



volume 39 / issue 16

Summer Ball 2009: our guide to this year's event
The city's hidden beauty spots: Where to go for a great day out
Reel Big Fish Academy gig reviewed

LS2

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Leeds Student

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£359,229: Fine for some

Continued on page 4 >>>

Laurie Whitwell
John Puddephatt

Leeds University libraries took £360,000 in fines in the last academic year, figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed.

The total is up £60,000 from the £295,000 charged in 2006/07 – a rise of more than 20% in one year.

The changes levied in 06/07 themselves represented a significant increase, up £25,000 from the year before.

In all, the University has amassed £925,919 in library fines over the

last three academic years.

The figures reveal that the average undergraduate pays around £9.30 in library fines for every year of their degree, totalling £28 for the last three.

Exeter student paper, *Exposure*, reported last year that the University of Manchester collected the highest amount in fines of those libraries that responded to their enquiries.

Manchester, the largest university in the country with over 39,000 students, charged £190,388 in 2006/07. The figures obtained by *Leeds Student* show that Leeds exceeded this total by over £100,000, even before the 20%

increase that occurred last year.

The figures come as part of a response to a Freedom of Information Act request sent to the University by *Leeds Student* earlier this year.

Public authorities are legally required to respond to requests submitted under the act, and subject to a number of conditions they must supply the information within 20 working days.

The response from the library came after 21 days, one day over the legal maximum.

The University has moved to justify the record sum collected.

"The significant rise in fines

charges between 06/07 and 07/08 was because the overall fines threshold was raised from £10 to £30," Janet R Jurica, Senior Assistant Registrar at the University explained. "Whilst before students had to clear their fines at £10 they can now accrue higher fines before their accounts are suspended."

Margaret Coutts, University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection, said the decision was student-led. "The threshold was originally introduced in consultation with students to prevent their borrowing being blocked too rapidly when using our self-service lending facilities in the

evening," she said.

However, Katie McDougall, second year Theology and Religious studies student, thinks the change was for the worse. "I don't think the threshold increase was a good thing," said Katie. "It means people will keep books out for longer meaning others can't because I don't think fines deter people that much."

To many students, however, the fines represent a hidden charge for using what are regarded as essential facilities.

Penny Walker, in her third year of studying English, said: "I'm shocked at the figures. It just seems

Sport

POW!

The Varsity boxing contest takes a swift right hook of a report

Comment & Debate

Special bumper edition

Is the library fining system fair?
Obama and his false profits

Features

Brought to a head

LS1 takes a hard look at the issues surrounding mental health

Leeds Student



Union Girl

"Democracy is a core value of LUU, other than voter turn out, how could it be measured?" Part of the election post-mortem survey, I puzzled over the above for quite some time.

What does the question actually say,

and what is it trying to ask? The two are definitely not the same.

Let's consider the basic premise of democracy. Wikipedia?

Democracy is, at its most basic a form of government where power is 'held directly or indirectly by citizens under a free electoral system'. So far so good.

"Furthermore, freedom of political expression, speech and of the press are essential."

Oh. We've hit a problem. No one wants the election to turn into a flame war, but when candidates can hide behind their banner slogan, protected by rules banning negative campaigning, no wonder the process looks like a popularity contest to the

masses.

"What I want is to know what the candidates' stances were on past issues. 'The sacking of that racist lecturer for example,'" remarked a friend of mine. It's easy enough for a candidate to give a politician's answer to tough questions on the ground, especially when they tailor the answer to suit their perception of the asker.

It doesn't matter if "it'll only take two minutes!", who is going to vote (other than friends and the otherwise affiliated) when the gravitas that should be attached to an election has been glossed over with, well, glossy flyers?

Real reasons for casting votes in the election ranged from "we're looking for candidates that smokes. Do you?"

to "three of my female housemates voted for you. They were amazed at how blue your eyes are." True story.

Given that this Union hails its victory to have anonymous marking as one of its success stories, are we not a little naïve not to assume the same discrimination that makes anonymous marking so important might affect the elections, or even the referendum?

So here's a suggestion, let's be bold. Let's anonymise the process. We have student survey results, we know what statements the Union "most agrees" with. Get a range of these statements. Get the candidates to rank them. There's your manifesto.

No photos. No posters. No videos. That's real "no nonsense".

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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Standards agency bans Hyde Park sex booze ad

Ruling branded 'ridiculous' by Taking Liberties MD

Virginia Newman

Promotional material for the 'I love S.E.X.' club night has been banned.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), found that the adverts, which were part of a seven day campaign, breached rules on social responsibility.

The ruling stated: "We considered that to show the images in conjunction with the phrase 'I love S.E.X.' evoked an atmosphere of sociability that focused at least in part on sexual activity."

"We considered that, in the context established by those elements of the ad, the circles that stated '£1 shots! Sambuca - tequila - yes!' and '£2 vodka Red Bull - yes!' went beyond advertising alcohol at the event simply in the context of price or entertainment and linked it with sexual activity."

The ASA, however, rejected complaints that the adverts were offensive or unsuitable for children.

Taking Liberties have not taken the

decision easily and are making an appeal to the independent reviewer of ASA adjudications.

Jim Albentosa, Managing Director of Taking Liberties, said: "We believe there is a substantial flaw in Council's adjudication and in the process that the adjudication was made."

"One single complaint was made on-line to ASA following a billboard advertisement which had a viewing figure of 125,000 a week, this would imply that 124,999 people did not feel it was relevant to make a complaint."

"It is just ridiculous that the ASA upheld that the drinks prices are linked with sexual activity and that they failed to explain the decision process in reaching this conclusion."

Taking Liberties will not be re-running the campaign whilst the case is pending.

James Monaghan, Liberal Democrat Headingley councillor has supported the ASA's decision, he said:

"I am pleased that the ASA have reached the decision to ban this advert. It had quite clearly overstepped the

mark by so blatantly linking cheap booze to the promise of sex."

"I certainly don't object to this club night being advertised but the promoters need to remember their wider responsibilities when advertising on such prominent public sites."

Albentosa added: "We appreciate the advert may not be to everyone's taste however the advert is aimed purely at students at university who do like to party. Yes the advert is eye catching, yes it has a catchy and controversial logo, yes we use attractive models and yes we advertise the drinks prices, obviously."

"We do not see how the drinks prices are linked with 'sexual activity' though, the drinks prices are linked to a nightclub's bar tariff and purely inform the customer how much the drinks cost in the venue."

The adverts promote the 'Saturday Entertainment Experience' mimicking the phrase 'I love New York'. The club night used to be held at the now closed Evolution venue, but is currently held at Baja nightclub.



BANNED: Advert deemed to have "overstepped the mark" by Leeds councillor, located on Hyde Park corner

Photos: Courtesy of Taking Liberties

Referen-dum

LS News Team

LUU democracy has been undermined this week as only 6 per cent of students cast votes in the year's second referendum.

The low turnout has put many motions in danger of not passing due to a lack of votes.

The second referendum of the academic year saw only 1,768 ballots in total, with many motions in serious danger of not reaching the minimum 1,500 votes for to be taken on as policy. As late as Wednesday evening, only 1,000 votes had been recorded.

The low number of votes compares to last semester's record turnout of 4,169.

Richard Mellor, the proposer of motion 1, aired his views on why voter turnout was so low:

"I think that a lot of people had voting fatigue, with the referendum coming so soon after the Student Exec elections. Also, with so little campaigning - including on my part as a newcomer to it all - very few people were actually encouraged to vote."

"Without a fun campaign, I think that the ABBA motion had a detrimental effect, with many people seeing it as essentially taking the piss."

Richard added: "The Union's democracy support staff have been very helpful and have done their utmost to boost voting turnout but so little campaigning has made the whole process a bit of a sham."

Ballot counting starts at 2pm today.

To see the full results of this semester's referendum, log on to www.leedsstudent.org.

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Oh Mandy! Green attacker came and slimed, taking only Peter's dignity*

*Apologies for the desperate nature of this headline. Please direct all enquiries to Barry Manilow.

Matthew Power

A Leeds University graduate has been arrested after throwing green custard at Business Secretary Peter Mandelson.

Environmental campaigner Leila Deen, 29, was detained last Sunday after confronting the government minister on Friday.

Lord Mandelson described the act as a 'crude' stunt and was rushed away from the scene by his security staff.

The Prime Minister later joked about the incident at the Carbon

emissions conference:

"If anybody doubted the greening of Peter Mandelson and his willingness to take the green agenda on his shoulders, we've seen it in practise on our television screens already this morning."

Deen, who is from Brighton, was allowed to walk away from the incident but was later detained by police. She was released on police bail and has been told to return to a police station in April.

The Development Studies and Politics graduate threw the cup of liquid over Mandelson as he arrived at a governmental summit on carbon emissions. She is a

member of 'Plane Stupid,' a group demonstrating against the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport.

In 2008, over 50 'Plane Stupid' protesters blocked the runway at Stansted Airport. The group included a number of students from Leeds University who were later charged with aggravated trespass and sentenced to 50 hours of community service.

Deen has emphasised that she told Lord Mandelson prior to throwing the liquid that the cup

contained no harmful substances.

She explained why she felt she had to take the action:

"When democracy is failing you have to resort to any means necessary as long as it is peaceful and does not harm other human beings."

"Peter Mandelson is the same person who effectively bullied Ed Miliband and other members of the cabinet to accept a third runway that nobody wants, a third runway that no one was consulted on and no one is able to

say no to.

"It's not right that someone like Peter Mandelson can stand up and talk about being green."

The Carbon emissions summit went ahead despite the security breach and the government discussed their aim of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent by the year 2050.

Deen has been described as a 'career protester' after a number of provocative stunts. While a student at Leeds in the mid nineties she tried to have *The Sun* newspaper banned while in 2005, she was arrested after she climbed up a 150ft crane in Edinburgh during the G8 summit at Gleneagles.

Guy Mitchell, a second year Politics and Southeast Asian Studies student, was one of the Leeds Students charged for the Stansted protest and is a member of 'Plane Stupid.' He defended Leila Deen's custard attack on Mandelson:

"Mandelson is an unelected member of the cabinet who has bullied members of parliament into putting the interests of BAA above the climate and people. There is nothing more apt than to cover him in than green slime."

He added: "The lunacy of airport expansion in the face of climate change deserves protest like this."



SPLAT ATTACK: (Before, during and after): An unsuspecting Mandelson is all smiles as Deen approaches; the business minister takes a sloop of green custard to the face leading him to double over; the career protester loftily walks away, unchallenged by watchers

Photos: Courtesy of television footage

If Carlsberg made jobs...

Adam Richardson

A job dubbed 'the best in the world' is within sight for a former Leeds student.

The six-month post of Great Barrier Reef caretaker awaits Sarah Louise Greene should she win a global competition aimed at promoting the island group to tourists.

The successful applicant's tasks will include looking after the island, feeding the fish and collecting the post. They will have to report to the tourist board via weekly blogs, video updates and a photo diary.

Swimming in crystal clear tropical waters and sunbathing on sandy white beaches are expected to be occupational hazards.

Sarah, a University of Leeds Communications and Psychology graduate, has been whittled down to the final 50 from an original 35,000 hopefuls.

The winner will have a salary of AUS \$150,000, live in a three bedroomed luxury villa with swimming

pool and be encouraged to explore the area.

Sarah is one of only four British applicants to make the final fifty.

Applicants for the job were told that they needed a year's "relevant" experience, excellent communication skills and "a willingness to try new things."

Sarah filmed her application while hitchhiking on the back of a truck in Peru and claims in the video that one of her talents is being able to crack open a coconut on a rock while naked.

Sarah feels she fits the job description exactly. "I couldn't have designed a more perfect job for myself," she said. "For me it's about the blog. I love the idea of taking people on a journey and opening their minds to trying new things."

Sarah added: "I think I achieve that in my current blog and I hope to take my readers on a new, even more exciting journey in Australia"

The top 50 will be trimmed to 10 by the Queensland tourist board, whilst a 11th wild card applicant will be selected by voters on the website.

The 11 will then fly to Australia to

be interviewed, with the successful applicant being announced on May 6. They will then start work on the island on June 1.

Sarah is currently 23rd out of the 50 finalists on the wildcard choice, and the highest placed entry from the United Kingdom.

On her current ranking Sarah said: "I'm 100,000 votes behind the current leader, but if I was someone who let statistics put me off I would never have applied in the first place. I still believe it could all change."

"I am thrilled and flattered to have got this far. I have barely slept since I found out because I am constantly buzzing."

The other British applicants are Holly Smale, who wrote an "Ode to Oz" in her application, Ben Southall who snorkelled in a British river and describes himself as "pretty much one of the fishes", and Douglas Sidolph who commented that he likes "telling people about things."

The candidates' videos and profiles can be viewed at <http://www.islandreefjob.com>. Voting takes place until March 24.



JUMPING FOR JOY: Sarah Louise Lane is down to the last 50 candidates for the 'best job in the world.'

Photos: Courtesy of Sarah Lane

Library fines uncovered

Record income from student pockets..

From front

so much money." Penny thinks that incurring fines is ultimately inevitable. "If you're using the library regularly it is unavoidable to rack up charges, she said. "I took out a primary text at the start of the year to use for my assessed essay and renewed it each time I was required to. But a week before deadline someone put it on hold and I was unable to renew it again."

"I desperately needed it for the essay so had to keep it and incur the charges. I was also blocked from taking out any other books."

Misleading

Aled John, another third year English student, reckons the large total is slightly misleading. "The grand total, in its accumulated form, sounds horrific," he said. "It seems one ostensibly reminiscent of the sort of miserly and loveless revenue generation endorsed by councils all over the UK in the form of parking tickets we all have grown to despise."

"Roughly speaking though, the current figure for the library fines works out at an average of 11 quid per head, deflating the shock of the hike in thousands that the statistics show."

Aled says changes are necessary. "As long as the library's punitive policy is relatively comparable to the costs of running such an institution, and at the same time feasibly repayable, I don't think it is that problematic."

Courts explained the role of the fines. "The sole purpose of Library fines is to prevent individuals from keeping books for unreasonably long periods and so disadvantage others who need to use them," she said.

"We set the rates to make them a deterrent only, and not an opportunity to make money from our

customers."

Courts added: "The money from fines goes into the Library's general revenue account and is used to support collections and services for students."

Universities such as Birmingham, Manchester and University College London adopt a similar approach when it comes to library fines, charging daily rates along the lines of those set by Leeds. Each institution levies around a 40p tariff for a seven day loan.

Ryan Mole, 4th year Physics student, suggested that the reason for Leeds' huge lead over other universities might involve more than just the scale of the charges per day.

"As a physics student, I find that all the books I need are always in seven day loan, but there are always a dozen copies of each book and there is only ever one or two out on loan," Ryan said.

"The higher charge per day for seven day loans, as well as the higher frequency with which they must be renewed, means I find it much easier to accrue large fines. The standard loan section for my subject seems to feature books that have very little to do with the modules taught, and they definitely aren't on reading lists."

Course matters

Rachel Garrard, a final year Accounting and Business student, thinks students doing courses dependent on loaning literature are more at risk:

"People that do subjects where you tend to take out a lot of books are penalised more. I've only taken out three books all year, whereas friends doing Arts degrees have taken out dozens."

Penny questioned why students received fines for books not on

reserve: "Having to renew books that people haven't asked for is irritating. Getting fined for not renewing them on time when no one else wants them seems unnecessary, especially if the fining system is only in place to act as a deterrent. You are clearly not being of inconvenience to anyone else."

Aled saw the system as fair though: "My personal tracklist of fines has held rather steadily at around £27 for the last year or so. As long as there is no favouritism, and the rise in monetary retribution for slack students (like myself) gets injected back into the system and not the pockets of the 'suits', then more power to it."

No fines at all

Other UK universities have adopted what many cash-strapped students might regard as much fairer approach to late returns. The University of Southampton doesn't charge their users fines at all, instead suspending users' borrowing privileges until late books are returned, and simply charging for the replacement cost of a new book if it is not returned within 56 days.

Courts said that this year more students were returning books on time. "The drop in fines for this academic year is currently approximately 10%. Of course, we won't know the final figure until the end of the year."

She added: "The Library does carry out regular checks on the level of the fines charged, and this happened most recently in 2007."

"Currently, we are planning to introduce online fines payment next year. We believe that this will make it easier for students to settle their fines promptly, and not run up large sums which cause problems for paying back."

Elsewhere in the UK

A fine day ruined

Mature student Ann was astounded when instead of her graduation certificate she was handed a letter informing her she was a debtor to her university - all due to her library fine.

As her family proudly cheered on, the Bucks New University student took to the stage before being handed the bill, even being snapped in the process having pre-booked a graduation photo.

A fine example

Even the most tight-fisted of students couldn't complain about paying up their fines at the University of Brighton during RAG week, as all fines went straight to charity.

Just one week's giving netted nearly £2,000 for RAG, with the money going direct to local charities.

What's your opinion?

Paid massive amounts in fines or never kept a book out a day too long in your life? Leeds Student wants to hear about it. Send an email to editor@leedsstudent.org or pop into the office - Union first floor.

Ed Boyle to get £28m facelift

John Puddephatt

The Edward Boyle library is set to offer a service "unlike any other in the UK" as part of a green lit £28m redevelopment plan.

The newly transformed building will feature an all-new cafe and outdoor piazza with IT facilities incorporated throughout, not just in clusters.

Access to electronic journals and other resources will be available directly through study desks next to print collections, easing demand on popular textbooks and improving the way resources essential to learning are used.

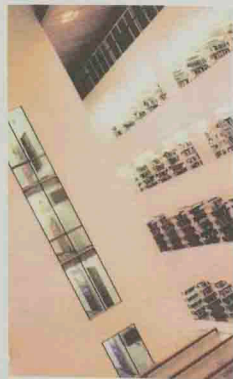
"Our vision is that students will step inside and feel excited by their surroundings," says University Librarian Margaret Courts. "We want a forward-thinking, next-generation design, rather than simply following what other universities have already done."

With more than 47,300 visitors every week, and at least 900 students rolling through the turnstiles every hour during the May exam period, the current facilities are straining under a load far greater than they were designed to handle.

In addition to new furniture, heating and lighting, a northward extension will provide much needed additional space to the building.

Described as a "wonder library" by the Leeds Student when plans were first unveiled in 1968, the Edward Boyle was pitched as offering "a sense of space" and twice the capacity of the Brotherton. Today, the Edward Boyle is commonly the site of full computer clusters and noisy, overcrowded study areas.

The project is currently out to a European tender to ensure the best architects are selected. Plans for the new facilities will be published in Leeds Student when they are available.



SEPARATE FUNDS: Money for the Ed B refurb will come from a special allocation Photo: John Puddephatt

Leeds leads the way in collecting fines

Selected charges around the country for 06/07

Leeds (33,000 students - approx.)	£294,820
Manchester (39,100)	£190,338.37
UCL (21,600)	£168,942
LSE (8,810)	£118,935
Exeter (15,700)	£54,662
Imperial College London (13,400)	£6,474.35

(Total fines received for 2006/07 as reported in Exepose)

Photo: John Puddephatt

Yet researchers can't get 'essential' texts

Laurie Whitwell

Postgraduate students desperate for new books critical to furthering their research are being told by the Library "we must not order books that are not on reading lists," *Leeds Student* has discovered.

Bertie Russell, a Geography PhD student, has been unable to use a book "essential" to his research because the library does not stock it and his purchase suggestion was rejected.

After Bertie placed a proposal for 'Deleuze and the Social' he received an email reply from Sara Thornes, Faculty Team Librarian for the Edward Boyle library which read: "Unfortunately the fluctuation in the exchange rates that has come with the credit crunch has hit the library budget hard, and we have recently been told that we must not start any new subscriptions or order books that are not on reading lists."

Bertie was dismayed at the response: "It is one of only two books that have been written on the issue – so, it is essential that I have access to it. It costs £20 but I can't get the book, as there are no funds available."

He explained that the only way for him to obtain the book is if a sympathetic lecturer were to place it on a reading list. "But that means research is largely being determined by the remit of what is already being taught," he said.

"It's quite illogical if research is supposed to be producing something new. There is not much precedent for my subject area within Leeds Uni, so the Library is particularly scarce on the newer books."

"The recent fall in the value of sterling has hit the Library, as some of our purchases are made in dollars and euros," Margaret Coutts, University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection, said. "Subscriptions in US dollars are currently costing an additional 37%, and those in Euros an additional 19% above the anticipated cost."

Thornes was on hand to explain the Library's reasoning. "Texts on reading lists are used by large numbers of students, typically a single copy of a reading list book would be used by around 20 students," she said. "Books requested for research, tend to be used extensively by only one individual."

The Library's current stance is at odds with information provided at start of the year. "I was informed before starting my PhD that the Library appreciate the suggestions of research students as it means less work for the faculty librarian," Bertie said. "The books a PhD student recommend are also likely to be at the 'cutting edge' of research, helping to open access to these topics for students in all cohorts."

An article in the *Times Higher Education* highlights the problem as a national one. *THE* reported that the fall in the value of the pound is

having a 'crippling effect' on the budgets of UK university libraries with Glasgow University estimating that every time the pound went down either a euro cent or a US cent over a year, it would cost their library £12,000 and £7,000, respectively.

"This is indeed a national problem and all university libraries are experiencing the same," Coutts explained.

The Library say that the block on orders will be in place until May, after book costing has been reassessed. For the time being PhD students should be offered alternatives, such as document supply or inter-library loans.

The Vice-Chancellor Michael Arthur was open in his assessment of the cash flow problem. "We're facing quite a bit of financial turmoil," he admitted during a recent question and answer session with students. "I've been putting the Library under some pressure by asking for an extra five per cent efficiency as a way of coping with the economic downturn."

Arthur added: "We'll try and ensure that material for students is affected least; the research side might be affected more."

"Library costs actually inflate at way above the rate of inflation – about 6 per cent per annum. When I arrived here we were actually spending about £8m in the library and we're now spending £12m."

"The library is not suffering a cutback in funding, we're talking about not increasing it by as much as we had planned."

While RAE grant approaches £100m

Sam Sinha

Core funding will increase by 2.14% for 2009/10, the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFC) has revealed.

Leeds University will receive £92 million of teaching funding next year, 2.45% higher than last year, and £49 million to support research, an increase of 0.77%.

The increased research funding follows the institution's high position in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which saw it climb from 26th to 14th place in the eight years since the last assessment in 2001.

The University received a letter informing them of their funding for the coming year but these figures will not be confirmed until July.

"We are absolutely delighted with our performance in the RAE 2008 – it's as good as we could have hoped for," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur. "We are one of two major civic universities to have recorded such a substantial improvement."

Leeds University entered work

from 1,269 academics across 46 subjects in to the RAE.

he University has said that the results in the RAE are testament to the hard work and talent of the University staff who will be rewarded with the greater level of funding next year.

The increase in funding comes as the University aims to slash expenditure cutting back on student services.

There are some concerns that funding announcement could also have some negative effects on the

University. Changes in the way the RAE calculates the distribution of funding will impact on all the top universities, resulting in funding challenges for some departments. University officers will be working closely with the hard-hit areas to ensure they are prepared and have a clear plan for the future.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research Professor Margaret Atack said: "It was a fantastic result and just hugely rewarding to have such high quality work recognised."



BUDGET BOOST: The Brotherton should benefit from the increase in government funding

Photo: Richard Smith



Discrimination levels high against minorities, says Leeds research

Julia Richardson

Dispute surrounds the release of a research which suggests high levels of discrimination towards members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

A recent study piloted by Professor Gill Valentine at the University of Leeds has revealed that 20 per cent of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) students and 28.5 per cent of transgender students had been coerced to withdraw from their studies or repeat years due to homophobic and transphobic treatment.

Yet the findings have been met with a mixed reaction by LGBT students and staff on campus.

