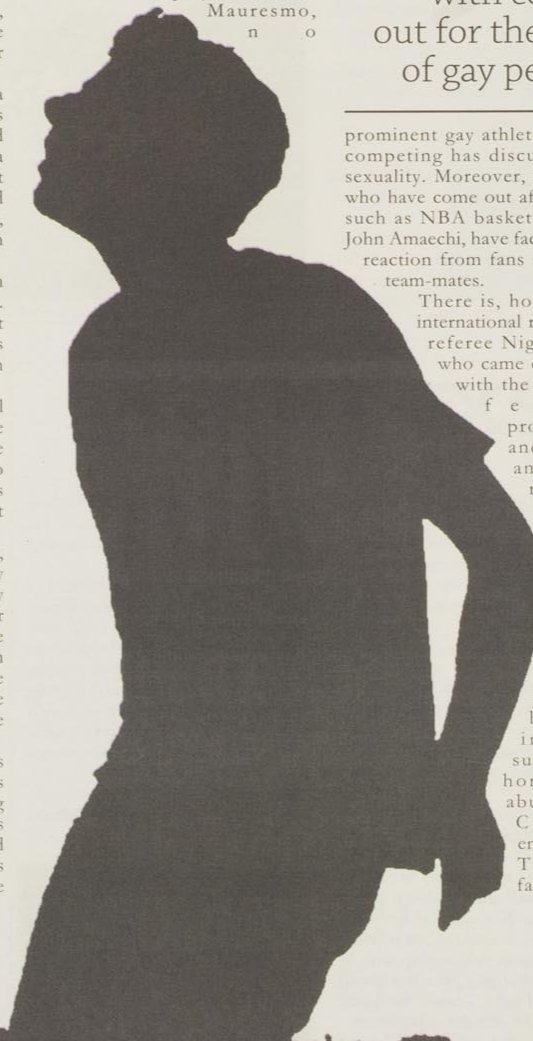
Gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell has called for the FA to launch an anti-homophobia campaign similar to that of Let's Kick Racism Out of Football but, alarmingly, it was only in 2008 that homophobic chanting at football grounds was made illegal.

As things stand, Justin Fashanu's case remains such a tragic and solitary one, that the imperative questions of homophobia in football it asks already seem to be fading from memory - even to those who were once close to him, like Oli.

"When I read about the scandal around his death, friends rang me to ask if I was alright, but it didn't affect me really. It all seemed so long ago that I knew Justin. It was really sad."



Fashanu failed to settle at any of his many clubs, including Hearts (above).



# the big debate:

## Should the Super League be frozen?

The new Super League season has begun with the abandonment of promotion and relegation for two seasons, creating the new Super 14. As Super League goes the way of America's NFL, LS Sport asks; *Will the freeze be good for rugby league?*

Competition will heat up  
Ben Miles

The Super League is not an English competition and it has never been so from its inception. It began in 1996 as Super League (Europe) with Paris Saint Germain contesting the first season. When they went by the wayside, the only teams left in were English. The problem was that there was not a high enough level of rugby league being played across the rest of the continent for a team to make its way into the highest league available in the northern hemisphere.

This was rectified by the introduction of Catalans Dragons in 2006. They were given a three year protection against relegation to make sure that they had time to establish themselves as a top level team. The move was made in order to help the spread of the more flowing code of rugby into countries other than England and the Antipodes.

The sport needs to grow as the world cup last year was a pitiful showing of how little recognition the sport has across the world. Bringing Catalans into the Super League cemented the growth into southern France.

The main attraction to Catalans is that they are playing in the top competition in the northern hemisphere (and if the World Club Challenge is anything to go by, the best in the world). They started off life in the Super League fielding a large amount of players seeking refuge from down under. But their continued presence in the SL has allowed them to bring through a larger number of native players helping spread the appeal of the sport even more among the residents of that part of the world. Had they been relegated straight off, there is little chance that the crowds would have remained. This would have led to a downward spiral that would ultimately lead to the demise of a promising rugby club.

So we come to 2009 and SL XIV kicks off with 14 teams in it for the first time. The choice of which teams to add was controversial but the main issue was the elimination of relegation and promotion to and from the League. The example of Catalans is ideal to show why this is a good idea

- the new clubs are being given time to establish themselves as competitive SL clubs.

Crusaders especially need time as they are a young club from a country outside the usual spectrum of League. They have the opportunity to establish the sport in Wales, a country steeped in rugby tradition but still untouched by the other code.

Salford, a once great club fallen on hard times, and even Castleford will now be given the opportunity to improve themselves. Being a guaranteed top flight club means they are more likely to be able to attract top class players, and as a result the standard of the league will rise.