Levent Akbulut, LGBT society chair said that he is unaware of any forms of discrimination. He said that it "had been a very good year" for him in terms of fair behaviour.

Lauren Hunt, second year English student, added: "I've encountered

relatively little discrimination so far. All my friends have always been accepting, although coming out to people at first is always daunting for fear of a bad reaction.

"The highest levels of discrimination I find are from strangers, usually in verbal form. People in clubs, especially guys, make comments about the way I dress."

However, a third year LGBT student commented on her experience of discrimination at University.

The girl described how while on a field trip one of her lecturers made insulting remarks about her sexuality. "We went to the local pub and were enjoying a drink fuelled night when one of the lecturers joined my table where me and my friend were sitting. He asked if I had a boyfriend so I corrected him, saying I was gay."

"He made some inappropriate comments and insulted me with his opinions on same sex families. In response I politely told him he was at the wrong table for this conversation

and should leave, so he did.

"I was shocked at how the harmless conversation escalated into offensive comments. It may have been down to his drunkenness however for someone not as comfortable as I am with their sexuality this could have caused great unease for the rest of the trip and following lectures."

The report states that over 90 per cent of gay and bisexual students claim to be out to their peers, but 46.8 per cent said they had been subjected to negative comments. Others stated that they felt they couldn't participate in certain activities such as sports, as they felt other students may be wary of being too physically close to them.

Dr Jay Prosser, reader in the School of English, underwent sex reassignment as a female-to-male twenty years ago. He said that in his ten years working at Leeds University, he has not been subjected to discrimination.

Prosser was surprised by the reports findings, commenting "academia was

a hospitable place for difference, particularly in terms of sexuality."

The report found that 33 per cent of LGB and 41 per cent of trans staff had faced abuse from colleagues.

Similarly, it claimed that 59 per cent of staff do not know if their institution has an LGBT network, while 84.4 per cent of LGB staff do not know if their institution offers bereavement, adoption and maternity/paternity leave to LGB employees who are not registered as civil partners.

The report also commented that there is very little inequality regarding the lowering of marks. Only 1.7 per cent of LGB students and 5.4 per cent of trans students felt that they were disadvantaged because of their sexual orientations or trans identities.

Hunt, a member of LUU's LGBT, added: "Our LGBT society provides a safe space with provision for members to discuss issues with committee members specifically dedicated to dealing with particular issues."

Asylum system doesn't work, says Leeds MP

Jessica Elliott

A Leeds MP has said that Asylum Seekers can be a benefit to the UK economy.

Greg Mulholland, Liberal Democrat MP for Leeds North West, presented his view on asylum at a question and answer session at the University last Monday.

The event was held in collaboration with STAR (student action for refugees) as part of their 'Let Them Work' campaign. The campaign is being held to lobby the government to allow asylum seekers to work.

At the present time, the Home Office has to grant a person asylum before they are allowed to work. It is presently illegal for a person seeking asylum in the UK to work. The process could take months as asylum seekers receive a government payout of, less than 30 per cent of what British citizens on income support pick up.

Mulholland claimed that to deny Asylum Seekers the right to work is economically nonsensical. "We are desperately in need of nurses for example, we have skilled asylum seekers that would readily fill the position and help us out. There are already many migrant nurses working for the NHS for which we depend on."

Mulholland attacked the present system, claiming that it not only affects asylum seekers, but British taxpayers as well. "Handing Asylum Seekers state money that forces them to live in poverty rather than letting them contribute to the economy in employment doesn't work for the taxpayer."

While he acknowledged that in a time of economic recession, it would be easy to attack a campaign such as 'Let Them Work,' he believed that this is all the more reason to let them work and give something back. He said: "Whether we like it or not these people are here, and we must help."

Mulholland, who supports the campaign, calls on other MPs to do the same. "I want others to raise this issue in Parliament, and to build up a network of those that support the campaign."

Bennett's bequest shuns Uni

Emily Dexter

Controversy surrounds allegations made by the *Daily Mail* which suggest that Leeds University is "incandescent" over Alan Bennett's choice to donate his archives to Oxford's Bodleian Library.

Award-winning Bennett, who was born and educated in Leeds, claimed he hadn't felt at home in the city. He said: "I feel Oxford is where I belong."

Bennett, 74, said that the donation, made in October 2008, was borne out of affection for his old University and in defence of free state-funded education.

Bennett told *The Guardian*, "I really feel that Oxford is where I was educated and where I belong, and that if Bodley would like them, then they should have them."

"In that sense giving the manuscripts to Bodley — it sounds rather pious — is a kind of small recompense for what I was given. And not merely given by Oxford, I also feel I was given it by the state, and the state isn't something that people would normally thank or think well of."

When asked in an interview about why the archives were donated to Oxford and not Leeds University — where he received a honorary degree in 1990 — Bennett replied: "I never wanted to go through a dealer... and Leeds never asked!" Bennett added that he would have made the gift if Leeds had.

In an article last week the *Daily Mail* reported that "Leeds University is incandescent" about the decision.

Yet a spokesman for the University of Leeds strongly refuted the paper's claims: "The comments which were published in the *Daily Mail*

that the University was 'incandescent' about this, did not come from a University spokesman, but from an unnamed source who was not entitled to speak on behalf of the institution."



ALAN BENNETT: Still loved by Leeds

"In fact, the University continues to enjoy a warm and fruitful relationship with Alan Bennett, who is a favourite son of Leeds, one of our honorary graduates and a regular visitor to our campus."

The story is now the subject of a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission.

However, Felicity Trew, a 2nd year Undergraduate English student, said: "It's a great loss, especially since such a wealth of literary history will again be based at Oxford University. However, I do understand that a writer is influenced greatly by their surroundings."

The archive includes manuscripts, diaries and letters which, upon Bennett's death, will swell with the addition of all his remaining papers and working library which will include hundreds of first editions of his books.

Campus Watch

Tom Knowles

Edinburgh

A business student at Edinburgh University was fined £100 after trying to spend a fake £10 note in a nightclub.

Alastair Duff, 18, tried to buy a drink with a photocopied £10 note in Espionage nightclub but the barman recognised it immediately

as a fake and called the police.

Duff was fined £100 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court after pleading guilty to presenting the counterfeit note last year.

Duff apparently made the note himself, but not to a high enough standard. Fiscal deputy Mairi Vernon told Sheriff Elizabeth Jarvie QC: "It was a quite amateur copy on ordinary paper."

Sheriff Jarvie added: "I would have thought he would have made a better job of it."

Oxford

Oxford University faces controversy after one of its colleges made students imitate a lewd sex act with a banana during a student election hustings.

Two female students were asked to simulate a sexual act in front of a crowd in the bar of Keble College as part of a hustings to elect an events organiser for next academic year's Freshers'

Week.

Both were made to lie in front of two male students during the task, which involved a race to eat the banana, in order to win votes for the event.

Critics have condemned the game as "laddish and degrading" but others described it as "hilarious."

The game is said to have been instigated by a female student, Katie Matthews, the outgoing Freshers' Week President.



Letters to the Editor



Leeds Student

One night stand? Yes please

[This letter was passed on by a slightly blushed news editor, *ed*]

Dear Virginia,

I recently read with great interest your article on one night stands in the *Leeds Student* paper (issue 13, Sex Special), and felt compelled, nay urged to contact you. I find it most satisfying that other people my age (give or take a couple of years) have such a similar attitude to sex as myself.

Whilst at Sheffield University I greatly enjoyed one night stands, and came to view them as a fantastic social activity, albeit one you wouldn't fancy telling Grandma about over breakfast.

Your article was passed to me via a colleague, who suggested I might be very interested in contacting you. He was correct in this rather brash assumption. As a single man I am actively pursuing all offers from friends to make fresh contact with the 'fairer sex', and I must say, this looks the most promising lead yet.

I especially enjoy your mention of Lil Kim, a rap artist I am particularly keen on. I would like to quote some of my favourite lyrics at this juncture, but I fear some sort of internet filter may intervene and rumble my keen efforts to establish correspondence with you.

I look forward to hearing from you, and as a journalist in Leeds, am available for dating in Leeds on Monday-Friday nights, and in Sheffield at weekends. I am more than willing to subsidize/refund bus or train fares.

Yours amorously,
Name kept to protect identity

Oscar Wilde you ain't

Dear Editor,

All societies to have equality and diversity officer

Claire Freeston

With AGMs approaching, societies are being encouraged to appoint an officer whose specific role is to deal with equality issues.

Sophia James, the Equality and Diversity Officer elect, is spearheading plans to introduce the position of Equal Opportunities Officer into LUU societies from next year.

The position is designed to ensure that decisions made by activity groups are representative of all members, and that the society is inclusive of minority groups.

The initiative is part of the Access Activities programme, which was started this year.

Sophia James, a third year Politics and Sociology student and LGBT Assembly Chair, said: "I'm confident that the introduction of Equal Opps

Upon reading issue 14's LS2 I was dismayed by one article, "10 things university has made you better at".

It was neither informative or witty. Whilst returning from York this article was read aloud to the car of other Leeds students. The reply? Audible groans, upset at the banal nature and low-brow tone.

Poor language and sex were laboured to be included without any wit or imagination. The first item on the list summed up the whole article; instead of a witty anecdote or scenario at a student improving their sexual technique the words "Giving Head" were plastered across the top in a predictable effort to shock.

Following on from this there was a joke about penis size (I mean, come on—really?) before branding all gay guys sexually irresponsible. Moreover wincing such as "foreplay is like a bodily-fluid pension scheme in which there's a massive final payout" are not only embarrassingly contrived but as far as I'm aware pension schemes aren't famed for single payouts. You usually get a regular amount based on your final salary (during neither foreplay nor intercourse is there a continuous steady deposit of semen). I shall not proceed to other areas of this innane article but please think before publishing low quality pieces in the future, if there is not better content to include then at least put something in which doesn't insultingly stereotype me and fellow students against our will and lower opinion of *Leeds Student* amongst its readership so.

Yours wittily,
L.Pearmain
4th year medical student

[An invite to write a forthcoming List has not yet been taken up, *ed*]

From the message board...

Comment on 'Digby with your rythm stick'

What a interesting interview from such a lovely young man. I would love to meet him he seems very down to earth not like some celebs.

Anytime you are passing cambs Kristain you are most welcome to pop in for tea. Thankyou for making a 40 year old happy watching your programmes.

Posted by Jane Barnett on March 5

Comment on 'Punk is dead, and we have killed it'

I think everyone goes through a phase of wanting to rebel and ends up conforming with the image of whatever rebel look happens to be in this year.

Take a step back from what your being sold and aver your eyes from punk's inner circle of matching mohawks and actually think about the causes and sentiments being expressed. Behind the stereotypes derided by people who just don't get it, the same truths still apply.

Posted by Charles Elwood on March 1

To air your views at the click of a button, log on to
www.leedsstudent.org

-Library Fines-

The discovery that Leeds University libraries took a whopping £360K in fines last year has left many students guppy gasping into thin air.

The investigation by *Leeds Student* has sparked widespread student interest in the figures, showing the importance of Freedom of Information requests to prompt discussion of practices in the University.

As one of the heavyweights of the UK, it is not wholly surprising that Leeds tops the national list for income generated by library fines.

But the gulf between our takings and those at the larger sized Manchester – which lagged by over £100,000 – suggest the charges could be disproportionate.

Are Leeds students really the most lazy library users in the land, in need of reminding prods every five minutes? Are we so in love with books or so fearless of fines that the prospect of owing yet another £50 doesn't instil any of fear?

Possibly. Are there areas of the Library charging setup that unnecessarily avails Leeds students of cash totalling a round in the Old Bar each year? Probably.

The Library does a fantastic job of providing millions of scriptures to fresh eyes every year. And for this it should be commended.

Indeed some students certainly joke that fines are a

way of tipping these services.

But, undoubtedly, the system for loaning could be tweaked.

When it gets to the point where you have been fined more than the book is worth three times over, the crime-punishment dynamic seems to be wrong. When a student has racked up £100 in fines it's clear that the fines' purpose as a deterrent has failed and they have become punitive.

The students we spoke to described numerous incidents where racking up fines were unavoidable. Some were desperate to hold onto a requested book for a final-year essay while others received monster £300 charges after going on holiday and being unable to renew online.

What also arose was the suggestion that some subjects rely more heavily on loaning books and therefore studying them led to an increased risk of paying charges.

Could these issues be addressed without costing the Library excessive time and effort? *Leeds Student* thinks so.

The library users need to take responsibility for themselves – undoubtedly there are often siege tactics for book hoarding employed – but the Library could give more of a helping hand.

Let's hope the futuristic plans for the Ed Boyle will soon be matched with a system full of foresight, making fines for fee-paying students obsolete.

-LGBT-

Leeds Student received a mixed response from LGBT students this week after a surprising report on discrimination was released.

The findings contradicted the general feelings amongst LGBT students who said they were surprised by the report and had never experienced discrimination.

One person who spoke to *Leeds Student* said that these types of reports often find what they are looking for.

Maybe the people who compiled the report were

actively looking for discrimination.

However, the recent findings show that a notable percentage of students have seen their studies suffer because of discrimination over their sexuality.

The results point out that there are students who are experiencing problems over their sexuality but don't speak out and seek help.

In this case, the LGBT society's work has a long way to go and these are the students that they need to reach out to.

the big debate:

Bibliocheque

Ever forgotten a library book you had on loan only to be confronted with a fine so big you couldn't pay the month's rent? Don't pay them and you won't graduate. This week's Big Debate asks:

Are library fines a good idea?

Yes

Kieran Toms
kierantoms@googlemail.com

This argument boils down to the following two truisms: books must be returned at some point, and there has to be an incentive for people to return them. Simple.

Without fines, our library would just become a free bookshop. This might sound wonderful, but...well just think about it, yeah? Rows of empty bookshelves, as students wander round mournfully, looking for something, anything, to study. Library books becoming so undervalued that Leeds book clubs discuss which famous literary work they used as toilet paper that week. "Ran out of loo roll whilst reading Joseph Heller, I wanted to finish the book, but I didn't want a dirty arse. Couldn't do one without...well...you know. It was a Catch-22."

As part of my extensive journalistic research for this article, I encountered the following comment on a Facebook group dedicated to exterminating library fines, "This is not really a fee for the book being 'late', it is a fine for not renewing the book".

But do you not see, dear social-networker, that by not renewing the book, the book becomes late? It is a simple example of cause and effect. Perhaps, following on from your logic, shooting someone to death should be excused, for are murderers of this sort not guilty only of the tiniest movement of a trigger finger? It is the bullet after all which kills, though the person sets the chain of events in motion.

Yes, yes, a smidgeon over the top. But still, fining is a perfectly reasonable way of ensuring that people don't have books out for too long. Part of me is almost sympathetic to the Facebooker's vaguely existential argument—is he a modern day Camus? Is every innocent library user condemned to death simply for not taking part in the needless social protocol of clicking "renew" at their mother's funeral? Trying to set my aside my fear of missing the author's deep philosophical ruminations, I frankly find this argument silly. Fair play for "taking a stand against The Evil Machine", but there are many more deserving causes out there, sir.

Just as the whole point of handing in an essay is to assess how well you have done, rather than

your skill in handing it in, returning a book is not intended to test your adeptness at pressing renew, but rather to ensure the book is returned, as it is just on loan to you. People often do not have time to wait days for it to be brought back when recalled. Were we inhabitants of some honesty-laden utopia, we could perhaps abandon punishment and inducements for bringing back books. People would simply do so out of the goodness of their own heart.

But it is not usually the pang of guilt creeping into your caffeine-addled soul that makes you return it. You are not thinking of the poor chap who placed a hold on it in such good faith so many moons ago. I'd hazard a guess that it is in fact that steadily increasing "FINE NOW UP TO..." figure on your screens that makes you give it back. Without fines, your fellow library user would never get his dreamed-of book; instead it would essentially become your property.

But the books aren't your property, sadly, and this leads us onto yet another unattainable utopia (is there any other kind?). Yes, it would indeed be wonderful to have unlimited amounts of books. Everyone could have a free copy of every book they might ever need. In fact, fuck it, if it's utopia, at birth, every child is given a copy of every book, ever, whether they'll need it or not. And they'll be given a copy of every book printed after their birth too. And they can all be stored in massive pies in the sky.

Sadly we live not in any sort of utopia, but in world of financial considerations, other people who might need a book or two once in a while, and not-unlimited numbers of books.

Therefore, library charges are, (ahem), fine by me.



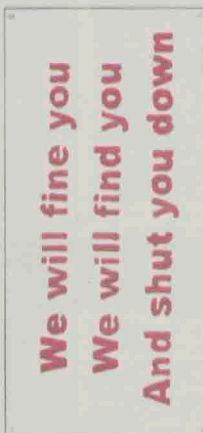
Results from last week's poll:

Should coalition forces leave Afghanistan?

Yes: 56%

No: 44%

Don't forget to log on and have your say at leedsstudent.org



James Legge
james.legge@hotmail.co.uk

Library fines are a pain. Leeds University Library Services last year made £360,000 on library fines paid mostly, I assume, by third-years who had just been told that they wouldn't be able to graduate until they paid up. The figure has been growing at an alarming rate for years, with people willing to take the financial hit to keep hold of an important book in full knowledge that their course-mates are waiting for it's return so that they can write that all-important essay. We have come to view library fines as a part of modern academic life, but I'm going to show you why they are an unnecessary and morally questionable part of university practice.

Advocates of the policy of library fines like to proclaim that without them the libraries would have no money and would have to close, but there are two reasons why this claim holds no water. First of all, the library is clearly paid for by the university, out of the millions we all pay to study here. It's obvious that subject departments can make money in various ways, through research and government funding, but the library, aside from selling those cute "Sshhh!" bags, needs to be paid for by our tuition fees. Secondly, what kind of accountant would factor potential fine revenue into the library's financial plans? This would involve spending on running costs against an indeterminate amount of money, which you have no guarantee of receiving, and no member of the University administration is that stupid. The money actually ends up in the Student Services coffers, but that's neither here nor there.

Some people also like to claim that library fines are the only viable way of getting books back from book-

borrowing deviants, but this claim is easily dismissed by recourse to empirical evidence. The fact is that when someone has a library fine of a negligible amount, say three pounds, and has a book overdue, they can easily keep it for another week at the small cost of another couple of pounds. This continues with other books until they hit the thirty pound limit and the powers-that-be impose their sanctions; they can't get any more books out and they have to reduce their arrears and return the book to be able to do so. This is clear evidence that it isn't the fine itself that gives the incentive to return of the book, but the removal of the right to borrow books. It is, then, clear that the fining system is just providing a comfortable buffer zone. If once a book is overdue the individual instantly loses the right to borrow further books, then they would be returned immediately, and the problem of late-returns would be dealt with.

So, if the library doesn't require the fine money, and the system would be more efficient without them, this begs the question, "Why does the university impose them?"

The unfortunate answer is that the university is never afraid of turning a profit from the student body. Although, as I said above, there is no financial necessity for library fines, there is still a pretty penny to be made. Students of our generation won't remember this, but only a few years ago the limit to which you could take library fines and still borrow books was only ten pounds. It is clear that the University recognised that the only time people paid their library fines was, as I have said, when they wanted to graduate, or when they had hit the no-more-borrowing limit, after which they would learn their lesson and from then on return or renew their borrowed books. It made business sense for the University to raise the limit by 200% and increase this tidy little earner. Profits skyrocketed, gained from the students for using a service which they already fund themselves with their tuition fees.

Because there is no financial necessity for library fines, because there is no reason to suggest that they help in any way the smooth-running of our library services and because they are just a way for the University to turn a profit from us, the student body, the library fine system is unnecessary and ever-so-slightly evil.

From the Himalayas to Huddersfield

LUU Tibet Soc interviews Buddhist monk Jamyang Chophel

It's not what you'd expect to find on the fourth floor of a concrete council block in Huddersfield; stepping out of the lift into Jamyang Chophel's flat feels like stepping out of West Yorkshire into the Himalayas. His living room is a colourful shrine to Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama, its walls hung with Tibetan flags, pictures of His Holiness and precious Buddhist Wall hangings sent by Jamyang's distant family who are in exile in Nepal.

Jamyang is not the kind of person you would expect to find living in Huddersfield either. Born into a Tibetan nomadic family in 1976, Jamyang is one of eight children, whose lives, like many others, have been torn apart by the repressive Chinese Communist regime that has been occupying Tibet for the past 50 years.

Unschooling as a child, Jamyang became a monk at Tsantek Monastery when he was eighteen. He lived there for ten years and liked it, although he says that the Chinese presence was apparent, with enforced patriotism classes for all the monks, and pictures of the Dalai Lama banned, as they are all over Tibet, to stop people learning about His Holiness' teachings, Jamyang thinks.

Through friends, Jamyang managed to obtain photographs and tapes of The Dalai Lama, and in 2004 he was arrested for importing and

distributing these to grateful monks and families.

Jamyang was imprisoned without trial for 'distribution of reactionary material', and remained in prison for a year until his family managed to raise enough money to bribe an official for his release.

Corruption, Jamyang says, is endemic in the Tibetan prison system. He was lucky that his family and friends could just about afford to bribe the prison officials throughout his term, or his experience would have been much worse. In broken English, he explains this as follows: "I, in fact, had just some torture - not very bad like others".

He went on to say that some of the other political prisoners had been beaten and tortured so badly that they died one or two days after their release. He continues: "...some, after prison - disabled. Some, they died. This happens very often. Once they know this person is dying, they just release them. They don't want [prisoners to] die in the prison because that is bad [for their] reputation."

Jamyang stayed in Tibet for four months after he was released from prison, before escaping across the mountains into Nepal in a feat worthy of a Hollywood blockbuster.

Five refugees and a guide, who faced up to three years in prison if caught, tramped through the snow,

sleeping in the open or in caves if they were lucky. When they arrived in Nepal, they were robbed of their belongings, including shoes, by a gang of criminals dressed to look like the Nepalese police.

Eventually they arrived in Kathmandu, and a wealthy friend of Jamyang's uncle helped to arrange his passage to the UK. He landed at Heathrow in Autumn 2005 and since then has gone through the asylum process to be granted refugee status.

Jamyang Chophel is just one example of a Tibetan refugee with such a story. March 10th this year marks the 50th anniversary of the first and most brutal crackdown on Tibetans rising up against Chinese occupation.

In March 1959, when Tibetans took to the streets of Lhasa in peaceful protest after suspecting the Chinese Militia of attempting to abduct the Dalai Lama and shell his palace with him inside it, His Holiness had no other option but to flee, secretly, to India.

In the days following his escape, the Chinese successfully shelled the Dalai Lama's palace, the Norbulinka, killing the thousands of families of pilgrims that were camped around it. Following this, the Chinese Liberation Army guards publicly machine-gunned all 200 of the Dalai Lama's Bodyguards.

In the remaining months of 1959,



Buddhist monks on the March 10th 2009 protest march

Photo: Isabel Lane

it is estimated that 86,000 Tibetans were killed as a direct result of the Chinese occupation. In the fifty years since then, the situation in Tibet has in many ways worsened, and people who manage to escape every year tell of cultural genocide, forced sterilisation of Tibetan women, torture, arbitrary arrest and brutality.

Throughout this bloodshed and violence, the Dalai Lama has always

advocated a moderate and non-violent approach that seeks autonomy for Tibet but not independence from China.

Many Tibetans, however - especially the younger generation who have never known cultural freedom - are rejecting His Holiness' non-violent approach as fruitless. On March 10th 2008, in the year of the Beijing Olympics, Tibetans took to the streets, rioting and engaging in conflict with ethnic Chinese citizens, which prompted a Chinese military crackdown: up to 80 Tibetans were confirmed dead.

This month, it is expected that there will be widespread unrest inside Tibet. Consequently, informants anticipate a severe backlash by the PRC authorities who, at the end of February, closed Tibetan borders to all foreigners until April.

Following discussion of the brutal crackdown in March last year, Jamyang remains optimistic about 2009: "We only have truth but they have weapons".

The Leeds University Union Tibet Society (LUU Tibet Soc) seeks to raise awareness and make sure Tibetans' voices are heard at Leeds University, an institution that is heavily financed by the Chinese government.

This March, we are lucky enough to have Palden Gyatso speaking on campus. Palden Gyatso is a Buddhist monk and former political prisoner, imprisoned after the first Lhasa Uprising of 1959 for 33 years.

He wrote a book, *Fire Under Snow*, which has recently been made into a film, and will be speaking about his experiences in The Business School's Western Lecture Theatre at 6pm on March 19th.

After fifty years of repression, it's time Tibetans were given back their culture, their religion and ultimately their human rights. After meeting Jamyang Chophel, members of LUU Tibet Soc are only more certain of this.

Ashleigh Carter
Isabel Lane



Draphchi Prison, where Jamyang Chophel was imprisoned

Photo: Isabel Lane

...the situation in Tibet has in many ways worsened, and people who manage to escape every year tell of cultural genocide, forced sterilisation of Tibetan women, torture, arbitrary arrest and brutality.

Patsy Palmer, Stephen Fry, Ruby Wax and Alastair Campbell. They've all recently come forward about their problems with mental health for Time to Change, a national campaign to end discrimination.

1 in 4 people will have a mental health problem in their lifetime, and considering those at university are some of the most at risk, Leeds Student decided to find out more about the intricate matters of the mind...

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Ten Tips for Positive Mental Health

1. Keep active
2. Eat well
3. Sleep well
4. Drink sensibly
5. Keep in touch with friends and family
6. Listen to uplifting music
7. Practice your self-care
8. Spend more time outdoors
9. Take up meditation or yoga
10. Set realistic goals

For more information

themindmattersociety@gmail.com
thesite.org/selfharm
leeds.ac.uk/studentcounselling
 Nightline: 0113 3801381
time-to-change.org.uk
elijah.wolf@mindyourheadleeds.com
studentdepression.org
mindyourheadleeds.com

"Cheer up!" One of the most redundant and annoying phrases in the English language, it also embodies a common attitude of dismissal towards mental health problems. Everyone at some point or other has felt low, anxious or stressed, but we might be cautious about admitting it to others for fear of seeming weak or attention seeking. At the other end of the scale, serious mental health issues have unrealistic associations with insanity and violence, and can sometimes seem like distant problems experienced only by celebrities or creative geniuses.

In reality, 1 in 4 people will have a mental health problem at some point in their lives, and this includes a whole spectrum of cases which are particularly common to students such as anxiety or depression. The vast majority of this quarter of the population won't have an illness where they're followed around by Paul Bettany or Brad Pitt, as glamorously portrayed in *A Beautiful Mind* or *Fight Club*. An equally high proportion won't have the bipolar form of depression attributed to the artistic creativity of Pablo Picasso or Vincent van Gogh. Most will be ordinary people with ordinary lives and problems.

It is generally understood by psychiatrists that most problems relating to mental health arise from a mixture of genetic predisposition and environmental triggers such as bereavement or stress. Problems show themselves in a variety of ways dependent on the person and their situation, ranging from the sometimes discreet symptoms of anxiety and depression to more disruptive experiences with eating disorders, substance abuse or self-harm. Students at university may be particularly at risk of developing problems with mental health what with newfound pressures of self-sufficiency, and time management between work and social commitments. Coupled with family or relationship issues, students are even more vulnerable and may suddenly find themselves unable to cope, needing outside assistance.

Katie Hamilton, a 19-year-old student doing a foundation year in mixed sciences who is part of a campaign called Respect?, describes her past problem with self-harm as the result of, "a build-up of pressure". Before coming to Leeds University, she started a year in dance training, where she first started to cut herself at the age of 16.

"In the beginning it made me feel better,"

she explains. "But because it's addictive you have to do it more and more to get the same affect. It's a bit like a drug I suppose. I used to be able to cut a tiny bit and then feel relieved, but then I had to do it more. The last time I cut was the time I almost needed stitches - but I didn't get any effect from it at all".

Like most people who have problems with mental health, Katie's experience was the result of a combination of factors, including a new

the last thing that you want to hear. Especially if you're suicidal, it motivates you to be like, 'What's the point? Nobody believes me anyway,' she says.

The discrimination Katie experienced is not uncommon. A survey carried out by Mind Matters, the university's first mental health society established last November, showed that out of 950 Leeds students, 50.9% believe that the stigma of mental illness is still prevalent in the student population. It also revealed that only 63% of students would definitely seek professional help if they felt they had a mental health problem, and 48% were unsure or did not know where they could seek help if they wanted it.

The on-campus Student Counselling Centre located at Clarendon Place is the first port of call for many students who need help with mental health issues. In 2007/08 the centre saw 1711 students out of which the most common problems were related to relationships, depression, academic work, and anxiety. The centre provides a variety of resources for those looking to increase their sense of mental well-being, from a series of 'head start' cards offering practical tips for dealing with common issues such as low confidence, exam stress and trouble sleeping; to individual counselling, drop in services and workshops.

One of the most notable things about the Counselling Centre is its emphasis on 'depathologising' mental illness. Mental health is seen on a continuum, and the centre explicitly avoids labelling or providing a medical assessment of students who come to see them, making referrals to GPs or the Leeds Student Medical Practice only in extreme and necessary circumstances. If mental health is indeed on a continuum, the question might arise of how to know whether your problem is serious enough to need help. Where, for example, is the line between being feeling depressed and needing counselling, and how do you know when you have crossed it?

Nigel Humphrys, Head of the Student Counselling Centre, recognises the distinction: "Saying 'I feel depressed' is often an expression people use when they actually mean 'I just feel low or melancholy, and all of us at some point will feel low and melancholy, that's a fact of life,'" he explains.

"It's when it becomes something that stays around for a long time; when you get up in the morning it's the first thing you think about, and it's the last thing you think of at night. You notice that there is a change in the way that you

Over 50% believe that the stigma of mental illness is still prevalent in the student population

intense regime and issues with her parents, who forced her to leave home during her dance training. After an initial period where she cut herself up to three times a day, she went through phases of up to three months without abuse after which the problem would return. It was her own recognition of the issue that led her to seek help, though she explains how she was forestalled in her recovery by the misconceptions and stereotypes attached to self-harm:

"Some of the doctors thought I was just attention seeking and that there was nothing wrong with me - I've actually been blatantly told that before, which is horrible because it's just

TELEVISION LOW DOWN MUSIC TELEVISION LOW DOWN MUSIC
THE LIST CLUBS FASHION THE LIST CLUBS FASHION
OBSERVATIONS BOOKS ARTS OBSERVATIONS BOOKS ARTS
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photo: alex patillo

LSR

thirteen/march/zero nine

INSIDE

28 PAGES OF...
FISH?

LS2

CONTENTS

LS2. **Editor** - Laurie Whitwell • **Associate Editor** - John Puddephatt • **Features** - Clare Pidsley, Caitlin Vandertop, Sarah Allen • **Fashion** - Hannah Vasdeky & Alex Haddow • **Music** - Ramzy Alwakeel & Helena Goodwyn • **Clubs** - Sam Donnison • **Arts** - Vicky Ellis & Jack Cullen • **Books** - Rebecca Miles • **TV** - Evie Pryor-Jones & Hatti Cawley • **Observations** - Rob Heath & Marya Yasin • **Technology** - John Puddephatt • **LS2 Design** - Frances Kehinde

3/	Starsigns
4/	The List: 10 signs that you're regressing
6/	Lifestyle
8/	Music: Reel Big Fish at the Academy
11/	Under the radar: Filmmaking Soc
12/	Feature: Fashion Fascism
14/	Feature: Local Attractions
16/	Fashion: Strut show reviewed
18/	Clubs: Summer Ball preview
20/	Arts: Confessions of a Shopaholic
22/	Books
23/	TV
26/	Technology
27/	Observations



Freddy Olympic tells your future

Aries

Smashing though you are, a niggling little worry pops up in your head this week. You bite your nails, you grit your teeth, you're close to tears with this worry. It distracts your passion and your hope and your joy. You're bringing that special someone home for the first time tonight and there may be a small-to-medium poo stain on the basin.

Taurus

999,998... 999,999... 1,000,000! Yes! Your million jellybaby march reconstruction eventually reaches completion this week. Awards will bestow themselves upon your preposterous construction and your parents will be slightly more proud of you than usual, although they're still not really proud of you since you told them you're one parent of a mixed race baby.

Gemini

Fire-bound galleons will cascade from a magenta sky and disappear into an shape-changing pupil of an eye pushing out from the mouth of a translucent volcano with an iris made of fox tears. No. Wait a second. I've pressed fucking mental, terrifying end of the world button instead of horoscope on <http://www.bollocksspouter.com/thingssthatstupidpeoplewhoreadtheheatmagazinebelieve/index/2008/racism.html>

Cancer

There's never going to be a better time than this week to start a new craft/hobby/sport/religion/regime as a lot of people will be distracted by a troop of dancing gay bears who will rumba along Woodhouse Lane shouting expletives at the Polish. That's

people from Poland rather than a thing that makes wood look nice.

Leo

Your explosive new play about the class system in Britain and its impact on 21st century media culture turns out to be, when looked at in the harsh light of day, 630 pages of the words "I've got a unit of shit in my hand. I'm throwing it over the bridge" repeated over and over in different fonts.

Virgo

In one of those slo-mo film scenes of love's reunion a bright red scarf flutters slowly past you and you reach out to catch it before it hits the ground. Because you've watched too many films you expect an exotic, beautiful stranger to thank you and make sweet, just-a-little dirty, love to you. The scarf's owner is in fact Lionel Blair and he's got a semi on.

Libra

You receive invitations to 49 parties in one day ranging from a casual dinner party to a lubed rim-fest in the Parkinson basement. In a horrible coincidence of timing you realise that Wednesday is the day you promised someone you would meet them at the top of the Eiffel tower and marry them. Thankfully, they text you and say don't bother, they're getting married to Lionel Blair.

Scorpio

Feasting as you do on the blood of the innocent a strange notion grows in your mindbox. Would it be possible to instead brighten the world rather than wage a one-man conquest to darken the dawn? Only if you get through the just-

arrived Lost boxset. Oh, Sawyer! Love me too!

Sagittarius

A pretty girl with glasses bets you can't pump your arm in the air and shout 'Wool Go Rowdies!' twenty-nine times per day this week. So, with much gusto, off you go to try and claim your honour and the prize of the aforementioned bet. The prize will be only known to you and the bespectacled maiden. Relish it when you win.

Capricorn

Whilst climbing through a small toilet window to try and enter your locked house in order to watch just a few minutes of Hannah Montana you bump your head fucking hard. As you slowly come to, you begin spouting folksy wisdom and down-home phrases about horseshoes and squeaky doors. In addition, you will say 'goshdammit' plenty.

Aquarius

By mistakenly signing up for the wrong module at the start of the year you find yourself measuring the waistline of obese Indonesian adolescents. The smell will be the worst part of the task rather than the disconcerting motion of the belly fat wobbling before your eyes to the tune of relax by Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

Pisces

What's that? You've got a basic understanding of the DJs on Radio 1 and you crave attention from all around you? Can't be arsed to learn to play a proper instrument? Not a creative cell in your mind but you want to claim credit for arranging other peoples work one after another? That's right! This week you become a DJ. Enjoy it...

WANT TO BE AS COOL AS THIS GUY?



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THE LIST/

10

Signs that you're
regressing...

University isn't all about progress. While I'm sure some people use their stint at uni to broaden the mind and mature the intellect, a large percentage of us do not actually stand around in tweed suits, sipping brandy and discussing the finer points of Foucauldian poststructuralism. A closer look at the average life of a student reveals that a greater majority of us end up regressing back to childhood; with excessive TV-watching, poor personal hygiene, a love of pog-collecting... Some things just haven't changed.

1.

Seeking
a 'buzz'

If you were lucky enough to have parents who actually let you eat 'the blue sweets' then you will have experienced the joys and the unfortunate side effects of a sugar overdose. Such a dense quantity of artificial colours and flavours in one or two mouthfuls will have led to a riotous out-of-control half hour or so, followed by the unavoidable come down: a headache or 'tummy upset', perhaps even the shakes.

I'm sure you can guess what ritual this can be likened to in our student world...

2.

Pointless
collections

Remember when break time was the prime opportunity to proudly display your collecting talent, be it with POGS, Pokemon or football cards? The size of your set reflected how cool you were and was a necessary status symbol. How much pocket money did you spend trying to get the last card only to find that you had yet another Magikarp? It seems like a terrible waste of money now you're older and wiser. But another example of your ability to hoard has built up over the past few months. It has pride of place on your window sill: a gigantic pyramid of empty bottles and cans once again demonstrates how cool you are - you 'hardcore drinker'.

Diet
and exercise

As kids we consumed a large amount of brightly coloured treats high in sugar and fat because they would be foisted on us at every celebratory event. A birthday party invitation was the fat kid's 'Golden Ticket': cakes, mini pizzas, party rings, jelly and my personal favourite, an endless supply of crisps in bowls and no knowledge of how many packets I'd devoured. Our metabolisms have now inevitably slowed, or maybe we pile on the pounds after a gorge because we no longer run around for hours on end playing 'tig'. There was a brief spell of 'healthy' during our teen years due to conscientious parents, but our diets have now regressed to dire or fairly poor. This is thanks largely to the amount of take-aways in Headingley and 'beer goggles' that nicely dissipate any shred of guilt from the calorie conscious mind.

3.

Sleep
patterns

You had to be prepared to face punishment for this act at secondary school, but just like when you were little you can once again be forgiven for falling asleep in class. Lecturers don't care; the most you get is a reproachful look. But wouldn't you love them to be like your sweet, softly spoken primary school teacher who placed a blanket over you, gave you a designated 'nap-time?', wiped the paint or flecks of lunch off your face after you had passed out into it, maybe even sang you a lullaby like a modern day Snow White? Unlikely. I know, but we can only hope.

4.

5.

'Friends'

At secondary school we blossomed into who we wanted to be via a clique or a social grouping: a 'goth', 'townie', 'skater', 'geek' or a 'popular' kid. But remember when you were at primary school and you had no choice who you befriended? The people in your class (usually whoever you were sat next to) became your entire world. This is an experience mirrored through student halls. If you have 100 things in common with your assigned flatmates and would trust them with your life then congratulations, but it's more likely that you secretly want to put their toothbrush in the toilet... or something less disgusting but equally venomous. You wouldn't socialise with them if you had the choice. You won't tell them this though, and I don't blame you; you've got another five months to live with them and unless you keep your toothbrush in your room... well, you get my drift.



Personal hygiene

Everyone's could have done with improvement as a child - there was a reason why you had to be reminded to brush your teeth before bed and to have a bath. But without your parents here to remind you, how often have you washed your bed covers? Or gone another day without a shower because you just can't be arsed getting out of bed on Sunday? Cleanliness has taken a downturn, seen in your pitiful attempt to make the washing up liquid go that extra mile so you just rinse your plate, or dare I insinuate just lick the spoon until it's 'clean.'

7.

Fiscal awareness

When we were very young we had little understanding of 'money matters', primarily because we didn't have any and couldn't do maths. Then there was the span when we received pocket money every week. We knew exactly how much a bouncy ball/yo-yo/Shout magazine would cost and how much we could spend on getting a 'high'. We then took GCSE maths and had much more complex things to remember than how to add and subtract: algebra, trigonometry and division filled our tiny minds and pushed the simpler aspects out. So after a few years, if you didn't take A level or university maths (God help you) you're probably a bit rusty when working out how much you can spend per week on booze and other necessities (club tickets, taxi money, own-brand pasta) and once again struggle with the most trivial sum.



8.

Mass consumption

On Saturdays you would have been out of bed at dawn and positioned centimetres away from the T.V. ready for hours of wonderful watching. All the favourites: Live and Kicking, Power Rangers, Taz Mania, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles... not a lot has changed since then. Yes, there was the time when you went to school every day and the weekend was reserved only for a lie in, but now we're back to watching hours of the mind-numbing stuff. Personally I'd take Taz over Jeremy Kyle any day, but no matter what my preferences are we indulge like children; the only difference now is it's a week day morning not a Saturday. Oh, and you're meant to be in a lecture.

9.

Showing appreciation

As children we adored our parents, then as teens went through a phase of independence, attempting to show we didn't need them because it wasn't cool to do so. We shunned their affection, avoided conversing, rebelled and generally were complete bastards. But now the tide has turned. Students discuss how they miss them and some even make regular contact, once again duly and justly valuing the people who brought them into the world.

10.

Focus

A primary school day seemed to last forever. You probably remember losing concentration a few times every hour as something else would catch your attention; the class playing rounders visible out of the window, the kid who's peed themselves as they were sitting cross legged on the square carpeted area. It seems to be just as hard to stay focused in lectures but the boring, windowless rooms of Roger Stevens don't really allow ample distractions. So we have to devise our own entertainment. My personal favourite was when I almost made out my lecturer's nipples through his jumper from the top row - impressive stuff.

So we're all just big kids really. But why shouldn't we indulge in immaturity? We know it's our last chance before we have to earn a living, so our regression can be excused. Well, just a little anyway!

FOOD/

Eco-friendly eating: make room for sustainability in your shopping basket

Last week saw the very first Sustainability Food Fair grace the Union. Organised by the Sustainability Action Group (SAG), a group of environmentally conscious students and staff, the aim of the fair was to raise student awareness of global and local food issues.

A series of carefully prepared stalls contained information on a wide range of issues: growing your own food; environmental and global food issues; foraging and recipe ideas.

One thing was clear, those involved had put a lot of time, effort and thought into the preparation of the fair. Given this, it came as somewhat of a shame that the Union put it at the far end of Game On, away from the gaze of the passing student.

We live in a world of ironic food inequality. While millions starve to death in the third world, thousands in the West die of heart disease from over-consumption. Agribusiness and intensive farming are putting strain on fossil fuel, fertiliser and land supply, helping in no small part to fuel global warming. Food sustainability is about trying to make our agriculture and consumption sustainable in the long term.

Many of our food practices are unsustainable; our overeating of intensively reared meat, our

insistence on eating out of season produce, and our reliance on energy intensive food imports.

Although it might seem like an impossible task, change is still achievable. Meat is an incredibly inefficient way of taking energy from field to plate, and while I love meat (really, I do), it can't be denied that its consumption is, if you'll pardon a colloquialism, really fucking things up.

Simply cutting your meat consumption down, and encouraging others to do the same, could start to make a real difference.

But enough of the preaching. If you're going to start eating more veggie food, I have to convince with some delicious erudition, right?

Let's just think about cheese. I'm sure we can all agree that cheese makes life, relationships and just about any food better. That's pretty much a given.

So take yourself some cheese, and grate it in-between sliced vegetables of your choice (try potato, onion, carrot, sweet potato and purple sprouting broccoli) in an ovenproof dish.

Pour over some cream, season well, sprinkle some sunflower seeds and more cheese on top (but, of course) and cook at 180°C until all vegetables are soft, the cheese on top is browned, and you are slathering all over the kitchen floor with a fork in hand.

What results is a rich, delicious meal with oodles of comfort-food stodge factor.

Saving the world, topping up your vitamins and keeping up a happy relationship with your taste buds.

What more can you ask for? Please don't say bacon...

words/ sam leach



REVIEW/

The best place around: our pick of Leeds' finest fish and chip restaurants

There are over 8,600 fish and chip shops in the UK and Leeds offers an admirable selection of Britain's famous cuisine.

I remember comforting childhood days that involved fish and chips wrapped in newspaper...Ink-poisoning put paid to the newspaper, but the essence of fish and chips still remains.

Brett's on North Lane in Headingley offers both a restaurant section and a take away booth both serving traditional fish and chips with options such as mushy peas and potato fish cakes. The restaurant

has a pub feel that combines two of Britain's most famous culinary traits.

Bryan's fish and



chip shop on

Westwood Lane, Headingley also has a restaurant but instead of the pub atmosphere, Bryan's has opted for a funky diner style restaurant that gives a modern twist to the old classic.

As well as the traditional battered cod or halibut, Bryan's also offers scallops, salmon and if you catch them on a good day then they also sell lobster.

It is also interesting to note that like the other fish and chip shops they do usually cook their chips in beef dripping but occasionally, if you ask nicely, they can be cooked in vegetable oil to make them vegetarian friendly.

Royal Park Fisheries, on Royal Park Road, don't offer the variety or the seating area but their chips give the other fisheries a run for their money.

As well as various battered meats, Royal Park Fisheries battered cod served with an enormous portion of chips are simple yet effective, and probably the most reasonably priced.

You may not be able to eat them in a restaurant but that never really was the point of fish and chips was it? Find a nice comfy wall, picture the seaside and dig in with your fingers.

words/ antonia lyne



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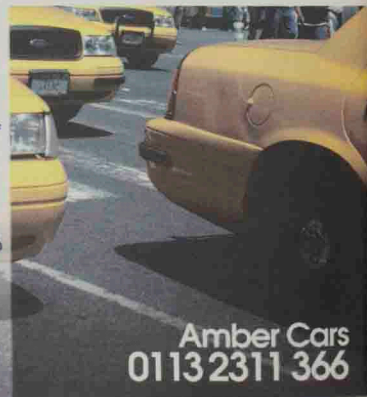
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BURSTING THE BUBBLE/

Diary of a Leeds student
abroad: picking up
Portuguese in Brazil

I am currently in third year, studying Portuguese in a place so idyllic that to call it Paradise would not be beyond reason; a small Brazilian beach city, on the most eastern reaches of the Americas, called João Pessoa.

Life in João Pessoa largely takes place in the open air, because of the sub-tropical climate - though for some, life outdoors does not come as a matter of choice.

Outside the guarded plush abodes and the private swimming pools belonging to middle class Brazilians, another Brazil lingers in the backdrop; a

Brazil that houses street children addicted to crack; a Brazil whose streets are lined with underage girls ready to entice their next client.

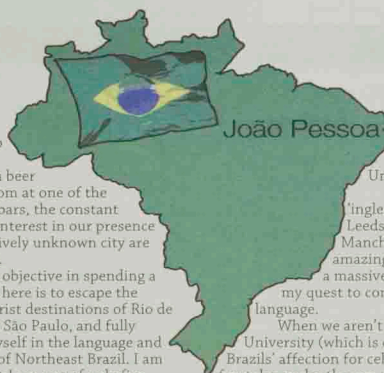
I may live in one of the most beautiful, richly diverse countries in the world, but the inequality between the lifestyles of the rich and poor is painfully tangible.

Despite that fact, the most striking aspect of the city - aside from the stunning coastline - is its people. They are unimaginably friendly, and martyrs to conversation.

From engaging in impromptu chats at

the bus stop to being invited for a beer with a random at one of the local beach bars, the constant smiles and interest in our presence in this relatively unknown city are never tiring.

My main objective in spending a year abroad here is to escape the popular tourist destinations of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and fully immerse myself in the language and the culture of Northeast Brazil. I am lucky in that I am one of only five



English people studying at the University here.

The other four 'Ingleses' - two from Leeds and two from Manchester - are amazing people, and are a massive inspiration in my quest to conquer the language.

When we aren't studying at the University (which is often, due to Brazil's affection for celebrating every feast day under the sun with a public holiday), we spend our days socializing with a variety of people from all manner of backgrounds.

From DVD sellers to filmmakers to street-selling artists, the conversation is always lively, the beer is always cold (Brazilians have an almost anal obsession with ensuring drinks are at freezing point) and the scenery, whether it be among the palm trees of the sandy beaches or in the rustic centre under the shadow of the Mata Atlântica jungle, is always spectacular.

My time here has provided me with some of the best months, and some of the best memories, of my life. Part of me wants to sing from the rooftops about the brilliance of this modest city, but the other part wants to keep quiet and help protect its quaint, run-down character from imminent concrete construction in the name of tourism.