In America they have no concept of what promotion or relegation is. In the NFL for example all teams play at the highest level of the sport. There is no chance of a small team fighting their way into the top flight and suddenly finding themselves well out of their depth, as Leigh did in the Super League in 2005.

For who has promotion and relegation worked out for in the SL over the last fourteen years? It's not those clubs who have slipped out of the top flight that they would once have expected to be in without a doubt, clubs like Widnes. It's the big clubs; the Rhinos, Bulls and Saints. They find themselves with easy points every year in a round that might as well not be played. These games have attracted lower crowds due to the knowledge that the level of sport on show would be lower.

Without the stigma of being a club who are probably only in the league for a year the teams will no longer be easy targets. Crowds should eventually grow not just in the new areas but at the established clubs as the fans know that they are going to see the best rugby they could find.

Freezing the Super League will provide a better spectacle, better rugby, more financially viable teams and more fans across new parts of the world. The winner out of this change can only be the sport of rugby league.

Freeze widens the gap  
Joe Short

Four years ago, back in May 2005, Super League chairman Richard Lewis plotted the franchise scheme to be imposed on the now upon us 2009 season.

The system gives the 'Super-14' (as they are now known) the cushion of relaxation, as they no longer have to look behind their shoulders for battling promotion contenders in the Co-operative Championship.

In a statement back at the press release of the new system, Lewis described how "The traditional way of getting clubs up into the Super League is not necessarily the best way."

Apparently the 'best way' to sort out the good and the bad is to award a point system for each League team, based on criteria, in order (it seems) to preserve the status of the big boys.

The criteria accounts for attendances above 10,000 people, annual turnover of £4 million, and having no competitive team within a 20 mile radius.

Unfortunately, this leaves teams in the lower

leagues at a loss. One of these

minnows is Halifax RLFC, relegated from the Super League in 2003, who have struggled with finances in recent years. This has made them very unlikely to find a £4m turnover for many years to come.

Indeed, with an average gate of just under

3,000, the club is far from that target too, nor do they have a required 12,000 capacity stadium.

In fact, the recent assessment of Halifax's status has placed them below the marked criteria line for Super League status.

The fact that the Yorkshire club finished 3rd in the table will be no consolation for them. How are they supposed to push themselves for a league victory, if they aren't even rewarded with a chance to prove themselves in a higher division?

This makes for uncertain times for the club, as with many others in the area. With the Super League boasting a new television deal with media baron Rupert Murdoch worth £50 million, it seems that the gap between the Super League and the low-lying Championships is set to stretch.

The Super-14, whilst lower teams struggle to stay afloat, will be able to invest in youth set-ups, knowing that there is a minuscule threat of relegation. The expanse could grow larger therefore, as the big guns grow their club structures and stabilize themselves in a comfort zone whereby they score greater 'criteria points' than lower league clubs, keep the money coming in, in order to strengthen further. This could lead to a cycle whereby the rich get richer, and the poor, well, go out of business.

Now, I am not by any means condemning the big clubs' spendings on youth set-ups, but if smaller clubs are not allowed rightful access to a deserved playing level, then we may see them fall out of game altogether.

Halifax themselves were recently saved from liquidation after scavenging just £90,000 to cover their debts, money which is nothing for the Super-14, but would be vital if given to the deserved promotion hopefuls.

Unfortunately, Rugby League seems to be entering a franchise culture not too dissimilar to American Football's NFL. With television rights, business dealings and marketing campaigns the forefront of the new money-is-everything approach, the 'most watched sport on Earth' has fallen to the sickness of consumerist fever, whereby the best are the best, and the rest are forgotten.

This cannot happen to Rugby League. If the big men fix their eyes on the big money, and not the development of the game from the base upwards, we may see the base being swept away all together.



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# Challenge of stiff Scots Nott enough for visitors as Leeds progress through opening encounter

Men's Basketball 1sts  
**Michael Glenister**  
 Leeds Uni 96-71 Robert Gordon

Following a successful regular season Leeds 1sts faced Scottish opposition in the shape of Aberdeen based Robert Gordon University in their opening Play-off game.

The home side settled into the game quickly, making a promising start to the encounter by dominating the opening quarter. The impressive Khaleel Freeman provided an abundance of speed and trickery that the visitors initially struggled to cope with. Bursting forward Freeman was frequently the creator for his

Man of the Match  
**John Nott**

The visitor's near fight-back was orchestrated by Nott, who dragged his team back into the contest in the second quarter

team-mates and in particular the equally lively Aaron Lawmann. The duo's impressive display left Leeds comfortably leading a dejected looking Robert Gordon 27-9 at the close of the first quarter.