Ecological preservation groups are already hard at work protecting the lush greenery that is a prominent part of João Pessoa, but whether the city transforms or not, it will always be my home away from home. I will be back.

words/ frances hunter

Part of me wants to sing from the rooftops about the brilliance of this modest city, but the other part wants to keep quiet and help protect its quaint, run-down character from imminent concrete construction in the name of tourism.

If you're going on a year abroad next year we want to hear about it.

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7 ASH GARDENS | 4 BED | £66PPW | LS6 | REF. #TW12

Detached house in middle of headingley, short walk to Beckett's Park campus, arndale centre for shops, bus stops, banks etc, double glazing, rear garden. Kitchen with fridge freezer & washing machine leading to good sized conservatory lounge living area, 4 bedrooms with double beds, bathroom with shower. Furnished. Gas central heating/hot water, Alarm/Security System. £100 per person Sign-up Fee.



16 GRIMTHORPE TERRACE | 4 BED | £61PPW | LS6 | REF. #TW19

Situated in central headingley short walk to Beckett's Park, 2 mins to arndale centre for shops, banks, pubs, etc easy access into centre of leeds via bus. Large kitchen with fridge freezer & washing machine, spacious lounge, house bathroom plus another shower, all bedrooms with double beds, gardens, good parking, through terrace. Furnished, Gas central heating/hot water, Alarm/Security System, £100pp Sign-up Fee.



35 ASH ROAD | 5 BED | £62PPW | LS6 | REF. #TW43

Good location in headingley, 2 mins to main street to shops, banks & nightlife. Easy access to Leeds city centre & uni via bus. Kitchen with fridge freezer & washing machine, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, all rooms with double beds, driveway parking for several cars, garden to rear. Furnished, semi-detached. Gas central heating/hot water, Alarm/Security System, £100 per person Sign-up Fee.

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SINGLES

Pet Shop Boys
'Love etc.'
Parlophone
(9)



The first single from the forthcoming *Yes LP* is deftly promising, 'Love etc.' skitters forward in cheeky compound time, imbuing melancholic synthesiser lines with astounding infectiousness; in turns restrained and explosive, the song pays the utmost attention to instrumental subtlety, but doesn't think twice about allowing a football chant to share a chorus with references to Gerhard Richter.

words/ edward cullen

The Saturdays
'Just Can't Get Enough'
Fascination
(10)



I Just Can't Get Enough of bland girlbands. I Just Can't Get Enough of S Club Juniors reunions. I Just Can't Get Enough of pointless 80s covers. I Just Can't Get Enough of cynical 'charity' releases with no obvious connection to helping the poor and needy. But I also Just Can't Get Enough of Frankie Sandford.

words/ edward column

Papa Roach
'Hollywood Whore'
DGC
(3)



Following the childhood defining 'Last Resort', Papa Roach apparently scuttled off never to be seen again: until now, that is. With the song's constant maligning of the 'Hollywood whore', it is important to note that Papa Roach are probably living the lives of rock n' roll excess themselves. Oops.

words/ simon rowbotham

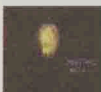
Digitalanal
'Silver Poetry'
Just
(7)



A spacious, shimmering and downbeat dance track from London-based Andy Dobson. The track is well paced and at times the beats bring to mind DJ Shadow or Four Tet. A delicate string arrangement opens up the track into somewhere between Ólafur Arnalds and one of those 'Come to Scotland now!' adverts. (7)

words/ michael waters

Metric
'Help I'm Alive'
Metric Music
(6)



Despite a crass title, the first output from forthcoming *LP Fantasies* starts with brilliant tension. The first punctured, echoing 30 seconds leave you hanging; it's unfortunate the rest of the song doesn't know what to do with itself. Its disjointed components merely tease you with the band's proven electropop potential.

words/ lizzie ibbotson

RECORDS

1990s

Kicks

Rough Trade

Formed from the ashes of the Yummy Fur, the Glasgow legends that also spawned Franz Ferdinand, 1990s burst onto the scene in 2007 with *Cookies*, a sardonic mix of dumb riffs and wittier-than-thou lyrics (key line: 'My cult status keeps me alive'). It was a debut that revelled in its own decadence, but had the charm – and three killer singles – to back it up. Two years on, with Bernard Butler back on production duties, its follow-up has arrived.

Kicks bursts into life with the relentless 'Vondelpark'; boasting one of the album's most anthemic choruses and some Television-esque guitarwork from singer Jackie McKeown, the track demonstrates that 1990s' knack for a killer hook has never been sharper. Likewise, 'The Box' welds Glitter Band drums to a filthy lyric



about trapping a girl in 'the place I keep my pants and socks', and is guaranteed to have you singing along like a moron by the second time the chorus rolls around. Meanwhile, when the band wheel out the vocal harmonies on tracks like the cutesy funk of '59' or the piledriving 'Kickstrasse' – a tale of love between two terrorists, with guest vocals from ex-Long Blonde Kate Jackson – it sounds like nothing less than a

masterclass in timeless pop.

Despite a couple of mid-tempo tracks that drag the album down during its second half, the band hardly sound partied-out, and a refreshing sense of sobriety gives *Kicks* an edge over its predecessor. With its simple lyrics and nagging guitar line, 'The Kids' may even be a rare interlude of sincerity and, in spite of cribbing wholesale from Bowie's 'Sound and Vision', is one of the album's highlights. However, the normal service of sarcasm is quickly resumed when McKeown threatens to 'be Scientistology by June' in the swaggering 'Everybody Please Relax'.

Ultimately, while it doesn't offer up a cheap three-minute thrill like 'See You at the Lights', the album is a far more satisfying and coherent beast than *Cookie*. In just two years, the 1990s have gone from crass to class; on the evidence of *Kicks*, they deserve to follow their ex-bandmates and make their way into the major leagues, waving goodbye to their cherished 'cult status' once and for all. (8)

words/ alex wisgait

MORE ALBUM

Marianne Faithfull
Easy Come Easy Go
Dramatico



Marianne Faithfull's first covers record with Hal Willner since 1987's *Strange Weather* certainly covers a lot: Randy Newman, Dolly Parton, Duke Ellington and the Decemberists are all represented on this vast and varied album. It's about two hours of music, and comes with a DVD documentary to boot.

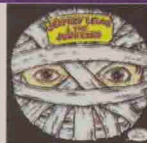
So it's a substantial investment, which leads one to suspect that it's one for dyed-in-the wool Faithfull followers. But a quick listen to any of the 18 songs reveals that the album has more to offer than another catalogue number for the anorak's collection. The rhythm section is excellent, while the arrangements are inventive and sensitive, always providing a lush and colourful accompaniment for Faithfull's voice. There are some excellent song choices – Morrissey's 'Dear God Please Help Me' is unexpectedly appropriate – and some gripping collaborations: Antony Hegarty, for example, is uncharacteristically gutsy on 'Ooh Baby Baby'.

But it is hard to truly fall in love with this record for one simple reason: Faithfull's voice simply isn't attractive enough. Her performance suffers from a sort of disinterested vocal tiredness – she's frequently inaccurate in her intonation, and her phrasing almost always just misses out on the drive of the line. She flattens out the songs at the very point from which they ought to sprout life, and soar on wings of truly artistic interpretation.

So, if you're at all interested in Marianne Faithfull, get a copy. You should also get one if you're interested in arrangement, orchestration or production. If you're interested in listening to exquisite, visceral, moving performances however, continue your search elsewhere. (7)

words/ george reece

Jeffrey Lewis
& the Junkyard
Em Are I
Rough Trade



It would be unfair to label Jeffrey Lewis anything less than prolific after five straight years on tour, but it's certainly good to hear some new music from the New York-based artist. *Em Are I* is a welcome return, the title perhaps an indication of the continuing self-examining nature of much of his material.

Those familiar with Lewis' previous output certainly won't be disappointed, but there is a great deal for new listeners to enjoy, too. *Em Are I* seems a logical progression from 2006's *City & Eastern Songs*, the lo-fi acoustic sound that dominated his earliest output supplanted by a mature, full-band backing – now with the addition of a full-time keyboard player. Like NYC contemporaries Yo La Tengo, Lewis provides something for everybody to enjoy, from acoustic stream-of-thought to an eight-minute epic ('The Upside-Down Cross') to fulfilling the maxim that every Jeffrey Lewis album must contain one track about zombies.

The lyrical focus centres around the theme of aging. Lewis talks of 'the sun setting on my youth' and how 'going bald is the most mainly thing I'm ever going to do', while 'Broken Broken Broken Heart' indicates the quality of his love life in the last year or so. It's not all doom and gloom, however, and, as with every Jeffrey Lewis release, *Em Are I* packs a great deal of self-effacing humour. It's unfortunate that Rough Trade's budget did not stretch to the planned bonus DVD of low budget videos to accompany the album; anyone who has seen him live or watched his YouTube clips (look them up now!) will attest there is a lot more depth to the man than so many other current solo artists. James Morrison this is not. (8)

words/ malcolm mathieson

Polly Scattergood
Polly Scattergood
Mule



An ambitious debut that channels the eccentric lyrical sensibility of Tori Amos and borrows the atmospheric appeal of Björk. The 21-year-old Colchester native infuses her youthful charm and personal style into the ten songs, and covers an array of topics ranging from her obsession with food to issues of self-esteem. Scattergood's vocal delivery is fuelled by an anguish that is unnerving from such a young, developing artist.

As a graduate of the acclaimed Brit School of Performing Arts (Amy Winehouse, Adele) there is no reason to question the polished overtones of her debut. 'Please Don't Touch' shows Scattergood's fun-loving side, its lyric describing her 'normal' British life as she 'make[s] another cuppa, on the sofa, eating marmalade'; however, first single 'Nitrogen Pink' reveals a more cryptic element of her lyrical style as she croons about 'nitrogen pi' and a whole load of 'Wednesdays'. Lyrically mystifying at times, Scattergood utilises her voice's dramatic intensity over and above her song words to convey her emotions, although on 'I Am Strong', Scattergood expresses genuine vulnerability in a straightforward lyrical fashion.

Polly Scattergood is an impressively mature debut from an aspiring artist. Scattergood takes her listeners on an intense emotional journey that reveals her acute sense of self, along with feelings of paranoia, anger, and even enlightenment. While mainstream success may prove a difficult task for this temperamental songstress, her album is a worthy escape on those rainy days. (6)

words/ jonathan kle

LIVE
GIG OF THE WEEKPROFILE/
BENEVOLENTPama
International

Hifi

08/03/09

Pama International are a cursed band. Playing Ska/Reggae/Rocksteady in a '60s Jamaican groove style they immediately get pigeon-holed by the old school fans as never being as good as the real thing 'back in the day'. They told me they've discouraged the skinhead fanbase simply because that audience has a tendency to contain the cynics. But the crowd tonight are young, fresh, student types and they lap up the sea of golden Reggae waves. Billed as containing members of The Specials, neither Horace Panter nor Lynval Golding are present, but they have collaborated on the band's albums. It would seem Hifi's advertising is just misleading. With or without Panter and Golding, this group have been

around for years, and before the formation of Pama International the various members were all in various early '90s ska bands (The Loafers



& Special Beat). From the outset Pama play perfectly, a well-crafted synergy of music working like some well-oiled magic Reggae machine, each cog delivering spot-on music. Lead singer Finny has a soulful voice, but he doesn't necessary chat to the crowd as just work his way through song after song. By the end of the set the crowd are experimenting with explosive dance moves and good-time smiles. Pama play a range of tunes from their album, and make a great choice in starting

with the refreshing, 'Wherever You Lead', from their latest release. They don't tend to introduce songs rather they let each one bleed in to the next creating a delightful medley. Finishing with Dandy Livingston's 'Rudy, A Message to You' (made famous by The Specials as 'A Message to You, Rudy'), and instead of doing a cypocart cover, they add their own atmospheric dub elements as well some 2tone speeds towards the end of the performance. The only let down, aside from the lack of their charity single 'Highrise', is Finny's need for lyric sheets on some new songs and the band's uncertainty which song to play next when there's a pause. Ska and reggae never went away. However with The Specials reforming (and playing Millennium Square) and other Ska-based bands hitting the charts (The King Blues & Natty) who knows, maybe bands like Pama International will play larger venues as opposed to a free night down at Hifi. No one can deny the sweet reggae sounds are just as good, if not better, as the classic music. It's danceable, upbeat and can't help but make you smile. Pama International are a blessed band. (8)

words/henry raby

MORE GIGS

Lyrically
JustifiedCarpe Diem
10/03/09

The concept of the open mic night is a dangerous one. We all like the idea that the music we listen to has risen through a democratic vein, but actually most of your favourite music has been cropped from a lot of rot out there in the ether, or Leeds. Lyrically Justified is as eclectic as any open mic night, shifting from the uncomfortable, to the over-confident, to the awful, to the good. It's free to get in, and the drinks are okay (£2 pints). My ungenerous rating for the night is based on Carpe Diem's failure (as yet) to bring anything unique to their open mic night. However, one of the act's tonight is really interesting: Ozz LP and the New Tradition. Performing only for their second time, they build a soothing atmosphere within the slightly insipid bar with their multi-talented act (almost large enough to form a football team). Their songs include a cover of 'Walk On By', as well as an unusual take on Michael Jackson's 'Butterflies'. Lizzie Von Schweinitz plays the keyboard with a reserved slightly begrudging piano-lesson chic, while the well-dressed Lettice Rowbotham really excels on the violin. Drummer Tom Bradshaw-Smith livens the set with some fresh, punchy and challenging rhythms. Hopefully other venues in Leeds will see Ozz LP and the New Tradition take to the stage soon. And as for Carpe Diem's open mic night: Lyrically Justified is well worth a visit, at least once, to see a bit of genuine Leeds rap, spitting some shiz on t'microphone. (6)

words/jack cullen

General
FiascoCockpit 3
06/03/09

Crammed into the Cockpit's third room stand an array of youths coated in a light display reminiscent of those school discos we all loathed and secretly loved. Providing the entertainment though, and thankfully, is not your Year 9 Chemistry teacher, but Local Leeds act Subculture. They combine a funky saxophone soloist and a front-man who would like nothing better than to mimic Ian Curtis' strut.

Second act, Mercy Adrift bring a huge sound better suited to a stadium, which magically opens up the tiny venue to a Tardis-like expanse. Sung in a trancelike fashion with vocals to match, the shaven headed lead man transmits an unabashed aura of passion displayed more famously by Coldplay's Chris Martin, minus the famously media rousing political messages scrawled onto his hands. As Belfast Indie popsters General Fiasco grace the stage we are brought swiftly back to reality by the squealing of young admirers. However, this can be overlooked as we are then treated to the array of good quality pop records, including 'Maybe I'm A Bit Strange', 'Ever So Shy' and new single 'Something Sometime', along with an apparently untitled tune. The performance displays a much heavier edge to the trio that is not apparent on their recordings. As guitarist Enda bounds along side Owen, dwarfed by his bass, churns out some smashing vocals that concrete General Fiasco as a very exciting live act.

With the exception of the fan-base, General Fiasco provide a mature and entertaining evening's entertainment which indicates live performance is where these chaps flourish. (5)

words/ben small

Fight Like
ApesCockpit
05/03/09

Dublin based Fight Like Apes have had a whirlwind of a year. From gracing Glastonbury and Reading, touring with the Prodigy and two Meteor Award nominations in 2008, their success only seems to be growing as they embark on their latest tour to promote their album *Fight Like Apes and the Mystery of The Golden Medallion*, released in September of last year. Choosing two distinctly average supports in the form of Underground Railroad and Guilt Pursuit (who, quite frankly, just stood on stage and made a horrible noise) ensures that no matter what happens during FLA's set, the performance will still be infinitely better than anything the audience has just had to endure.

Bursting on stage in a fit of Hardcore guitar melodies front woman Maykay instantly plays her crowd: writhing around on the stage floor, jumping in to the crowd and grabbing on to their legs. Her voice is not on form, which, according to the band themselves, is because they've had very little sleep for three days, and so Maykay gives the mic to members of the audience to on 'Lend me your face'. Some of the slower material, such as 'Tie Me Up With Jackets' is carried off pretty well, including epic, ballad-like, riffs with poignant bass intervals. The set is oddly hit and miss: some songs echo through an almost zombie-like audience, whilst others induce a mass-mosh, changing the whole atmosphere of the venue. It would seem the band haven't really chosen where they're heading musically. Another major problem with Fight Like Apes are some of their questionable lyrics. One song contains the line 'Japanese children in your bed' and another screeches 'Oh my God it's fish and chips'. (5)

words/lizzie edmonds

'The song is boss' is the philosophy of Benevolent, five-piece acoustic indie band from Germany. All from Düsseldorf and surrounding towns, Benevolent have released a few EPs along with first album *Please* and their newest *The Rain and The Sea*, which I have been listening to continually for the last six months.

Stefan Honig (vocals) told me that love for music, not fame, is more important to him and his band members. Something that really irritates me these days is the tendency for a band to become popular for no other reason than that they are fashionable and attractive. Benevolent do not strive to make music they think will make them famous, but aspire to be a good live band. They stay true to the aforementioned philosophy, with clear dedication to their music, as opposed to their image, which so many 'indie' bands are guilty of these days.

I was baffled to discover that Benevolent are unsigned. They grew into the band they are now from a band solely comprising Stefan Honig and guitarist Martin Hannaford, who is from Brighton. An old friend of Stefan, and previous bandmate, Marcel Schmitz (drums) joined soon after, with the later addition of bass player Roland Havranek, who studied upright bass in Liverpool. Finally, in 2008, Sebastian Theelen joined to play piano. Three of the band had worked together previously but on two hardcore/progress rock bands, significantly different from the music made by Benevolent. The band members' music tastes vary but they all share a love for good acoustic bands, which is why they work so well together.

The Rain and The Sea is a collection of songs with abstract but intensely emotive lyrics with which many will be able to identify on some level. I asked why the vocals were in English; they said they liked the sound of the English language more than German, and all of their favourite bands sing in English - nonetheless, it was never a conscious decision.

The music is varied: 'The Ark' is haunting and melodic, while, in 'Air to the Lungs', the emphasis is very much on the strong beat throughout from Marcel. The Benevolent boys have developed a real balance: unlike the sloppy releases you might expect from amateur bands, they do not have the vocals, or the music, paramount to the rest, and there seems to be no struggle for recognition. The minimal piano from Sebastian blends well, while Roland's use of a contrabass makes the sound deeper; in 'These Words Might Hurt', the relationship between the piano and contrabass parts is flawless. Benevolent are not unlike some of our household favourites - Bon Iver, Sufjan Stevens, Iron and Wine and others of this ilk, by whom Benevolent say they have been inspired.

The band has performed over a hundred shows throughout Germany and would love the opportunity to experience foreign lands. When asked where they would like to be in five years' time, they said they would love to have finished their fifth album. Check them out on last.fm.

Do you have a plug to grind? If so, contact mu@leedsstudent.org immediately. Include a photograph, and try to write properly.

PREVIEW/

PETER DOHERTY



'R' is for Rehabilitation

With *Grace/Wastelands* out on March 16 the newly rrrrrchristened Pete'y' Doherty is back on the touring circuit and presumably off the drugs. The infamous musician, who has just turned thirty, finished off his twenties with an art exhibition in Paris and a sold out solo show at the Royal Albert Hall: not a bad come back some might say.

Dividing his time between Wiltshire and Paris, Doherty has recorded his debut solo project in London's Olympic Studios with producer Stephen Street (The Smiths, Blur) and says of the new release: "I'm really curious to find out what people honestly think of [the songs], particularly critics, because in a way you can kind of bank on certain people's opinions, you know? You know that if someone's in to you then they're in to you, whereas critics are gonna look at it less subjectively and pick holes if you like. That's what I'm waiting for really." Featuring alongside Doherty on the album is former Blur guitarist and solo artist in his own right Graham Coxon. Doherty appears to be very grateful to his fellow strummer, and well he might be as he claims: "he was probably in the studio more than I was, to be honest."

In other Peter news, Babyshambles are currently in the process of recording their third album, described by the man himself as a "belter".

Peter Doherty plays Leeds Academy March 23...

words/ judy ponche

The crowd here tonight at the Academy is just as you would expect for a band named Reel Big Fish. You have the kids who will listen to anything emanating from their older brother's bedroom. You have the older brothers

Don't start a band,
nobody wants to
hear you, nobody
cares.

themselves whose faithfulness to this particular brand of ska-pop has been unflappable since the third wave mainstream Ska movement in the late 90's, and finally the old sea-dogs; people who have probably loved Ska music since guitar met trumpet back in 1950's Jamaica. All are brimming with excitement.

Opening act

Random Hand need no introduction to this Leeds crowd. The Ska/Metal/Reggae band from Keighley are passionate and infectious, getting the crowd so fired up they resort to circle pit mayhem, which is an impressive feat for an opening act. The political and fierce Random Hand are the antithesis of the following act from Orange County, Suburban Legends. This six-piece present their very own brand of disco-pop that has little Ska influence; if you can, picture the trombonist and trumpeter showing off their comical but none the less impressive boy band moves. A cover of the Lion King's 'I Just Can't Wait to Be King' is the epitome of what this band are about - purely bizarre entertainment - one can see why Reel Big Fish choose them to warm up the crowd.

Reel Big Fish open characteristically with the song 'Trendy' which gets everybody 'doing the fish'. The Ska-Punk band from California have a covers and an original material album out this year. Most popular tonight is a cover of Reggae group The Maytals' 'Monkey Man'. However it is still the more well-worn tracks from *Turn the Radio Off and Cheer Up* (albums that show Reel Big Fish at their lyrical best) that get the best response this evening. 'She has a Girlfriend Now', 'Where Have you Been?', 'Beer' and 'Sell Out' receive tsunamiic applause, even after ten years of touring, these fish know how to swim. Reel Big Fish have a tendency to play a few too many long album tracks instead of sticking to the well-known singles or cover songs; but you can't blame them if they're bored of playing the same set every time they tour.

This is a
band
that

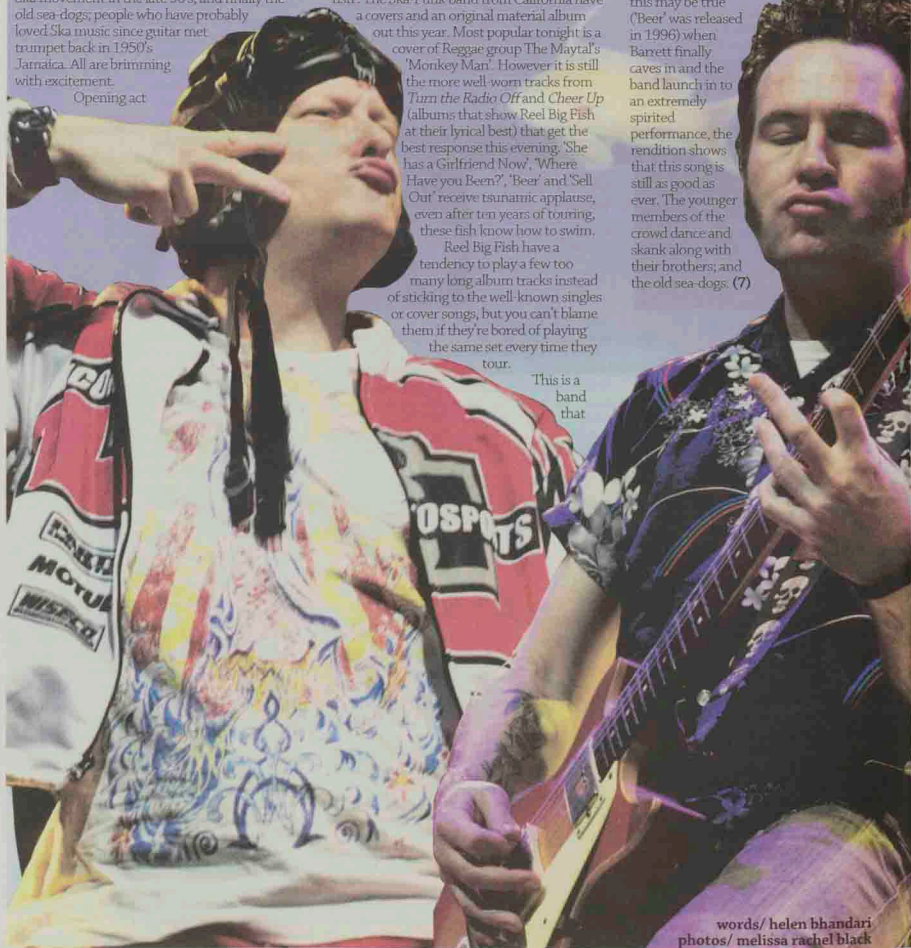
PAGE THREE/

FEATURED GIG

Reel Big Fish
Academy

17/02/09

has, like most of their fans, clearly never grown up. Hilarious teenage angst lyrics spew forth from lead-singer Aaron Barrett's mouth. Playful lines such as, "don't start a band, nobody wants to hear you, nobody cares", encapsulate the flippant and light-hearted nature of RBF's message. It is refreshing to see a band that doesn't take itself too seriously. Barrett claims they won't play the band's most famous track 'Beer' as he deems it "too old". While this may be true ('Beer' was released in 1996) when Barrett finally caves in and the band launch in to an extremely spirited performance, the rendition shows that this song is still as good as ever. The younger members of the crowd dance and skank along with their brothers; and the old sea-dogs. (7)



words/ helen bhandari
photos/ melissa rachel black

This time...

Every week,
it's a different
society under
LS2's radar...

Filmmaking

Monday, 16th February, 2009. The clock strikes 7pm. The corridors of the Parkinson Building, usually swarming with thousands of students, are now empty. As I hurriedly make my way towards Filmmaking Society's regular weekly meeting, I encounter the occasional tumbleweed student, making the lonesome trek to party on down at the late night library.

Upon arrival, I found room B22 heaving with enthusiastic members, exchanging ideas about their new film project. Although relatively new, the group already has several projects under its belt, including a two-minute film shot in Hyde Park before Christmas. At present, collective energy is channelled towards the Society's spring project. This will be a 10-minute short film, to be filmed on the North Yorkshire coast in April. What draws them to that oh so glamorous seaside resort, the Costa del Scarborough, I wonder:

"Because we feel that a beach is a 'blank slate' location where many different things could occur", explains Society President, Lucy-Ruth Hathaway. By contrast to their previous movie, where budding filmmakers opted for the old-fashioned slapstick genre, I'm told that the Society's springtime offering will be a modern twist on a romantic tale.

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? And as the above examples demonstrate, Filmmaking Society offers the perfect opportunity to experience both the pleasures and pains of shooting a real, high quality short film.

Lucy's keen to warn any interested parties, however, that filmmaking is much more effort rather than fun; a passion for filmmaking and patience are crucial characteristics for any prospective members: "A lot more work, money and time goes into this than it might sound."

Money: a pounding headache for many of LUU's Society figureheads. As one of few groups receiving zero funding from the University, the film fanatics face serious financial pressures. Still seeking sponsorship,

they remain unable to start putting the aforementioned spring project into effect. The money usually comes from membership fees collected throughout the academic year. Dedicated as they may seem, though, there is a serious problem on the way. This year's meagre £300 total probably won't be enough to execute the new project, especially when the Society craves bigger and better things for its members, such as participation in a national film festival...

Don't be put off by the mention of hard work, though. All gruelling graft is massively outweighed by the rewards of being part of a team and crafting the end product, your very own feature film. Sounds promising, doesn't it? Maybe you want to get to know the world of cinema a little better, or perhaps you're just itching to know what's involved in the filmmaking process? With Filmmaking Society, you can gain a whole range of experience, from screenwriting, storyboarding and shooting, through to editing and distribution. It doesn't matter whether you want to pursue a career in

filmmaking or your degree is worlds apart from the cinematic cosmos, full training is provided.

If you're looking for an entirely new and different kind of experience that gives you the opportunity to acquire invaluable practical skills whilst simultaneously testing your creativity and ability to work as part of a team, Filmmaking Society is the ideal option for you. Not only does it make for excellent CV fodder, but the meetings provide a unique chance to gain experience by exploring new places and getting to know interesting people from an assortment of different backgrounds.

Students from all universities and colleges in Leeds are invited to join the Filmmaking team and experience the magic of cinema. At the prospect of future collaboration with students from Leeds Metropolitan University and Leeds Trinity & All Saints, Lucy-Ruth commented:

"I think it is a very good idea and we have been thinking of promoting our society at the other two universities since the beginning of

the academic year. We hope to draw the attention of as many students as possible to our aims and planned projects. We intend to put posters and flyers in every department of the universities and even establish links with alumni who now pursue successful careers in moving image production. Every student is welcome to join and become an active member of the society; to contribute to its expansion and give new and fresh ideas for the realization of many more original and high quality projects."

So, there you have it. The message is clear: don't hesitate to come a little closer and feel the warm, softening glow of the big screen.

For further details, search Facebook for: "Leeds LUU Filmmaking Society" or pop along to one of the Society's meetings, held every Monday at 7pm in Room B 22 of the Parkinson building.

words/ simona gavrilova



MEETING OF THE MINDS: FilmSoc discuss their latest shoot

Photo: Richard Smith

As one of few groups receiving zero funding from the Union, the film fanatics face serious financial pressures.



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Fashion Fascism

Despite the curvy boom, fashion is still far from representing real women. There's dogma and hypocrisy even in the women's magazines that claim to be on your side...



WOMAN IN THE MIRROR: Is what we see in shop windows realistic or achievable?

Photo: Melissa Blac

Body image is certainly not a new subject to write about; magazines are constantly telling us to be proud of our curves and to be happy with the skin we are in. They show pictures of curvy celebrities or those who have put on weight with a positive caption next to them saying how great it is. These encouraging stock catchphrases are useful for selling magazines, however we are yet to see their message actually put into practice.

As much as these magazines preach about a good body image, they are completely inconsistent with it in terms of the models they use, either in their own photoshoots or as featured in adverts. How strange that on one page they are trying to convince us that we are beautiful as we are, yet on the next they are trying to sell us a bikini via a size 6

model.

The fashion industry is a strange thing, and not just designer labels, but high street companies too, whose market is for normal women. The average woman is not a size 6 but these companies' models and mannequins all are. Did you know that if a mannequin was a real woman she would be too thin to have periods?

Most people who aren't shaped like mannequins are probably now used to seeing the product on one, and having to completely imagine what it would look like on them. It just makes the clothes less accessible and makes us feel bad, so surely even the fashion giants aren't gaining much from this pointless exercise?

Many shops claim to cater for different sizes with their 'larger' ranges. But why

should bigger people be segregated and made to wear different and, on the whole, frumpier clothes? It continues with the underwear section: it is almost impossible to find decent bras for big breasts, and those that actually fit comfortably cost twice the price and must be bought from specialist stores. Again, why the segregation? It can't be good for a one's self esteem to be treated like a sub-group of the fashion world.

Wouldn't it be nice if there were mannequins and models that represented the whole spectrum of body types?

Besides, different clothes suit different people. In fact, there are lots of styles that suit bigger girls better, like structured dresses that need curves to fill them out. Agencies really would benefit from using more normal people; the Dove 'real women' adverts should

serve as an inspiration to other companies.

There are so many people that are beautiful and striking for reasons other than having a classically modelsque body - it's about the x-factor, not just what fashion has set as a standard. Models are getting quite boring looking anyway, they all look the same; gaunt and expressionless. Furthermore the age limit is around 19 nowadays. How disgusting that it has become standard for a skinny teenager to advertise, what I assume, are products bought by older women (as there aren't that many teenagers who could afford those clothes.) It's no wonder surgery rates have gone up so much, we are aspiring to look like something that is on the whole physically impossible past a young age.

Most people would agree that women like

Body Image Survey

37% of Leeds students are not content with their body

17% would consider surgery

76% do not think their body type is represented in the fashion industry

66% think that high street shops should use models with more varied figures

89% think catwalk fashion designers should use models with more varied figures

62% regularly feel jealous of women's bodies that they see in the media

50% regularly feel jealous of their friends' bodies

Beyoncé and J.Lo are pretty hot, but by designers' standards their bodies are huge. Why is the high fashion idea of beauty so different to that of the general public?

Having said that, although stars such as these have done a lot to change our perceptions of body image, these celebrated figures of womanhood are still ridiculously toned. These are women, again, that magazines like to use: "Look at Beyoncé! See, it's ok to be curvy!" Well yes, of course you probably wouldn't mind having a bum that size it was just as firm. It seems as though even the alternative image is unachievable, some people may look like that naturally but generally you would have to spend a lot of time in the gym. Can we not be curvy but a bit soft too?

Of course as a result of all this we end up criticising skinnier women, especially the ever-hypocritical women's magazines. As much as we have to discourage the use of super skinny models, the risk with this is that women who are naturally thin end up feeling attacked.

Thanks to magazines scandalising each end of the weight range, hardly any body type seems to be socially acceptable. Can we not just appreciate what we are naturally and try to make the most of it by eating healthily and exercising?

The idea of the perfect figure is so dangerous; at the end of the day we all have different body types. We can find ourselves being jealous of women in the media and even of our own friends.

Of course, it is the human condition to often want what you can't have; but a pear shaped woman, for example, will never have small hips no matter how much she diets.



YOU LOOK UNREAL: Do mannequins represent the average body shape?

Photo: Melissa Black

Did you know that if a mannequin was a real woman she would be too thin to have periods?

Perhaps if we had more realistically hipped women in the fashion industry, we would be a lot more comfortable with our own.

words/ louise mayman

LUU's Welfare Officer Suzy Tobias is petitioning for a bill similar to the one passed in France by the national assembly in April 2008 seeking to criminalise the promotion of extreme thinness in the media, clamping down on websites, fashion houses, magazines and advertisers. If you wish to support the campaign by signing the petition you can do it here:

petitions.number10.gov.uk/bodybeautiful/

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Openings for next year:

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[Needs to have design knowledge and layout skills] Send enquiries to editor@leedsstudent.org

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[Needs to have online skills coupled with a knowledge of journalism] Send enquiries to editor@leedsstudent.org

Fashion editor

[Needs to have passion for fashion, good organisation and

communication skills] Send enquiries to editor@leedsstudent.org

Features editor

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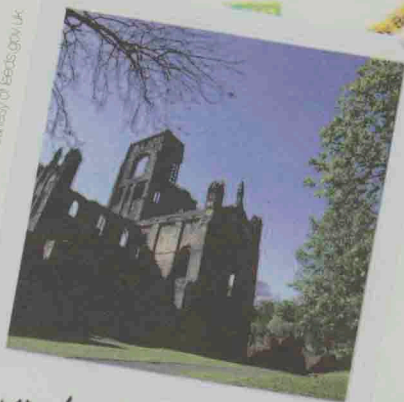
As a student, it can be expensive to explore the city that we live in, especially when budgeting for that all important night out. There are, however, places to visit that are both fun and cheap! And although we love student Leeds, it might be time to see the cultural and historical Leeds before we leave. So for some great days out with your friends, or even as a guilt free way to enjoy the sun, these outdoor places offer somewhere to revise when the weather is hot - and if previous summers are anything to go by, the exam period will provide the year's only glimpse of sunshine!

For another great outdoor summer activity there is Kirkstall Abbey, which as an alternative you can walk to from town along the canal. As one of the best preserved Cistercian monasteries in the country, it is definitely a place to visit before graduating from Leeds. The majestic medieval ruins offer summer entertainment through housing the Shakespeare festival and Classical Fantasia which are truly spectacular events. The Abbey is a perfect place for picnics and chilled drinks in the summer, or as a destination to take your parents to show them how cultured you've become since attending uni! Opposite the ruins is the Abbey House Museum which recreates Victorian life in the 19th Century, although worth a visit it's the free fun of the grounds and ruins that makes visiting worthwhile.

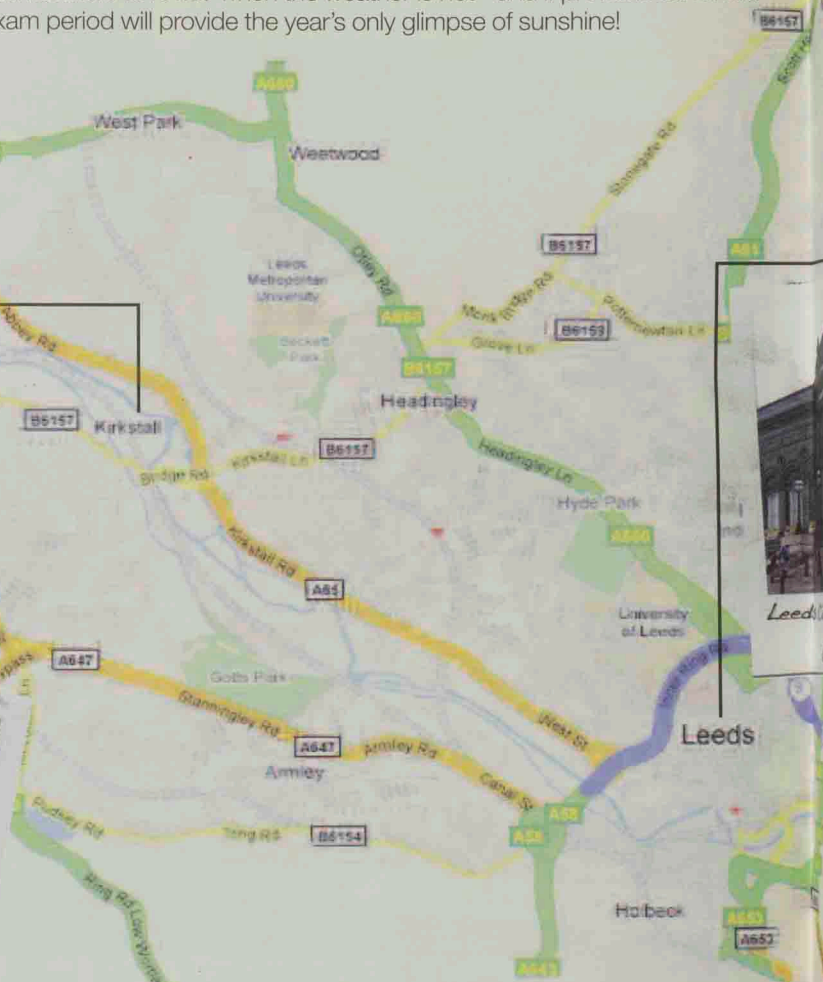
Transport:
33, 33A from Park Row (bus stop P1), 15mins.

Cost:
Ruins: free
Museum: £3.50

photo courtesy of leeds.gov.uk



Kirkstall Abbey



Leeds University students are in an intense relationship with Hyde Park for all the free fun and frolics it provides, but now might be the time to experience another great park that Leeds has to offer. Roundhay is one of the largest city parks in Europe with 755 acres for you to roam around, including two lakes, a folly, and a mansion. With its mature gardens, including one designed around the works of French Impressionist Monet, there is something very special and individual about Roundhay. The park also offers many different sporting facilities such as a skate park, a canoe club, tennis courts, football and cricket pitches. It has played host to concerts by some of music's greatest legends such as The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen and most recently Robbie Williams. So as a great alternative for your summer BBQs, and even your November 5th fireworks extravaganza, why not try Roundhay?

After leaving the forests of Roundhay, step ashore onto Tropical Island where you can walk through rainforests, swamps and waterfalls. Pass through the butterfly house as the exotic species fly above and enter the nocturnal zone, but be warned to hold your nose and cover your head! This mini Amazon situated in Leeds contains a whole host of rare insects and reptiles alongside fish, turtles and even Meerkats. For a wonderful day out that transports you back to childhood memories Tropical World is the place to go.

Transport:

2, 3 bus from outside Market (bus stop V4), 10mins.

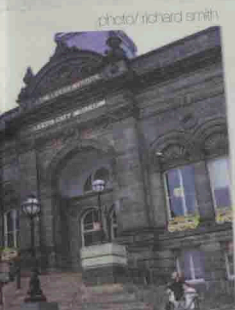
Cost:

Roundhay: free
Tropical world: £3.25



Roundhay Park & Tropical World

photo/ sarah green



photo/ richard smith

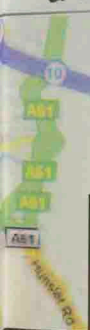
Leeds City Museum is the latest instalment of free city culture, situated opposite Millennium Square in the old Civic Theatre. See lively displays that take you through the story of Leeds past and present, as well as information about the natural world, Ancient Egypt and Africa. Changing exhibitions allow for new artists and filmmakers to showcase their work to a large audience, such as the current 'Faith in the City' film being projected in the museum's Arena. Another exciting exhibition is the 'Pong to Win the History of the Video Game' which tracks the evolution of the video game and is a must see for all game console fans, this is coming soon. As one of the regions flagship attractions, it is the best place to see some of the UK's premier visiting exhibitions from national museums.

Just a stone's throw away from the City Museum is Leeds Art Gallery, which is home to some of the best collections of art outside of London. The art programme is dynamic and varied, shown in their choice of visiting works; this makes for a great visual display as the contemporary is housed alongside the classical providing an inspiring space. In May, Turner Prize winner Mark Wallinger curates an exhibition of eclectic works from the historical to now, which promises to be worth visiting. The Gallery also has the added draw of the Tiled Cafe, linking it with the City Library, which has a history spanning 100 years; described as "one of the splendours of Victorian Leeds". Its grand architecture, mosaic ceiling and tiled walls adorned with stone portraits of literary heroes like Shakespeare, Milton and Burns makes it a great place to stop for some tasty cake and a brew.

Transport:

Walk.
Cost:
Free.

Leeds City Museum & Art Gallery



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photo/ richard smith

royal armouries

Temple Newsam is an estate that houses a stunning Tudor-Jacobean mansion surrounded by parkland and even a working rare breed farm; it's often referred to as the Hampton Court of the North! With over 40 rooms to explore within the mansion, along with a very useful personal audio guide, there is a whole day of amusement to be had. Although the history behind the house is my personal attraction to the site, Temple Newsam opens its doors to many exhibitions each year from fashion and fabrics, including those of Vivienne Westwood, to Watercolour; by Turner and his contemporaries. The estate also plays host to Party in the Park and Opera in the Park during July, which is a weekend of free music, fun and hopefully sun. Alongside its regular displays Temple Newsam has a calendar of activities such as Ghost Walks, Painting classes, Craft Fairs and much more. With 1500 acres of parkland it is no surprise that they even have an 18 hole golf course! Temple Newsam has something to offer everyone and is a fabulous day out!

Transport:

18, 18A bus (from New York Street which is at the side of the bus station) 15mins and then 5min walk.

Cost:

House: £3.50
Farm: £5.50
Grounds: free



photo/ sarah green

Temple Newsam

words/ charlotte stadman
design/ kate szobrowska

ETHICAL FASHION /**FEATURE**

Can it beat the crunch?

At a time when we are constantly reminded of the current credit crunch and how we now need to stretch our student loans even further, we all know how we love a fashion bargain. In the recession it seems that cheap fashion is ever more on the rise, with budget favourite Primark boasting the largest increase in sales over the Christmas period – hardly surprising considering our need for designer looks at next-to-nothing prices. But, as we have become more aware in recent years of child labour, sweatshops and the need for ethical trading, are we forgetting these important issues just because media speculation forces the recession upon us?

The question to ask is whether consumers care about ethical fashion in this economic climate. Do we want to buy from more ethical labels if it means we get less for our money? Some might argue that our responsibilities are diminished towards Fairtrade and organic companies due to our lack of spending power. Dan Rees, director of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) which involves fashion retailers and suppliers from every stage of the manufacturing chain, is reported to have said: "The current economic climate threatens gains already made." However, it does seem that as a country we are still growing more and more concerned.

This year's London Fashion Week showed ethical designs on the catwalk and promoted a new Sustainable Clothing Action Plan involving some of the UK's top retailers. Marks and Spencer, Tesco and Sainsbury's have all pledged to increase Fairtrade and organic clothing in their ranges, and to use fabrics which are easier to recycle. Tesco is also addressing the child labour issue by banning the use of cotton from any countries that employ this production method. And for all the vintage fans who enjoy a

bit of charity shop chic, Oxfam and other charities are proposing to promote sustainable fashion with higher quality second hand or recycled garments.

It does seem as though London is at the centre of this debate, as in November 2008 it also held the world's first Ethical Fashion Awards ceremony. The Re: Fashion awards featured Daisy Lowe and Pixie Geldof modelling designs by Zandra Rhodes and Vivienne Westwood, among others. New high-end label Noir also showcased their new collection, with creator Peter Ingwersen describing their aim as to "inspire the industry and consumers that sexiness, luxury, fashion, corporate social responsibility and ethics can work in harmony together without compromising style."

This is all good for designer labels, but in reality can supermarkets and budget retailers keep their promise of eco-sustainable fashion, and still pass on to customers their trademark low prices in the recession? Primark have already admitted that to keep costs so low, they have employed workers in poor conditions without fair pay, so is there really a solution to this problem?

Previously we have seen the creation of brands such as People Tree, famous for their environmentally friendly fabrics, especially their super-soft organic cotton, but let's face it, they weren't exactly the most fashion conscious designs and their prices could in no way compete with high street stores such as Topshop and in particular, Primark. But then, as other stores were scrutinised for failing to check conditions where their clothes were made, these brands and their values raised awareness of the situation, prompting other retailers in the fashion industry to act on their moral obligations.

Recently, major high street stores have started to introduce lines which are more environmentally and ethically friendly, proving that mainstream fashion and even the phenomenon of fast, almost throwaway fashion can be everything we want it to be without the horror stories of how our clothes are actually made. In a report by ethical bank The Cooperative, it was found that sales of eco-friendly clothing grew by 70% to £52m in 2007. A survey by TNS Global showed that in 2007, 60% of under-25s bought what they wanted, regardless of how or where it was made, but in 2008 only 36% said this, showing that attitudes are changing and we are acting on them. Although, this has to come at a price: a higher cost to us, the customer.

The answer to the question of whether ethical fashion can beat the credit crunch will be determined by the fashion retail world itself: if customers are to swap the cheap fashion we are used to for better quality, eco-friendly and Fairtrade clothing, retailers will need to lose the higher price tag. Inevitably, this type of clothing will be slightly more expensive, but we need to break down the marketing ploy that its price should be extensively higher, when in fact there must be a way of making fashion beneficial to the environment, the manufacturer and the consumer.



STYLISH: The world's first ethical fashion awards were held in London last year

words/ claire brodley

STRUT FASHION SHOW /**REVIEW**

Gatecrasher Leeds

05/03

We decided to send two of our best reviewers down to the Strut Fashion Show to see the competition RAG had for the title of best fashion show in Leeds...