Happy to exhibit their confidence the home side began to relax and allowed first quarter stars Freeman and Lawmann to drop to the bench. In retrospect their seeming confidence proved to be complacency as Robert Gordon's John Nott, who recently competed in the USA, grew in stature to dominate the contest. His increasingly impressive display rejuvenated the away team who matched their opponents in the second quarter to effectively draw it 16-16 and leave the overall scores at 43-27.

Leeds captain Martin Wholley was less than impressed with the lacklustre performance of his team after the first quarter: "We made the age old mistake of sitting back and getting complacent. We were joking around and laughing after the first quarter and they really made us pay".

Wholley re-introduced Lawmann and Freeman for the third quarter - a sign of his anxiousness - but it was Nott who continued to orchestrate the match, marshalling his side at one point to within 6 points of an



Photo: Alex Bavlou



Photo: Alex Bavlou

"We made the age old mistake of sitting back and getting complacent"

Martin Wholley,  
 Leeds Captain

increasingly nervous Leeds side. Errors began to creep into the home team's game, much to the irritation of Joe Hall, who was lucky not to receive a caution for his expletives cried out in frustration at the continual mistakes.

Entering the final quarter the scoreboard showed 63-49 in favour of Leeds, giving the visitors hope of a remarkable comeback. Sadly for the visitors, however, Leeds regained their composure and rallied late on to collect a series of impressive baskets, eventually overcoming the

Scottish side 96-71.

"That was a good way to start off the play-offs," commented club captain Wholley after the match. "We let them back into it a bit and it took a real team effort in the fourth quarter.

"We came through so we're off to a good start."



## BUCS Results 11th February

### Women's Badminton

Leeds Uni 1sts 5-3 Edinburgh 1sts

### Men's Basketball

Leeds Uni 1sts 96-71 Robert Gordon 1sts

### Men's Fencing

Leeds Uni 1sts 119 - 121 Durham 1sts  
 Leeds Uni 2nds 81 - 135 Newcastle

### Women's Fencing

Leeds Uni 78 - 135 Cambridge 1sts

### Women's Football

Leeds Uni 1sts 1 - 6 Manchester

### 1sts

### Men's Hockey

Leeds Uni 1sts 2-3 Bristol 1sts

### Netball

Leeds Uni 1sts 57-33 Edinburgh 1sts

### Men's Rugby Union

Leeds Uni 1sts 3 - 40 Loughborough 1sts

### Men's Squash

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

### Women's Squash

Leeds Uni 1sts 3 - 0 Nottingham 1sts  
 Leeds Uni 2nds 3 - 0 Bradford 1sts

### Men's Tennis

Leeds Uni 1sts 6 - 4 St Andrews 1sts

### Women's Tennis

Leeds Uni 1sts 4 - 6 Nottingham 1sts

### Women's Volleyball

Leeds Uni 1 - 3 Napier 1sts

# Bowling for Britain



The bowling team pose for a photo after a valiant performance in the BUCS championship in Nottingham.

Photo: Jeremy Swann

## Ten-Pin Bowling side's two brightest stars are named in the British Universities line-up to play Wales

**Ten-Pin Bowling**  
Jeremy Swann, Paul Lavery and Graham Robertson

Last weekend the ten-pin bowling team attended the 2009 BUCS championships in Nottingham and returned with a BUCS point and two players in the BUCS British Universities squad. Playing against 25 other universities from across Britain the team knew it would be a challenging weekend.

The six men and three women bowled nine games over the weekend, with the men's competition consisting three doubles teams, two trios, a single and a five-man team event. The women bowled a series of doubles, four singles and finished with trios to make up their competition.

Saturday was doubles day for the men's team with Graham Robertson and Paul Lavery going top at the start of the weekend playing a fantastic 1303 series over three games. This would place them in 1st and 7th in the individual event at the end of the day.

The rest of the team started slightly less spectacularly but scored valuable points including a 3 game average of 136 by James Wynne.

The team ended the day 6th in the competition table. The girls struggled bowling in unfamiliar lanes with Emily Jillings and Nicky Donowski combining for an 809

**Graham Robertson and Paul Lavery going top at the start playing a fantastic 1303 series**

series in the girl's doubles and Lizzie Hutchinson bowling a 311 series to complete the day's play.

With the doubles over, everyone was looking forward to

getting back into the swing of things on Sunday. Alex Tang, Soh Chew Fatt and Captain Jeremy Swann posted a noticeable improvement over their Saturday scores with each player bowling over a 145 average. The second trio of Graham Robertson, Paul Lavery and James Wynne could not continue Saturday's form with the trio bowling a joint series of 1306.

The girls started the day with their singles matches. Nicky Donowski improved to 171, 180 and 182 games for a total series of 552 and Emily Jillings and Elizabeth Hutchinson provided more than adequate support in the form of a 327 and 408 series respectively.