Fashion shows are great, watching the beautiful people strut their way up and down, down and up the runway, showing off the latest looks: brilliant. But sometimes you want something more from a fashion show, you want dancing, music, theatre – you want to be entertained. Luckily for all who attended, that is exactly what this year's STRUT fashion show delivered. The night, which kicked off with Sushi and Sabai as well as free massages and manicures in the VIP lounge, was held in Gatecrasher this year in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. The theme of the night, 'Shakespeare in the 21st century', saw each section representing a different play – girls in boyfriend blazers and burly braces for Twelfth Night, romantic ruffles and saucy dances for Romeo and Juliet, you get the idea. The event, organised by Hannah Manson (a Shakespeare fanatic), Sasha Pomerance and organiser-come-choreographer Suzie Glass, featured clothes from high street hotties All Saints and J by J as well as smaller independent designers such as Karrie Kay, Flying with the Fishes, and ethical designer Rebecca Connolly. In keeping with the Shakespeare theme, 16th century corsets and pleats featured heavily for girls with buttons and hook eyes as the focus of outfits rather than necessities. Intricate heels decked out with buckles and laces and of course the essential feature for any high heel

at the moment – the platform, featured throughout the show. The male's tailored-look outfits mirrored the historical theme with waistcoats, smart laced shoes and tweed-esque trousers. But it wasn't all ye olde clothes; African prints, UV colours, sequinned leggings and high waisted trousers were also on show throughout the night. Hair styles included classic curls for girls and sexy side partings for guys created by Philips Hair Academy and Shrine as well as subtle makeup by Bradford College, both of which complemented the eclectic mix of outfits. Models and dancers from Leeds Uni and Leeds Met, as well as two ex-Cancer sufferers, were recruited for the show with the end result carefully yet triumphantly treading that oh so fine line between a fashion and a dance show. Music included a live band of Leeds College of Music students as well as a DJ, creating an exciting atmosphere, the result of which saw me spending the night trying to refrain myself from jumping on stage and busting a few moves of my own. And if all that wasn't enough, the interval featured a medley of dances from the Leeds Afro Caribbean society dressed in the classic oh so naughty school girl/boy outfits (Miss Spears eat your heart out) and a raffle and auction with prizes ranging from a Piddles and Potter deli hamper to £150 online shopping. So far, the total raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust stands at a whopping £3,500 – an incredible feat for an independent fashion show. The after party held in the basement of Gatecrasher finished the night off in style and was an ideal end to a truly entertaining (for all the right reasons) night.

words/ sophie herdman



**'Ambition's debt is paid.'
Shakespeare's Julius Caesar (3.1.77)**

We are in the midst of Leeds Fashion season. The RAG show was a great success, the Leeds Met show is rapidly approaching, and in the middle of the two was Strut. The event was held at Gatecrasher, and having been extremely impressed by the RAG show, the standard was set and my expectations were high.

There was plenty happening at the pre-show party. Flying With The Fishes, independent designers of men's apparel showed off some of their designs, many of which featured in the show. Sports masseurs and masseuses were on hand to pamper the VIP guests. I indulged in a hand massage that resulted in me having my bronze level hand stamp rubbed off. When I explained this to the girl at the door, she pointed me to another girl who gave me an upgraded gold level stamp. Result. This entitled me to a goody bag, free Kabuki sushi, chocolate fondue and a seat in the VIP booths for the show. Ironically the VIP booths had the worst view of the show, which probably served me right for worming my way in.

The theme of the show was Shakespeare in the 21st

Century. Each display would be introduced by a Shakespearean passage from a play that would set the tone for what followed. Often the links between the plays and fashion on display were, at best unobvious and at worst extremely dubious, but this didn't really harm the shows entertainment factor. An example of a dubious link was when the house band covered Madonna's Human Nature in conjunction with Macbeth, a tragedy about human nature. However this could easily be an example of me trying to hard to make a connection and reading too much into things.

The vibe was very different to RAG, which had a very commercial, professional feel about it. Strut felt much more underground and exclusive. At times the runway seemed crowded and the choreography was overcomplicated.

Consequently the show deviated from fashion and became an exhibition of interpretive dance and laser beams.

In my opinion the

priorities were in the wrong place. This was a shame as the styling was

superb. There was simply too much going on to appreciate it. There were clothes on show from a number of top designers, retailers and boutiques, such as All Saints, Joy, Vicky Martin, Flying With The Fishes and even Agent Provocateur. Some of the clothes were exquisite but could have been shown off more. The runway was frequently too busy to do the stylists justice. However that is just my taste, and the show did what it set out to do extremely well. It was visually exciting as well as aurally engaging, largely thanks to the house band. The live music was unconventional for a fashion show but really complemented the vibe of the evening. Visual highlights included a cleverly choreographed routine involving orange UV paint, and a jungle-boogie interpretation of A Midsummer Night's Dream that was spearheaded by a model covered in zebra patterned body paint. There was also an exhilarating high-tempo dance performance by

Leeds Uni's Afro-Caribbean Society.

Fashion connoisseurs may have felt let down by Strut, but this is not because the fashion wasn't on show. Rather there was too much of it presented at the same time.

Having said this, if you approached Strut with an open mind, you will have been entertained.

words/ tom purdie

**THIS WEEK
WE LOVE /****Harem Trousers**

Every season in the fashion calendar brings a new trouser silhouette. This spring and summer, whether you are channelling 80s street style or global warrior, harem pants are the way to go.

Unfortunately these trousers are not particularly flattering for either girls or boys, but all of you stylish Leeds Student readers are obviously beyond that fickleness. Look past the illusion of a saggy bum, short legs and saddle bags, and make a statement with MC Hammer or Aladdin as your style icon.

Try to ignore jokes of looking like an adult in a nappy, and take inspiration from the catwalks. Put your hands in your pockets and wear with minimal accessories like at Chloe and Temperley, for an air of effortless style and nonchalance. However, steer clear of Derek Lam's metallic versions; no one wants to look like a sumo wrestler wrapped in tinfoil.

Whether you choose harem pants to be at the forefront of fashion, or because they allow you pig out on bread and pasta, get yours from Topshop. Choose a wide waistband with pleats, not gathering, in a soft and fluid fabric, to avoid looking like you have packed away 3 boxes of Krispy Kremes. Wear them with a fitted top and high heels to emulate city-slick, elegant style.

words/ hannah glick



Fashion in the last recession



photos/
rosie
axford and
tillate

G.D.C

Knees Up

-Funky Leprechaun Presents -
KNEES UP - St Patricks Day @
The Faversham, 17th April

St Patrick's Day is a funny one. Everybody pretends they are Irish (I am actually at least a bit Irish so I do have some claim) and it seems obligatory to get obliterated on Guinness, Baileys and Jameson in some dank establishment. However, at the Faversham on St Paddy's, Ireland will somehow meet Jamaica as Funky Leprechaun in association with Instinct and Agwa bring you a night of reggae, dub and drum & bass reinforced by the Central BeatZ Sound System.

Kicking off the evening will be Divine Shaktas followed by Sal Paradise who will be doing a soulful reggae set of their own tunes and some covers. Afterwards brings us on to the main attraction of the night, Gentleman's Dub Club who will be performing live. GDC will be launching their new EP at Cargo in London the following day, so it is sure to be a big week for the boys, and the start of great new things.

Rounding off proceedings will be Instinct DJ's Sortie & Hugo Bass playing back to back followed by the cream of the talent from Central BeatZ.

Tickets are £6 adv / more on the door.

Jumbo records online tickets /
taylormadeclubbing.co.uk

Arrive early for a free Agwa bomb (an instant hit of Bolivian coca leaves to keep you going all night).

THE
GENTLEMAN'S
DUB CLUB

words/sam donnison

SUMMER BALL 2009/

PREVIEW

Lotherton Hall 5.6.09 18:00 - 6.6.09 06:00

Now in its eighth year, the Official Leeds Universities' Summer Ball is the largest student only event of its kind in the UK. To be held in the sumptuous grounds of Lotherton Hall on the outskirts of Leeds on 5th June 2009, the Summer Ball is a black tie event with a festival feel, providing a wide variety of entertainment including a choice of music arenas, funfair rides, outdoor seating and chill out spaces. It promises to be even bigger and better than its predecessors, with a new site layout and increased capacity, plus added attractions. The event at Lotherton Hall is open to students from all years of study from higher education institutions in Leeds and surrounding areas, plus their guests (who do not need to be students to come to the event), and University of Leeds Alumni.

Now, I have a confession. Last year I didn't go to the Summer Ball, having chosen the quarterly Exodus at the West Indian Centre as my post-exam destination of decadence. Although having had an amazing time, I couldn't help but feel that I missed something very special as I drank a final Southern Comfort in the post-event haze of my Hyde Park garden, as jolly 'Ball revellers passed in various states of despair.

Personally, it takes something musically interesting to draw me to an event, something that I feel many 'student' nights tend to lack, relying more on large quantities of cheap booze. However, this year I believe the crew behind the Summer Ball have got it just right. Regardless of your musical taste, the ball has something that caters to everybody. The Leeds Universities' Summer Ball 2009 has six arenas filled to the brim with the best in pop, indie, dance, drum and bass and rnb to keep you dancing for 12 hours. Union regulars Fruity, Happy Mondays, Metropolis, Wax:On, and Kiss Da Funk will all be hosting arenas as well as the 'In Indie We Trust' arena.

Here is a low down of all the artists appearing, in case you didn't know:

KATY PERRY

Headlining The Official Leeds Universities' Summer Ball 2009, we are very proud to announce will be Katy Perry with a full live show! Katy burst on to the scene last year with 'I Kissed A Girl' which swiftly became a worldwide hit. Album One Of The Boys has gone gold in her native USA, and Katy's electro pop is receiving accolades left right and centre including Grammy nominations and a BRIT award for Best International Female. Get your cherry Chapsticks out!

REVEREND AND THE MAKERS

Top billing in the Brighton Beach arena goes to Sheffield's Reverend And The Makers. The band will be performing live including their rabble-rousing debut Champion Of The World, plus other favourites from their first album The State Of Things and no doubt some sneak previews from new album A French Kiss In The Chaos, expected later this year.

PENDULUM

Pendulum are purveyors of intelligent drum and bass. Hold Your Colour was released in 2005. Having established themselves in the UK as one of the most popular drum n bass acts EVER, the band relocated to England where they continued to play regular packed-out shows around the country, including one for us in the Metropolis arena.

SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO

Electronica remixers/producers James Ford and James Shaw headline the Wax:On Arena with a DJ set of no doubt epic proportions! The duo, originally part of the band Simian, have a new album on the way this year featuring Gossip's Beth Ditto as a guest vocalist. Expect previews of their new work alongside the remixes and original productions that have made SMD highly sought-after for collaborations!

TREVOR NELSON

The Fruity Urban Arena sees the return of Summer Ball favourite, Trevor Nelson (Radio 1). It simply wouldn't be the same without him! A firm favourite with Summer Ball goers, Trevor will be presiding over the decks playing a mixture of the finest new and classic RnB and hip hop.

KRAFTY KUTS

Krafty aka Martin Reeves is a true leader of the breaks scene. He has been voted into the world's top 100 DJs (DJ mag) for three years running, he has had his own record shop, label, he is a producer, remixer and in-demand DJ. His style of music, which he identifies as a hip-hop funk infusion of up-tempo beats, has made him one of the big players on the world's club scene DJing alongside The Prodigy, Fatboy Slim and even the Rolling Stones.

N-TYPE

Dubstep producer, DJ and label owner N-Type has been on the music scene since the late 90s when he first started mixing drum n bass. With a popular show on Rinse FM under his belt and regular airings for his own productions on Mary Anne Hobbs' Radio 1 show, N-Type is set for world dubstep domination round about now!

Plus: Rob Tissera, Filthy Rich, Steppa & Prophecy, Doorly, TC Monckton, Huge, LUU Dance Band, B'Naughty, Central BeatZ DJs, Brighton Beach DJs, Will Peel, Poppy, Hazy Dave, Andy Brown DJV set, Preamptive VJs, and many more!

Attractions: funfair, photography studios, chill-out space, casino, state of the art light and sound, outdoor seating, sofa lounge, pre-ordered wine, fire breathers, dancers, Ibiza angels massage



THE ORGANISER/

INTERVIEW

Rob Spring, LUU Events Organiser talks to Leeds Student

After the announcement of this year's lineup, I caught up with LUU Event Organiser Rob Spring for a few words.

LS: Rob, you are one of the hidden faces in the union, yet have been responsible for booking the artists that have entertained thousands of students in the union this year. What exactly does your job entail?

Rob: My role as Events manager is to put together the program of events within the Union venues ensuring that we are catering for the diverse range of students that attend the University of Leeds. It means that you have to be clued up with current trends, brands, competitors and make sure that our audience is at the heart of everything that we do.

LS: This Summer Ball looks to be huge once more, how long has this year's Summer Ball taken to plan?

Rob: I personally started on this year's ball the week after the event, a key part of the process is to pull apart last year's event, what was a success and what was a failure. From here you have the basis of a plan. This year we were keen to lock down a line up earlier than to previous years and the majority of the line up was confirmed in December 2008. From here we then start planning the infrastructure for the Summer Ball which gradually the Events department at Leeds University Union are taking more responsibility for with the eventual aim of running the event completely in-house.

LS: What makes the Leeds Summer Ball so special compared to other university balls?

Rob: It is the largest of its kind within the UK and the best. This year we are the only Union to lock down Katy Perry to perform at a University ball, that is pretty special.

LS: There are a diverse range of world-class acts performing on the evening, is there something to please everyone?

Rob: I think this year the ball has excelled itself, we have listened to the comments and suggestions that came out of last year's event and built on this. Hopefully people will see this with the introduction of a dedicated urban arena, which culminates with a speed garage set (a new music genre to the event), we have introduced a live element back into the indie arena and also Waxxon with Eskimo Twins. Plus, there is all of the usual music such as chart, drum and bass, breaks, house, techno, pop and rnb.

LS: Are you attending the Ball yourself, and if so, which tent can we expect you to be getting your party groove in?

Rob: I shall be managing the site during the actual event, hopefully I will catch some of the artists which will be more than I managed last year! If I could party in any of the arenas it would have to be the Waxxon arena as Fake Blood and Simian Mobile

Disco are going to rock.

LS: And on a final note, do you have any tips for surviving the hedonistic marathon on the 5th June?

Rob: Yes I have a few! The first one is to pace yourselves as it is a fair endurance test to last all night, make sure that you take your ticket to the event (we won't let you in without it) and make sure that you are still there for the sun rise as it is something fairly special.

Tickets are available from CATS, the Riley Smith Hall, and leedssummerball.com as follows:

E37 Priority Price tickets go on sale to final year students on Wednesday 18th March at 9.30am (only available in the Riley Smith Hall)

E37 Priority Price tickets go on sale to all students from all other years Thursday 19th March & Friday 20th March.

E42 tickets are on sale from Saturday 21st March from CATS and leedssummerball.com.

Last year over 3,500 tickets were sold on the first day alone, so we advise you to get your ticket early to ensure that you get on the coach of your choice. Coaches leave the Parkinson Steps at 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm, 9.00pm, 10.00pm and 11.00pm; the last four times are the most popular and will sell out quickly on the first few days of sales.

When buying, you need to bring with you:

- Your student card. With this, you can also buy tickets for up to two guests. Without it, you cannot buy any tickets!

- If you wish to buy tickets on behalf of friends in addition to your two guests, you will need to bring their student cards with you as well as your own.

- When buying tickets online, have your student card to hand as you need to enter your card number to complete the transaction.

- If paying by cheque please remember to bring your cheque guarantee card.

Due to circumstances beyond the organiser's control, they are sorry to announce that Kissy Sell Out will not be headlining in the Kiss Da Funk arena at the 2009 Summer Ball, as previously advertised.

words/sam donnison

Competition

FREE BALL TICKETS TO BE WON

We do try and treat you well here at Clubs, that's why we've once again managed to blag some tickets for you. Up for grabs is one pair of tickets for the Summer Ball. To win them it's the usual deal, nothing clever: all you need to do is send an email to clubs@leedsstudent.org with 'SUMMER BALL' as the subject heading. One lucky randomly selected winner will be emailed back on the 18th March (so get those emails in quick). Best of luck.

New

Bohemia

News

We do like that lot at New Bohemia, and how can you blame us when they treat us so well. Talking of treats, have you got your Wailer's ticket yet? On April 21st New Bohemia celebrates its 5th Birthday and what better way to start off a birthday by having the wailers play 'Exodus' in its entirety in Stylus. For those of you who don't own the album (and shame on you if you don't) I challenge you to find an album with a better slew of continual tunes (tracks 4-10 runs Exodus, Jamming, Waiting In Vain, Turn Your Lights Down Low, Three Little Birds and One Love). Afterwards there will even be an after party with the mighty Gentlemen's Dub Club and others into the early hours.

In more recent New Bo news, they have booked the king of melodic bass wobbly-tron, Flying Lotus, supported by Gaslamp Killer and Room 237's P45. At seven pounds and on the 27th April (post dissertation hand in) it's the show of the week. We expect Mine to be packed to the rafters for this, Leeds hasn't seen a Flylo show in a good while. Too long if you ask me.

Last but not least is Soundwave Festival, taking place on the 17-20th July in Petrcane, Croatia. For those that have been to Outlook, Garden or Electric Elephant festival, you will know of the unspoilt beauty of Petrcane and how it makes an ideal site for a festival. The organisers promise a strictly sunshine vibes policy with perhaps one of the most musically interesting festivals about this Summer. Check the website for more details.

<http://www.soundwavecroatia.com>

All of the events are selling out quick. For more details, and to book tickets, visit CATS in the Union or Leeds Tickets Online at www.leedstickets.com

NEW BOHEMIA

words/sam donnison

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC /

FILM REVIEW

Vue @ The Light

11/03 - 19/03



Having read and loved all of the Shopaholic books by Sophie Kinsella, I was optimistic about the make or break translation from novel to silver screen. I was expecting to write about a charismatic English girl with a passion verging on addiction for fashion who is fully aware of her self-inflicted, out of control debt. But, by the end of the film I was trying to process the mish-mash of animated mannequins, bad haircuts and cast with less personality than a pack of frozen peas.

The Becky Bloomwood of the novel earned my empathy as she realistically struggled to deal with her overwhelming amount of debt, at times nearing nervous breakdowns. However, in the film she simply nibbles her lip and flutters her eyelashes, throws herself on tables or skips out to converse with freaky living mannequins (artistic licence never works in trick flicks). This was almost funny, but trivialised debt and Becky became pretty

irritating.

Whilst Becky's addiction is primarily shopping, it is secondly fashion. But for a novel about fashion and a movie styled by Patricia Fox, it was really disappointing. The clothes were irrelevant and unimaginative; she was no slave to fashion and lacked any personal style. The best piece was her hideous bridesmaid's dress, for its kooky and eccentric spin on old-school American prom dresses.

The condensed plot had its advantages and disadvantages; it had been modified to cut out a lot of the waffle that was originally there for Kinsella to fill her word count quota. Fortunately this meant the film was fast paced, as it was essentially just about shopping and nerdy debt collectors who wore funny glasses. Even though watching it was like reading the blurb of the novel, it was probably too long.

However, by cutting out a lot of the plot, a lot of banter between the characters was



lost - there was no on screen chemistry between Becky and Luke, and who would have known that her best friend was in fact extremely frugal and moody?

Nevertheless, it was not all bad. Isla Fisher was charismatic (albeit, only a fraction of the Becky of the novel) and her circus training paid off. Her Laurel and

Hardy style stunts were entertaining to watch and probably the only thing worth watching the film for.

My reluctant conclusion? *Confessions of a Shopaholic: The Movie* is pretty much a watered down version of *Sex and the City* for the High School Musical generation.

words/ hannah glick

THE PLAY ABOUT CHARLOTTE / PANDORA'S BOX /

THEATRE REVIEW

Stage@Leeds

11/03 - 14/03



To write and direct your own play must be hard. Characters need to be engaging, script entertaining, and the overall piece ideally thought-provoking. But to do this as a student with a degree breathing down your neck must be double the challenge. Yet *The Play About Charlotte* manages brilliantly.

Written and directed by Hannah Patterson, the play follows the story of Cathy, played by the superb Rachel Shaw. A successful young playwright, Cathy begins to suffer a mental disorder as she struggles to write her fourth play and her relationship with long-term boyfriend Michael, played by the also excellent Pierre Tailleux, becomes more fraught with arguments. Cathy's confusion over what is memories and what is the present, what imagination and what reality, leads her to a experimental therapist who explores her present mind set and the meaning of her relationship with Charlotte, a prostitute who has become Cathy's close friend and muse.

A 60s background is observed with nice little touches. Beatles songs play in the

background. Characters wear brightly coloured outfits, whilst everyone is constantly smoking. All revolves round a table. The characters enter in and out of scenes from seats around the stage, their eyes otherwise always centred on the protagonist Cathy, who often climbs over the table, symbolistic perhaps of attempting to break the interrogative nature others put upon her.

As Cathy's tensions between reality and memory grow, scenes cleverly exploit this. Many actors collide on stage at the same time, whilst lines will be repeated in several scenes by different characters until the audience are unsure of what is reality themselves.

The script is good but it helps to have a cast of such high calibre as this one to deliver the lines. Pierre Tailleux gets the growing frustration and loss of love for Cathy nicely. Rachel Shaw gives a utterly compelling performance as Cathy, every word she utters seeming completely genuine, her very hand movements perfectly portraying the vexation of losing her grip on reality.

words/thomas knowles

THEATRE PREVIEW

Stage@Leeds

18/03 - 21/03

Pushing the boundaries in their new production of 'Pandora's Box', the School of Performance and Cultural Studies is staging a reinterpretation of three plays by the German expressionist Frank Wedekind. Dramatising the 'essence of woman' and 'female sexual awakening', it is fair to say that this production is not for those with delicate sensibilities. Indeed, Wedekind's plays, when first shown in the late 1800s, were considered pornographic. While it may be too far to class 'Pandora's Box' as pornographic it is bound to be a risqué and provocative performance.

'Pandora's Box' will be an installation performance, an innovative form of theatre that allows the audience to walk around the set as if entering a new world. After experiencing a similar type of promenade theatre performed by the Punch Drunk Theatre company, I can say, hand on heart, that it was the most amazing theatre event I have witnessed in my life. As a member of the audience, you are able to completely immerse yourself in the world of the play. No longer are you stuck watching the action take place,

instead you are physically involved, navigating the maze of the theatre, even stumbling upon characters mid-scene.

With the prospect of audience members constantly finding new parts of the plot and actors interweaving themselves among the crowd, it is fair to say that no two performances will be the same. The audience are encouraged to walk around the theatre on their own, instead of in a group, so each person is able to gain their own views and perspectives on the play. With four performances a night, it will be no easy task for those involved: all actors must stay in character throughout the performance (there'll be no wigs to hide in).

Innovative not only in subject matter, but so too in production, the play has no single director or script writer. Instead, it is an entirely collaborative effort between cast and crew. To produce a play on this scale has taken considerable discipline, with actors prepared for every possible outcome that a production such as this can entail.

words/ fiona lamont

LOOK OUT POST

words/ james underwood

Film! Che Part Two

A dark and claustrophobic view of Guevara's last months battling to survive in Bolivia in the second half of Soderbergh's epic. Those who missed the more triumphant *Che: Part One* can catch the HFP's double bill screenings.

March 13th-19th Hyde Park Picture House

Culture! St Patrick's Day

A parade through the city centre to celebrate St Paddy's Day will be followed by events in Millennium Square on Sunday 15th as part of Leeds' Irish History Month. Live music, dancing, stalls and food celebrate Irish culture in the UK. Events taking place across March. See www.irishhistorymonth.com for details

Art! 'Keep The Fire Burning'

A series of free talks every Wednesday, this month focuses on the four elements. The topic of fire falls to Jens Hoffman of the California College of the Arts: in 'Keep the Fire Burning' he will deliver a talk about the role of artists as provocateurs.

6pm March 18th Henry Moore Institute

TRISTAN STURROCK /

INTERVIEW & THEATRE PREVIEW

Actor taking the title role in Kneehigh Theatre's Don John West Yorkshire Playhouse
18/03 - 28/03

In a London-centric theatre industry, provincial theatre is often ignored or even sneered upon. Kneehigh Theatre, who are immensely proud of their Cornish home, have demonstrated during their hugely successful 28 years that theatre from outside of the large conurbations is well worth sitting up and taking notice of.

Tristan Sturrock plays the lead in the critically acclaimed *Don John* which is soon to visit the West Yorkshire Playhouse. He has seen the company develop artistically and in repute over his 23 years there.

"I joined them in 1986, aged eighteen. I didn't do the drama school route - all my training was with Kneehigh." After working with the company for a number of years, Sturrock left to broaden his experience: "In those days, no one knew about Kneehigh. I was a bit embarrassed. I've never liked the name really...it sounded like a bad Theatre In Education company. I would keep the Kneehigh thing quiet when approaching agents - it had no currency, it meant nothing in those days; physical theatre was a new thing...it was difficult for other companies to understand."



photo/ steve tanner
words & interview/ sam leach

After time away in a broad range of roles and media, Sturrock returned to his roots. "It was time to go back to what floats my boat. The work that really excites me, the work I have most input in - the work I have most fun doing, essentially, is Kneehigh." These days, the company is held in high regard by the industry. "People think of it as a really cool thing to have Kneehigh on their CV."

After a year playing the straight-laced Dr Harvey in *Brief Encounter*, Sturrock found the role of serial seducer Don John a refreshing change. "It's been hilarious fun, I've loved it. It's the darkest Kneehigh piece we've done in a long time." *Don John* is an adaptation of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*, brought forward and set in an era of political disquiet, with the punk movement at its height and Margaret Thatcher's premiership imminent. "I was 10 in 1978, and I remember a lot of the references used in it [*Don John*]." In creating the character, he was

influenced by the atmosphere at the time: "I remember punk, my older brothers were into it...[I tried to incorporate] the look and the feel and the swagger of people like Johnny Rotten, but only glimmers of it."

He is keen to humanise Don John, adding emotional complexity to a character who might otherwise appear pure evil; he seems almost unprepared to believe a character without a chink in the armour. "He's basically a bastard, there's something quite demonic, psychotic about him. There needs to be some sort of remorse, fear or something there, otherwise he becomes a bit inhuman."

Having had a break from the role, Sturrock is excited about coming to Leeds. "We love coming to Leeds because we've built up a real audience. It's a joy to play that theatre, it's truly one of those spaces which has an intimacy to it. And there's a real sense in Leeds that people get the work, they just get it, the Kneehigh thing."

EDWARD GANT'S AMAZING FEATS OF LONELINESS /

THEATRE REVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse
10/03 - 14/03



This play isn't merely a reciting of the famous Victorian Edward Gant's "opium filled fantasies". It is much rather an exploration of Edward Gant's work. The play consists of three fantastical stories about loneliness narrated by the title character. The play is directed by writer Anthony Neilson, and he doesn't let us down in terms of adding a similar strange nature to the performance that Edward Gant would have created originally in his Victorian performances. It shows a very different unrealistic approach taken towards such themes of morality, beauty and wonder, and on many occasions mocks such an approach. At certain points, the play is extremely funny; it intelligently creates laughter with contemporary references as well as using Victorian traditions to create the exact same effect. At times however, if it be pimple popping, food spitting or very crude jokes the humour could be deemed distasteful and occasionally difficult to watch. In addition, some of the content dances on the line of racism and the easily offended may find themselves in a room



they soon want to be out of.

The play certainly needs to be given patience, especially the end which at first seems like its heading in the direction of complete absurdity, when two human size teddy bears appear on stage.

The end has a pleasing twist and watching it unfold is more than entertaining. A level of seriousness at the end is thrown at you unexpectedly too and therefore has much more of an effect. However the final scene is still able to maintain laughter, which deserves credit in many respects. The scene, which sees the four actors come together for the first time on stage in a realist light, really stresses and accentuates the purpose of the piece. It helps clarify the direction of the play, elucidating the idea that the material isn't a regurgitation of Edward Gant's work, but an insight into his methods and ideas that were so well known in Victorian culture but are completely unseen today.

words/ joseph palmer
photo/ ellie kurtz

RAISE THE ROOF /

FESTIVAL REVIEW

The West Indian Centre

06/03



It didn't feel very springlike as I walked the dark back lane to the West Indian Centre on a cold Friday night. Inside though, the prevailing conditions are forgotten: this is the Raise the Roof spring festival and the psychedelic decorations and pounding music transport you to somewhere else entirely, a fairy-tale fiesta of eclectic delights. Not quite a festival, not quite a rave, Raise the Roof is certainly unique, combining brilliant music with random delights.

Arrive as Fulbulbus are mid way through their set. Their brassy, punked up ska and drum n bass is energising, propelling me past the tent on the dance floor to the bar, pinballing off people in fancy dress, mash-heads, friends.

Next up, the ubiquitous tribal rhythms of Honeydum providing an infectious heartbeat for the crowd. Without realising it, I am suddenly drumming on something, anything, joining the beat.

The only disappointment of the night was the Root One Band, latest incarnation of local skanksters Roon Bolka. Unfortunately this metempsychosis had resulted in the loss of the beautiful lyricism and stage presence of the lead duo which had made a bunch of talent into a band. That aside, Raise the Roof's carefully crafted night has certainly got my spring off to a good start.

words/ sam leach

CINDERELLA UNCUT /

PANTO REVIEW

Riley Smith Hall

24/02 - 28/02



Pantomimes just want to have fun. They are so self-aware of their astringent punch and take such pride in their own pitfalls that reviewers feel misanthropic giving such gay productions bad press. Still, pantomimes are in no way exempt from bad reviews, since many of them are well and truly crap.

It came as a refreshing surprise then when LOU's all new PantoSoc pulled off a huge success with *Cinderella Uncut*. Sam Morshead's script was as witty and controversial as promised, while Timothy Ranger's direction really brought the best out of a strong and talented student cast. Laura Holden offered an energetic and sprightly brunette Cinderella that won the audience over instantly, showing an impressive athleticism too as she took the lead with some surprisingly complex dance routines. Prince Charming was great, a sort of Hugh Grant/Barry Manilow mash-up played by Alan Partington, giving the audience a wild performance that flicked cleverly between sex-appeal, upper-class aloofness and juvenile-insecurity.

Partington's stage-timing and comic expression was so spot-on he threatened to steal the show from the all-time favourites: the ugly sisters. That would be, of course, if Owen Bradley and Ed Igboho weren't so magnificent in these enamoured roles. The audience were riveted by the sexualised adaptation of *Twelve Days of Christmas* (featuring inflatable sheep, a kinky nurse and music of the 90s pop pad Five), they were literally howling in laughter so violently that I feared entire rows would have to be carted off to A&E.

Cinderella Uncut's musical score was a patchwork medley borrowing from *HSM:2*, *Hairspray* and other popular musicals, although all the arrangements were pleasingly original.

The production didn't make too many attempts to be site-specific to Leeds University, but it did perhaps reflect the Leeds Uni ethos, resisting an Oxbridge-style fixation on political satire and instead creating a confident, glamorous and urban sing-a-long sex celebration.

Director Timothy Ranger is in his final year at Leeds but told LS that PantoSoc will continue. "There are plenty of people interested, but they'll need to write a fresh script of course". Oh yes they will.

words/ jack cullen

Remembering Mummy

BOOKS COMMENT

As Mother's Day approaches, LS2 looks at the best mums in literature

In a beery haze as a night out draws to a close, with all our money gone and no prospect of a cab ride home, we are apt to remember our mothers.

Truth be told, we love our mothers. They warm us with their caresses and their love, they inspire us with their uncompromising honesty and boundless devotion, and they provide our returning selves with a firm shoulder to cry on.

Even the most feckless women in fiction show their innate nobility when infected with motherly love. Inordinately silly Bessie of George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss* protects Maggie when society condemns her as a loose woman, and accompanies her on her weary travails.



Childish Joan Durbeyfield rises, indignant, to Tess's defence when Angel Clare returns after having spurned her in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

Perhaps the most iconic image of firm motherhood is Mrs Tattletale in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*, who spares her horses the rod but uses it liberally on her three wayward sons in a half-successful effort to mould them into gentlemen. In Katie Willard's *Raising Hope*, prissy Sara Lynn and potty-mouthed Ruth Teller trash-talk their way into friendship as they raise an abandoned twelve-year-old.

Mothers in fiction who have children out of wedlock become truly heroic through nurturing these children. Outcast Marian Erle in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*, caught in the web of a designing aristocrat, fiercely devotes herself to loving and nourishing her son. In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne calmly rides out the storm of scorn in her dose-knit Puritan surroundings, living to ensure that her daughter, Pearl, does not fall into the same traps that she did.

Betty Mahmoody's *Not Without My Daughter* is the compelling true story of an American woman whose concerns for her daughter's welfare in a claustrophobic Iranian household gives her the courage to escape from her harsh, controlling husband. From suspicious border guards to the

purdah police, no obstacle is too big for her to overcome as she struggles to bring her daughter to safety. Another true story, Miriam Cohen's *A Daughter of Two Mothers* is about an anguished Jewish mother's quest to find her lost daughter in the aftermath of World War Two, and the harrowing legal battles she has to fight to gain custody.

The mother in Edith Nesbit's *The Railway Children* is the angel of her three children's wandering days. Raising them as a single mother while her husband languishes in prison, she weaves them stories and is at once a cuddly friend and a firm advisor. Asha Bhandale's *Something Like Beautiful* is the true story of a black woman's struggle to raise her daughter in New York, while the child's father serves a life sentence. Her memoir details how her love for her daughter enabled her to defeat clinical depression and wear herself out alcohol and drugs. Sylvia Nasar's *A Beautiful Mind* illuminates one facet of Alicia Nash's struggle that the movie ignores. It shows us Alicia doing her best to raise her son in a normal domestic environment despite John Nash's mental illness, and her head-on confrontation of the tragic revelation that her son, too, suffers from schizophrenia.

So what are you getting your mother this Mother's Day?

words/adreyo sen

Biography

FIVE OF THE BEST

Ever wished you were someone else for the day? This week why not sample the lifestyles of the rich, famous, beautiful and inspirational with our pick of biographies and autobiographies.

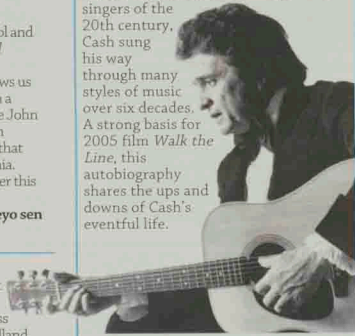
Long Walk To Freedom

Nelson Mandela

Secretly written whilst in prison, the autobiography of the famous political prisoner and former president of South Africa is an insight into the events of his life, his personality and his beliefs.

Cash: The Autobiography

Johnny Cash and Patrick Carr. One of the most iconic and legendary singers of the 20th century, Cash sung his way through many styles of music over six decades. A strong basis for 2005 film *Walk the Line*, this autobiography shares the ups and downs of Cash's eventful life.



Diana, Princess of Wales: A Biography

Martin Gittlin

On 31st August 1997 the world was shocked by the sudden and tragic death of Princess Diana. After countless conspiracy theories and other truths uncovered since, the story of this remarkable woman who gave so much is definitely worth reading.

The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream

Barack Obama

The current president and first African American to hold office in the United States of America shares his own views about faith and values in this autobiography.

David Beckham: My Side

David Beckham

Not only is he one of the world's most celebrated sportsmen, famous and adored in every country, Beckham is one half of Britain's most talked about couple. Facing constant media attention, his views are surely of interest to many people the world over.

words/constance webber

Dinner with Mugabe

REVIEW

Heidi Holland



'Nobody loved him for who he was.' Not a line one would foresee appearing in a book about one of Africa's most tyrannical rulers, but nevertheless it ends up epitomising Holland's humane approach to finding 'the man behind the

monster'. Through a balanced blend of fact and opinion she manages, with the help of numerous informants and, eventually, Mugabe himself, to give the reader a detailed account of the life that has formed this

fascinating character. I opened the book with scant knowledge of Mugabe, so was thrilled to find the level of historical detail tailored admirably to such an audience; avoiding the heinous crime of drowning the readership in a tiresome swamp of political jargon. The depiction of Mugabe's childhood is a chilling piece of retrospective that left me wondering 'if only...'. The young Robert we encounter is bookish and withdrawn, and perennially shrouded from sympathy by a veil of diligent precociousness, bullied to an extent but indifferent to animosity, comforting himself with promises of a vengeful future – a chilling prophesy from a child so young. The narrative fades briefly when Holland allows her journalistic pessimism to skew the reports she is receiving from reliable sources. For example, when she examines Mugabe's first marriage to Sally, a partnership that is hailed as 'beautiful' and 'perfect' by her

pseudo-sister, she dismisses it as a political exercise. This is a shame, as it is the only glimmer of true love that touches Mugabe's otherwise friendless existence. As the book progresses Holland moves away from the relaxed story-telling narrative and focuses more on the disturbing ignorance of a man who boasts an impressive seven degrees yet fails to acknowledge that 'his' people are starving on the streets due to his stubborn political immaturity. Holland is assiduous in her pursuit of information and commands appointments with some very hostile characters, including Donato Mugabe (Robert's brother) and Ian Smith (Mugabe's age-old nemesis). So despite a few ill-advised forays into relationship critique, she untangles Mugabe's knot of antecedents with commendable aplomb.

words/lori kilpatrick

Ideas Man

REVIEW

Shed Simove



Entrenched deep in the vein of Danny Wallace and Dave Gorman (who brought the world the 'Googlewhack'), *Ideas Man* follows the hair-brained scheming of Shed Simove, a modern day creative genius who will stop at

nothing to see his crazy ideas come to

fruition. If you're looking for Keatsian prose or the gritty realism of Welsh then you're going to be disappointed by this book – the inclusion of pictures is a safe indication of the literary exuberance involved. However, this isn't what Shed is trying to achieve with *Ideas Man*. It's steeped in the kind of British eccentricity which made the Wallace/Gorman canon so popular, and Simove's sheer tenacity is enough to arouse admiration and a subsequent feeling of inspiration in even the toughest of souls. This is a man who stood outside a literary agency with a sign reading 'I Will Stand Here Until You Take Me To Lunch' and was signed up, launched his own currency (which has a real life fluctuating exchange rate) and even invented 'Credit Crunch' cereal.

The infectious joie de vivre with which Simove recounts his misadventures prevents *Ideas Man* from becoming simply a shopping list of exploits and this, coupled with the breakneck pace with which the creative processes behind each idea are explained, really makes the book a difficult one to put down. There is also a degree of informality with which Simove addresses his audience, which makes you feel like he's chatting to you in the pub about what he's been up to, albeit in a coherent and structured way. This is a truly unique read, written by a unique individual, and it makes for a quirky, exciting and genuinely amusing read.

words/richard masters

Will the credit crunch take a bite out of Red Nose Day?

TELEVISION COMMENT

Hatti Cawley considers some of the TV highlights urging us to dig deep

Friday 13th March is Red Nose Day 2009. As we all know, this is in aid of the worthy charity Comic Relief, which helps vulnerable and disadvantaged people turn their lives around throughout the world's poorest countries, as well as closer to home in the UK. However, this year we are all feeling the pinch, and therefore the BBC is pulling out all the stops to persuade the public to donate generously.

By far the most entertaining offering from the BBC, is the return of Comic Relief does The Apprentice, featuring ten celebrities including, Ruby Wax, Carol Vorderman, Patsy Palmer, Fiona Phillips and Michelle Mone for the girls, and Jack Dee, Jonathan Ross, Alan Carr, Gok Wan and businessman Gerald Ratner for the boys. According to reports, Patsy Palmer storms off at one stage after an argument with her teammates, so it looks like we're in for another entertaining episode. The real Apprentice is also returning to our screens towards the end of this month, and whilst the BBC is keeping quiet about the new contestants, according to the website one comes 'from a long line of aristocrats', therefore we can only hope there will be a new Raef 'I get on with Prince or Pauper' B'you on our hands, as he provided some highly entertaining footage and much needed class in the last

series.

Another highlight this year has to be the Kilimanjaro Climb, which was an amazing feat undertaken by celebrities such as Cheryl Cole, Kimberley Walsh and Fearne Cotton. All nine celebrities who completed the challenge will be in the studio on the night, talking about their experiences and revealing how much cash they raised.

There are also plenty of comic offerings from some of the most popular comedians in the country at the minute, such as Matt Lucas and David Walliams performing new sketches, some including Robbie Williams and Catherine Tate, who takes on Little Britain's Carol Beer. There has also been much hype surrounding French and Saunders, who are reuniting to perform what they claim is their last ever sketch together. The sketch itself is based on a 'Mamma Mia' sequel starring Alan Carr as one of the potential fathers to Sienna Miller. The Royle Family are also returning whilst Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant perform the Office as an opera in a one off sketch.

Also, for Gavin and Stacy fans James Cordon performs as his character Smithy,

and meets David Beckham, Rio Ferdinand and the rest of the England squad to teach them a thing or two. If anyone saw Jonathan Ross last week there were clips shown of what Cordon says to the team, for example he told Peter Crouch to bring back the robot, and suggested to David James that he was a good keeper now because he'd stopped 'dicking about' with his hair.

The seven hour TV marathon starts tonight, and I think it will be well worth staying in with a takeaway for, as there are a

huge variety of

comedians performing new sketches, as well as music talent from bands like Oasis. And it's not like there's anything else to watch on a Friday night anyway.



All the Small Things

A new comedy drama for the BBC, in which all of the cast are singers

First series on the BBC with an actual all-singing cast. Set in the beautiful north of England a family of musicians live in harmony, albeit not for long.

Life is suddenly mixed up by the entrance of a glamorous soprano, played by Sarah Alexander of Smack the Pony, Coupling and Green Wing fame.

Sarah Lancashire, Neil Pearson and Richard Fleeshman also star as Esther, Michael and Kyle, the mother, father and mixed up son of this talented family.

When life really takes a turn we see the merge of old and young as Esther and Kyle join forces to create a brand new choir of misfits.

All the Small Things is written by Debbie Horsfield who also wrote Cutting it and True Dare Kiss. The filming was done all around Glossop and Manchester in August to December 2008.

The programme will also star Annette Badland from Doctor Who and Roy Barraclough from Coronation Street.



THE ARGUM%!*T

Who's got the love down under?

Home and Away

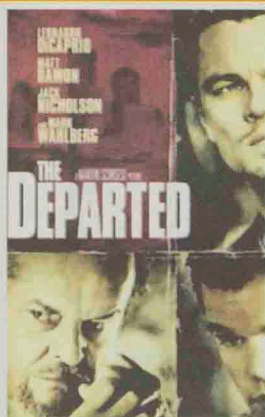
Neighbours

Maybe we belong together... There are not many souls in the world who don't recognise those lyrics, and even less don't immediately want to be whisked away to a perfect sunny beach with hot men, a nice café and an emotionally dramatic life. I'll admit the characters either never ever leave, or they have arrived, found out they're someone's long lost sibling and left for a new life in New Zealand. However, why is this important? Nobody watches soaps for moral lessons and education, you watch it for the delicious looking people and Home and Away has bucketloads. The actors in this soap don't get half way through their career and suddenly realise they can't act leaving them to bicker off to attempt popstardom; I'll give you Kylie but Holly Valance, seriously? The actors in this soap become film stars, thank you Isla Fisher. So which soap, do you think, has the most talent? If this hasn't convinced you of Home and Away's major superiority, one name: Aden.

words/ evie prysor-jones

There's a reason why Neighbours is always on half an hour before Home and Away: it's because it's better. And if that's not logical or convincing enough, let me elaborate with two words: Harold, and Susan. Harold is the tuba playing, multiple-chin possessing Don of the street, who once kissed a woman who looked exactly like his own daughter. Susan is the steadfast wife to legendary doctor-cum-layabout Karl Kennedy, who once (during one of her husband's particularly torrid affairs) had a haircut, Kylie Minogue, Natalie Imbruglia and Holly Valance are just some of Neighbours' past cast whose careers have gone downhill since abandoning Ramsay Street, and the only man to even attempt a life after being sacked from the soap was the guy who played Joe Scully, when he turned up briefly in a Sheila's Wheels advert.

words/ clare pidsley



Film of the week

The Departed

Sunday 15th March
Channel 4 10pm

If you have three hours to kill on Sunday night, or are rather looking for an excellent way to procrastinate before hand-in, then *The Departed* is your answer. After five previous nominations Martin Scorsese finally (and deservedly) won a Best Director Oscar and the film itself scooped Best Picture as well. If that wasn't motivation enough for watching, Mark Wahlberg and Leo DiCaprio star, with Matt Damon, Martin Sheen and Jack Nicholson turning up for the ride. Wahlberg and DiCaprio play two men on opposite sides of the law - Leo plays a cop undercover in the Irish mafia whilst Marky-Mark is in the mafia but has somehow got into the police force... It all sounds very confusing, and at times it is, but seeing as 'cops vs. the mafia' is not exactly my favourite genre, the fact that I actually love this film should emphasise how damn good it is.

words/ emma black

Friday 13th March
Brand vs. Budget: Tonight
ITV1 8.00pm

Being a student myself, I'm sure everyone will agree with me that the world of budgeting becomes a new religion. I would say at least 80% of my shopping now consists of own brands which I have to say I used to sneer at on a trip to the supermarket. In this programme money saving expert Martin Lewis challenges luxury addicts to trade down on food, alcohol and cosmetics to see if they can tell the difference and potentially save a lot of money. A perfect incentive for these credit crunch times of hardship.

words/ stephanie byrom

Sunday 15th March
Come Dine with Me
Channel 4 8.00pm

This is always worth watching if only to hear the narrator's acerbic observations as he continues to be one of the most underrated comedians of our time. This week won't disappoint as four deliciously embarrassing and obnoxious housewives from Southampton compete to be the best hostess as they whip up some themed meal (*Always Moroccan*). All four are unashamedly desperate for the prize money and take any opportunity along the way to snipe at the incompetency of their competitors and to be the one to expose any methods of 'cheating' in the kitchen.

words/ lauren dick



Monday 16th March
Watch Out! Bailiff About
Channel 4 9.00pm

This documentary follows two geezer debt collectors, Chris and Danny as they pound the streets of Cheltenham under the guidance of 'seen it all before' veteran bailiff Brian. They come across the usual bunch of 'how has this happened' excuses and those who are festering in denial that they even owe any money. My favourites are Michelle who owes £12,000 on a £5,000 car and Martin who has managed to convince various family members to lend him money totalling 1.5 million pounds. How does that even happen? This is Credit Crunch comedy gold.

words/ lauren dick

Wednesday 18th March
Building the Olympic Dream
BBC2 9.00pm

Three part observational documentary series charting the journey to the London 2012 Olympics. With over nine billion pounds to spend on creating an Olympic Park within the next four years, London 2012's bosses are facing some tough challenges. Plans range from extensive land decontamination and stadium design to the search for a cat called Blackjack. All of their business is conducted in the harsh glare of the media spotlight, and is therefore under intense scrutiny.

words/ amy harker

Saturday 14th March
Comic Relief does Top of the Pops
BBC2 10.00pm

Was anyone else appalled at the abolishment of *Top of the Pops* from our TV screens? Well I know I was; so I get quite excited when they do special one off shows such as the Christmas edition and now this one for comic relief. This special edition features U2, Oasis, Franz Ferdinand and Tom Jones joining Rob Brydon and Ruth Jones live for their Comic Relief take on the Bee Gees classic, *Islands in the Stream*. Good music and a barrel of laughs, what more could you want on a Saturday night in front of the telly?

words/ stephanie byrom

Tuesday 17th March
Dangerous Love: A Comic Relief Special
BBC1 10.35pm

Danielle Lloyd embarks on a journey to uncover the true extent of violence in teen relationships in the UK today. Visiting organisations funded by Comic Relief, Danielle hears the real stories of teenagers who have violent boyfriends. She meets Sam who, having survived violence in her teenage years, is now supporting others, and Danielle's search for answers also involves going back to school with kids in Hendon to see ground-breaking solutions in action.