The ladies finished their competition with all three bowling trios where Nicky Donowski managed another good series averaging 184. Emily Jillings and Elizabeth Hutchinson also managed a good performance putting in a 327 and 408 respectively.

However even with this solid finish the ladies team just finished

outside of the BUCS points in 7th and were disappointed that they were not able to recreate the

**Special mention for their performance on the weekend goes to Graham Robertson and Nicky Donowski**

success of last year.

The Men's competition continued with Captain Jeremy Swann continuing his inconsistent form to average 146 with a high game of 177 in his singles games. This set up a nail biting finish with the men in 7th and penultimate BUCS points place before the start of the 5 man event.

The team bowled a total of 2190, with Soh Chew Fatt bowling a 418 series, Alex Tang a 380 and Graham Robertson completing his impressive weekend with a 591 series.

Paul Lavery and James Wynne were disappointed with their 483 and 318 series respectively. Never the less the team was happy with the 8th and final BUCS points place.

Special mention for their performance on the weekend goes to Graham Robertson and Nicky Donowski who both qualified for the British Universities team to play Wales.

After facing stiff competition a 201 average for Graham Robertson and a 175 average for Nicky Donowski was enough to secure the spots. Soh Chew Fatt also scores impressively with a 144 average over the weekend.

The team is looking to continue their good form at the Sheffield Hallam Quads this weekend and the Christie Cup in March.

# LS Sport

www.leedsstudent.org/sport



# Devine intervention



## Netball

Helen Chandler

Leeds 1sts 57-33 Edinburgh 1sts

Leeds 1st Netball team were nothing short of impressive this week as they secured victory over Edinburgh in a crucial match in their BUCS league.

Once they got going the Scots were persistent in their attack, but the Leeds girls had already established a strong lead that their rivals were unable to reach.

The home side couldn't have asked for a better start. They scored the first six points of the match

for possession of the ball at all times.

The shooting combination of Charlotte South and Charlotte Elridge was as strong as ever, with their colleagues confident of both girls' ability to score as soon as the ball was in their hands.

Support from coach and friends on the bench carried the Uni through the second quarter as Edinburgh did their best to make a mark on the match. The defensive players worked well together to keep up the pressure on their opponents, with goal defence Lauren Devine working particularly hard to get her hands on every Edinburgh ball.

As the match continued after half time Leeds stretched further ahead, their point tally almost doubling that of Edinburgh early in the half.

The girls' quick start had clearly paid off and it soon became clear there was only one possible outcome for the match.

Leeds did not become complacent and kept up their energy and enthusiasm until the final whistle went. They continued to create spaces on the court, moving the ball quickly and easily in order to score as many goals as possible.

The team are now feeling confident for further success in their forthcoming ties as the season begins to draw to a close.

Goal defence  
Lauren Devine  
worked  
particularly  
hard to thwart  
Edinburgh  
attacks

taking advantage of some early errors from Edinburgh who were slow to settle into their rhythm.

Even when they finally managed to get some points on the board Leeds were quick to retaliate, fighting

Netball 1sts pull away from Edinburgh in a comprehensive victory.

Photo: Alex Pavlou

## WEATHER WREAKS HAVOC AS BUCS CROSS COUNTRY CANCELLED AFTER CLUB TRAVEL TO ABERDEEN

Cross-Country  
Sarah Graham

Twenty-six members of Leeds Cross-Country Club travelled 353 miles to Aberdeen this weekend to compete in BUCS Cross-Country Championships, only for the race to be called off 18 hours before the race start.

The course itself, although under snow, was more than runnable bearing in mind that Cross-Country is run in all weather conditions and the club continued to train all week despite the snow in Leeds. An unofficial mixed race went ahead, with over 250 people

competing.

The team were massively disappointed at not being able to compete, having been training for the event since September, in dark, muddy conditions at Bodington Fields.

The Men's and Women's A teams had huge potential this year, with both teams aiming to be in the top 6 places and were likely to beat rivals Leeds Met on paper. The men's A team will lose three of its key members next year with 3rd years Josh Stone and Joe Anderson-Brown graduating, as well as Olympic Scholar Alistair Brownlee completing his Sport Science degree.

The women's team will also suffer

the loss of newcomer Sarah Peterson, an MA student from New Jersey, however they will still have Mary Ferrier and Sarah Graham, both medical students to provide continuing strength to the team.

The club consequently treated the weekend as a training weekend, but collectively lost over £3,000, of which they are unlikely to receive compensation for. This is a huge amount of money for a club that receives a small budget from the union. Proactively the club generates extra funds from organising and hosting the annual Leeds relays in December.



A disappointed Cross-Country team relax in the snow.