words/ amy harker

Thursday 19th March
Dexter
ITV1 10.35pm

After appearing on Jonathan Ross last week, you might recognise Michael C. Hall who stars in this interesting and captivating television series. *Dexter* is a forensic detective for the police by day, but leads a double life as a serial killer. However, having recognised his homicidal tendencies, his stepfather taught Dexter to control himself from a young age: this likable serial killer targets only criminals that he believes to have dodged justice. With such a gripping and unusual plotline, many interesting stories come through, as Dexter attempts to hide his life from his loved ones and evade being caught by the very people he works with.

words/ serena peddle

Friday 13th March Two Pints: Fags, Lads, and Kebabs

BBC3 10:15pm

For Comic Relief, Lauren Laverne presents the story behind hit sitcom *Two Pints of Lager*, going behind the scenes on location and in the studio to find out what makes it tick. Cast members past and present, including Sheridan Smith, Will Mellor, Natalie Casey, Kathryn Drysdale and Beverley Callard celebrate eight series of tears and laughter. You get a sneaky peek behind the scenes as Lauren visits Janet and Jonny's real house with writer and creator Susan Nickson; and Ralf Little reveals why he decided to leave the show in 2006.

words/ emma chetwode

Saturday 14th March Katie Price: Life Stories Uncut

ITV2 9:00pm

In this repeat from last Sunday night you get unlimited access to Katie Price as you have never seen her before as Piers Morgan interviews her. Loved and loathed in equal measures, Katie Price is an icon of our age. Piers Morgan delves behind the PR puff and unveils the real woman. In an intimate and emotionally charged interview, Katie reveals all about her family, her feuds and how she fancied Peter Andre from the moment she first set eyes on him.

words/ emma chetwode

Sunday 15th March Freaky Eaters

BBC3 7:00pm

29-year-old credit controller Niquita Hartshorn loves bacon and burgers a bit too much...so much so that she won't eat anything else! Her addiction has rendered her social life in tatters and threatens to seriously compromise her health. Luckily for her, nutritionist Charlotte Watts and psychologist Felix Eonamakis are on hand to offer some serious life lessons in eating food that is actually healthy. Shock horror! As well as being presently surprised at the immense changes Niquita manages to make to her own diet, the program somehow manages to make us feel slightly less guilty about our own chocolate obsessions. Good times!

words/ hannah perlin

Film of the week

Seabiscuit

Friday 13 March

BBC3 8:05pm

The Radio Times describes this true story of a racehorse that won against all the odds as 'overly sentimental', however in my opinion everyone loves a bit of equine nostalgia – remember black beauty? *Seabiscuit* is miraculously turned from a no hopper to an inspirational winner, who single handedly manages to lift the spirits of America in the middle of a Depression. There are obvious parallels between the moist eyed Tobey Maguire and lame *Seabiscuit*; they are milked for all they're worth but you can't deny this film has heart. Yes it's predictable, but who wants to see *Seabiscuit* fail? I definitely don't! There are also a few comic moments amongst the sentimentality, which means this film really is an all rounder; saddle up for a cosy night in!

words/ hatti cawley



Monday 16th March Never Mind the Buzzcocks

Dave 10:20pm

Ok, I realize that this episode is ever-so-slightly old, but it is, without a doubt, one of the major, not-to-be-missed classics! Never before has Simon Amstell managed to reach SUCH giddy heights of sarcasm as he does in this episode, with the help of the lovely Anthony Costa. Don't know who he is? Why, he's that ex-singer from Blue of course! To add to that whopper of a celebrity the usual team captains, Phil Jupitus and Bill Bailey, some of Britain's best join in the fun: Martin Freeman, Kate Nash and rising star comedian Mathew Horne. Trust me, this is pure gold.

words/ hannah perlin

Tuesday 17th March Mad Men

BBC4 10:00pm

Admittedly, a third of the way through the second series is not a good time for a newcomer to jump in, but there's never a bad time to start appreciating quality television. And this is definitely quality television – this snappily-written and beautifully-produced drama about 1960s America is every bit as good as the critics keep saying it is. Given its slow pace, it's not one for people with short attention spans, but if you're the sort who could happily waste an entire weekend in the company of a good HBO box set, then give this a go.

words/ tim boden

Wednesday 18th March Father Ted

More4 10:00pm

The best episode of one of the best sitcoms – it's that one where they go on Eurovision! There's not much more to the plot than that, but how it all unfolds is what makes it genius; notably, the insanely catchy musical masterpiece that is, *My Lovely Horse*. Oddly enough, it's possibly based on real life; there's a conspiracy theory which suggests that Ireland deliberately submitted a sub-standard entry to avoid the expense of hosting Eurovision for another year. If you've seen it a hundred times, it's still hilarious. If you've never seen it before, I demand you watch it now.

words/ tim boden

Thursday 19th March Paris Hilton's British Best Friend

ITV2 9:00pm

As I am sure everyone already knows, tonight is the night: it's time for the captivating finale of Paris Hilton's *British Best Friend*. Paris Hilton comes over to the UK to find her very own best friend. If you have somehow missed the rest of the series, Paris sets her contestants a series of challenges, such as visits to the hairdressers and other such important things, and judges which of the 11 girls (or lone boy) is the most well equipped to deal with her world. Think *The Simple Life* but without the series-saving wit from Nicole Richie.

word/ serena peddle



SMALL ENOUGH TO GET EVERYWHERE

Apple's latest suggests the miniaturisation drive isn't over

Cast your mind back 10 years ago. Now, think mp3 players. Did they exist then? They certainly did, but they were unlike those we take for granted today in many ways. 64MB flash based players came in at a penny under a hundred pounds, and hard drive based players were short of 10GB but so big that transporting them would require more planning than any netbook would today.

This isn't intended as a history of the mp3 player (although for a run down of the early history of the mp3 player take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/aerc8b>), but it is all relevant. Just when you thought sizes had reduced enough to ensure that it wasn't a dominant factor in driving the mp3 player market, Apple comes along with an announcement.

Now if their announcement was about shaving yet another millimeter of the iPod Classic, most people would barely bat an eyelid, but it is surprising to see they've focused their size reducing efforts towards the already smallest of the bunch, the shuffle.

Half the size of the previous model, and doubling the memory (up

to 4GB), the new shuffle has foregone even the modest controls that its forefathers sported, aside from a tiny power switch, it is completely button free.

Volume and track control are still available of course (although I'm quite convinced Apple fans would still buy a device disabled by their absence, as long as Apple assured them it was a feature), but they've been moved onto the earphone cord, which is nice as long as you're a fan of apple earphones which, judging by how many you can spot buried into peoples' ears on a daily basis does seem to be a majority of people.

What is interesting is the decision by Apple to finally do something about the lack of a screen on the shuffle. Fan sites have in the past suggested a screen would appear at some point, hidden on a reflective bodied shuffle, or just... there, albeit very very small. Instead, there is still no screen (or maybe there is; the body is so small it would be pretty difficult to see even if it were

there), but we have the power of voice, a new feature dubbed 'VoiceOver' by Apple.

Sadly I haven't yet heard a sample of the voice itself, so I don't know if it's Steve Jobs' soothing voice, or something a little more dramatic. But the voice is there to tell you what track is playing, who's playing it and more.

It's questionable how much use the feature will be; on a 4GB mp3 player I'm pretty sure I'd know the artist of most of the songs anyway, and I'd know the track names for the files I care about. But of course, that isn't the purpose of VoiceOver. Its purpose is to allow you to find tracks without having a screen in front of you. This is a useful development, and it wouldn't be surprising to see the feature incorporated into other iPods in the near future - no more pulling your Touch out of your pocket to change track at the train station and finding yourself iMugged several seconds later.

Presumably the voice-driven navigation through your files will follow the menu structure obeyed by all iPods. The only disturbing issue this raises is the prospect of millions of iPod users worldwide all effectively having iPod software version 1.1.3 installed on their brain.

words/ john puddephatt

REALISM NOT RACISM

Resident Evil 5 has attracted criticism, but is there anything to worry about?

Resident Evil 5 depicts black African people - many of whom are the game's ostensible antagonists - in supposedly racist ways. Enemies charge towards the player in various states of undress, in grass skirts and armed with spears. Most of the game's protagonists are white, muscular, intelligent and guided by a strong moral compass. Most of the game's antagonists are black, emaciated, bloodied and Michael Jackson-level crazy. All too predictably, the game has come under fire as being 'racist'.

The word 'racist' has a tremendous and terrifying power. Its use has served to polarise opinion on the game, and replace what should be amicable discussion with explosive anger. As with all things, as emotions escalate, the issue becomes dichotomised, and now we are presented with two options: either the game is racist and made by racist people for racist people, or it is not.

For once, the answer actually is this simple. The game is racist. All games are. All works are and all humans are. If racism means the assessment of an individual on the basis of their race, then it is impossible for a game not to be racist, and it is certainly very difficult for a human not to be. No character in any game is incidentally black, white or purple. This might not be something which is very easy to stomach, but that doesn't stop it from being true. The reason why so many game protagonists are white males is because the white male demographic is seen as the

default.

The depiction of Resident Evil 4's enemies was 'racist', too. They had notably Mediterranean complexions and spoke in Spanish, but there was no talk of racism when the game was released. Again, the antagonists were not incidentally Spanish - they threw around Hispanic cusses and exchanged goods with Pesetas. There was only one Spanish protagonist, and he died about halfway through the game. But none of this matters, any more than it matters that Margaret Atwood's decision to make Offred female is sexist.

It is said that the problem is that the game contains unfair depictions of black people; that the inclusion of grass skirts in the game insults our intelligence as players. Does this mean that no art form can ever

employ an archetype again? Can we never have a Clint Eastwood desperado, an Eastern European vampire, an unintelligent blonde woman, a short person with an inferiority complex or a black police sidekick?

I wish to make myself clear: I am attempting to defend racist discrimination in games. In any visual medium which depicts humans, the appearance of a character becomes important, and race is part of a person's appearance. As such, it can be used to communicate something about the game. In Resident Evil 5, it tells the player that he or she is in Africa. You see, most of the people in that continent are black.

words/ spencer greenwood



BLOG BEAUTIFUL

artcar.blogspot.com
hunsolisgroovy.com

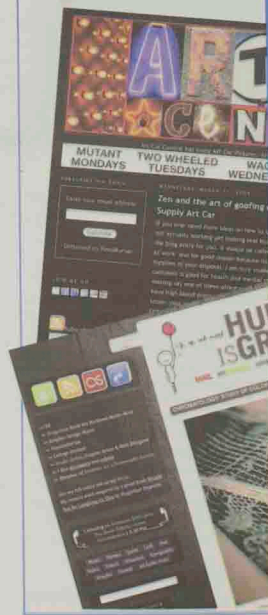
In case you didn't know, there are some pretty bad looking blog websites out there. But Blogging doesn't have to look dull.

Some of the best blogs in my opinion are the ones offering original content, not always of specific subjects though. Just content that inspires and raises attention about certain issues, making you look at it in a completely different light.

A great component of blogs that is sometimes ignored, is their presentation. Aesthetics should always be used to create an atmosphere and add to the tone of the writer. The design should flow and lead the eye quickly to find what you want, from section to section.

One of the most irritating things about blogs is probably Google ads. It can spoil an absolutely beautiful blog. So, if you're a blogger and need some inspiration on design aesthetics, or just interested in fine looking websites, here are some very worth a look and read:

words/ ana santos





On being ill

As I claw for the empty box of ibuprofen I feel the world shrink. It has become a dark and hollow place in which thoughts of my own mortality echo down sterile, icy corridors. 'Will I ever run carefree through a verdant meadow again?' 'Have I ever run carefree through a verdant meadow?' 'What is a verdant meadow?' All these questions and more clamour for attention in an already throbbing and embattled brain.

I wake up suddenly. The bed is sodden. 'Have I pissed myself?' Thankfully not, although sweat is flowing from orifices I didn't even know existed and intense heat is ebbing away into bitter cold. Smothered in a carnival of duvets, blankets, sheets and jumpers I begin to shiver and judder like a cheap vibrator, although my girlfriend doesn't quite see my



Have I pissed myself?
Thankfully not.

spasmodic thrashing as particularly arousing. Rather it is yet another disturbance in a night's sleep already devastated by histrionic groaning and incessant excursions to the toilet.

'Uggggggghhhhhhaaaaaa... need w-a-t-e-r...' I utter these desperate words through cracked, metallic lips and the exertions of speech leave me gasping for air. An angelic smile as she grabs the plastic bottle, but what was that whispered just out of earshot? Does she think I'm faking it? Have I over-milked this one? Surely my shivering and overall sweatiness stand as testament to my debilitating illness? I hope so.

The next day at the medical practice I ponder whether I should really be there with (self-diagnosed) influenza? Am I being melodramatic and dogging up the NHS like a granny with the sniffles? To my elation however, it is revealed that I have tonsillitis, a real illness, and one which will get me the rest of the week off work. The doctor even prescribes penicillin, a genuine get out of jail free card. Clutching my note like a sacred parchment I return smugly home.

Now, dear reader, although I'm sure that you would initially question why I was so pleased to have acute tonsillitis, upon reflection I'm sure you would agree that lying sick in bed is preferable to spending your precious hours at work? Even better if, like me, you'll be rewarded with sick pay. It strikes me though, that this is a curious social development. What kind of civilization have we constructed in which it is more desirable to lie festering in bed than go to work? I would honestly rather stay at home with a temporary virus than fill out a spread sheet. Yet I can't imagine that Australian Aborigines or Sioux Indians ever felt the same way. Would you rather lie in bed with fever or hunt buffalo on horseback?

words/lawrence carter



Entering journalism

It was with grim acceptance last week that I read the prerequisites listed by London colleges and universities, for undergraduates wishing to apply for a place on a Masters course in Journalism. Apparently, anyone who had not already begun hopping through career hoops was not eligible for consideration on their courses.

Perhaps the discovery was predictable. Undoubtedly, a filtering system is needed to cull the shoal of alumni descending each year on postgraduate degree schemes in London and it would be dangerous for too many of us to find it too easy to shelter from real work in these establishments. But I found their rigid listing annoying, their ability to so easily and so swiftly restrict applicants seemed unfair. I felt that an additional barometer was needed to measure the strength and potential commitment of a new, fresh interest.

The apathy that Leeds has cultivated in me since leaving school was at last being punished and I didn't like it. Never before had I felt inspired or indeed pressured to begin making major steps to facilitate job-hunting in the future but, as is often the way with these things, a natural, clear path emerged quite suddenly a couple of months ago and I have at last found a direction that really interests me: Journalism.

It seemed a shame that the sprouting of my first precious seedlings of real inspiration were to be stunted almost before germination, purely because they were planted a little later than others. An arbitrary cut-off point in time appeared to have been installed which separated my new enthusiasm from that of those considered to be worth a place on the courses.

Indignant that not all successful journalists had felt their calling from the womb, I decided to write to a handful of those whose work I enjoy the most, asking their advice on the usefulness of a Masters and whether or not it is essential that I have written for the Leeds University Paper before I graduate in June.

I have received one reply, from Giles Coren, which has renewed my faith in something, though what I am not quite sure. His twenty lines of slap-dash, can't-be-bothered-with-capital-because-I-am-a-big-dog-writer-in-a-big-hurry cynicism and smut was a refreshing contrast to the stuffy application requirements. He told me almost everything I wanted to hear.

'I'm not sure you'd learn much from a Masters in Journalism', he begins. And writing for the student paper is, according to Giles, usually under-cut with the motivations of meeting people and getting laid, 'bit like real newspapers', apparently. His trick for getting this printed is to have a drink with the editor and, 'at the end of the night, along with an ambiguous closed-mouth kiss', tell him that I've got a couple of pieces he might like. He has instructed me not to put out until the piece has been run but allows anything after that point to be up to my own discretion. Apparently, this technique will work equally as well with national editors if I can't be bothered to do it now. With tips from the top like these available on the rat-run through Journalism, I am surprised that the Masters is so competitive.

words/sophia grimaldi



Thwarted eggspectations

Don't you just hate it when Christmas decorations start going up in October? When December 25th finally rolls around, the cumulative effect of non-stop tinsel, carols and forced jollity is enough to have long ago made one heartily sick of the whole endeavour, and the only way to restore the festive spirit is to consume a sizable quantity of brandy.

You may be thinking this is somewhat lacking in topicality for March. But hold your horses and give the relevance a moment to arrive: it's coming up to Easter, and I'm beginning to think the same thing is happening to that holiday. Time was when the humble Easter egg was in the stores for a matter of weeks; I saw the first ones arrive in January.

There are those who feel the emphasis on chocolate detracts from the celebration of the small matter of Jesus Christ dying for our sins and rising again. The more witchily-inclined may also note that this is a bit of a trivialisation of the ancient pagan festival of Eostre, from whence all this egg/bunny fertility symbol malarkey arises.

However, being a common-or-garden atheist, my personal objection is twofold: firstly, my birthday's always around Easter



Chocolate detracts
from Jesus Christ
dying for our sins

time. I subconsciously associate the arrival of eggs with imminent celebrations. The repeated false hopes months ahead lead to a lingering feeling of disappointment. Secondly, I really can't stand Creme Eggs. Even looking at them makes me feel queasy.

Perhaps I'm being a bit of a spoilsport. Why take the eggs from the shops just for me? It's not that I hate festivals, or chocolate (unless it contains the noxious horror that is 'creme'). I even have a high tolerance for the awful egg-related puns that crop up at this time of year, as per this article's headline.

It's the marketing that's fatiguing. From September to May, from the run-up to Halloween to wringing the last drop of profit from Easter, it's a non-stop round of novelty chocolates being hurled our way. The only reason we get a break in summer is that it's too hot for that sort of thing.

Having special things for festivals isn't bad in itself, but when the approach to them lasts for weeks on end, it ruins the sense of anticipation and strips away any individuality. Everything ends up pre-packaged, market-directed, reduced down to lowest-common-denominator blandness and, thus, inevitable disappointment. With this in mind, though, that suggests that the only way to end the overproliferation of Easter eggs is nothing short of the wholesale destruction of the capitalist economy. And that's probably a bit of an overreaction for not liking Creme Eggs.

words/tim boden

DID YOU GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT?

In January, student accommodation provider UNITE asked Leeds students to share their favourite views of the city in celebration of the forthcoming opening of Sky Plaza, UNITE's new property in Leeds.

Over 100 students entered the race to capture Leeds on camera, submitting a total of 160 images that show the city from their perspective.

The judging panel, comprising: Nathan Goddard - UNITE Sales and Marketing Director; Brian Handley - General Manager of Harvey Nichols; and Ross Williams - Lecturer at Leeds College of Art and Design, had the unenviable task of selecting five finalists.

The shortlist has now been decided and the winner will be announced on 19 March at Harvey Nichols, where all finalists' work will be displayed for the first time.

The winner will walk away with £500.
The other finalists will each receive £250.

All the entries can be viewed online at
www.flickr.com/groups/leeds-skyspot/

LIVE THE HIGH LIFE AT SKY PLAZA



UNITE's new property, Sky Plaza, is now available to book for the 09/10 academic year.

The 37 storey building will be the highest point in Leeds and will offer stunning views of the city when it opens in September 2009.

Luxurious living will come as standard at Sky Plaza, with many of the bedrooms boasting flat screen TVs, wood effect flooring and leather sofas.

A range of flat shares, studios and spacious one-bed flats are available.

To find out more and make a booking, visit:

www.unite-students.com

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The heart of
student living

UNITE

MEET THE FINALISTS

TIME TO CHANGE

Mark Lilly - University of Leeds



Mark shot this photograph near the hospital on New Year's Day. As resolutions were being made around the world, it questions 'time to change?'

Nathan: "The exposure on this shot is fantastic. It cleverly leads your eye to what might be around the corner - perhaps symbolic of the year ahead."

STREET LAMP

Paul Phung - Leeds College of Art and Design



In a bid to capture Leeds in a new light, Paul ventured behind the Memion Centre - a place he considers hidden and possibly forgotten.

Ross: "Paul's image offers a microcosm of urban environment that you can find in any city, but somehow the environment is compelling, an 'empty' image with so much going on."

LEEDS MARKET

John Roy - Leeds College of Art and Design



Inspired by the city's architecture, John's shot of Leeds Market cleverly contrasts between old and new.

Brian: "We had a lot of shots of Leeds Market but this one really stood out. The black and white illuminates the skyline; it almost looks like Gotham City."

MODEL CITY

Joe Creffield - Leeds College of Art and Design



Homing in on City Square and the old Post Office building, Joe has cleverly captured the first landmarks people see when arriving in Leeds city centre.

Ross: "When I think of 'City' I think of scale, large, dominant, often oppressive, this image makes me question this, it plays with my preconceptions and orientation."

LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT

Michael Crozier - University of Leeds



'Shot alongside the basketball courts in the Hyde Park area, Michael has experimented with a combination of long time exposure, flashguns, terry lights and light sabers.

Brian: "This shot says so much about the city: it's young, vibrant, upbeat, musical, modern and contemporary."

respond to friends or your ability to concentrate on your academic studies. If you have extended feelings of lowness or melancholy, if you feel like you're withdrawing from your group, if you feel desperate on occasions and that desperation kind of sticks around, then you're showing the early signs of depression," he defines.

Nigel explained how issues may derive from recent incidents such as bereavement or the end of a relationship, or may be a concern from the past that is still hanging around.

"Coming here and being able to talk about and reflect on it often lifts the mood," he relates. "Interestingly you come out with more resources than when you came in because you actually know that by coming here for counselling that you personally have the resources to deal with the difficulty."

With mental health, deciding to deal with the problem personally is of great importance. In her bid to stop self-harming, Katie sought support from a variety of sources including the Internet, GPs, counselling services and friends; however she found that her own willpower was the greatest aid to recovery.

"I was extremely determined," she says. "I was so determined to get out of this and live normally, and that was the biggest thing. Everything else - there wasn't enough. It's such a cliché and people always say it but you do have to want it in order to change. You're the only one who can actually do the changing, people can hold your hand but you're the one who actually has to do it. And I really wanted it."

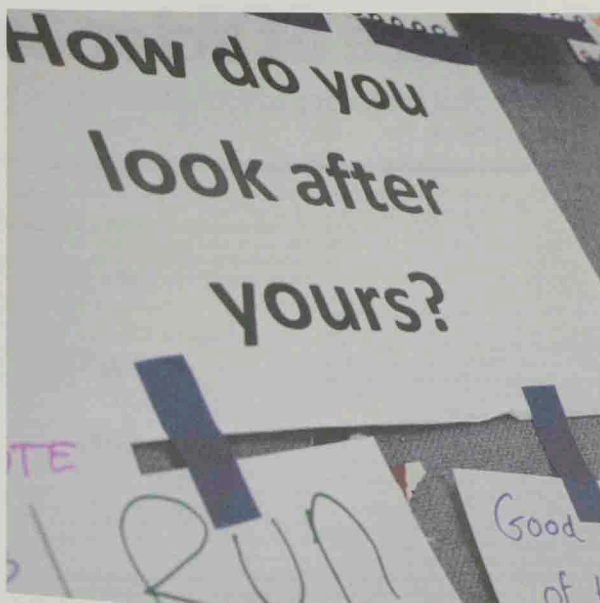
The idea of the individual as his or her own strongest aid to recovery is a frightening yet empowering concept. Unlike physical illnesses that can mostly be treated entirely by a medicinal approach and involve almost no effort of the will, problems centred in the mind must be tackled head-on by those involved, which takes a lot of psychological strength. In this respect overcoming a mental health issue can be a difficult but rewarding challenge. Dominic Martin, President of the Mind Matters society and a final year Spanish student at Leeds says that, "a lot of people view mental health problems as a hindrance but there have been reports in the media saying that actually mental health problems can be a real character builder."

He goes on to explain: "People that have had problems with depression, for example, develop a very good sense of self awareness and if they are to develop a problem in the future they're very much in tune with their emotions".

Despite the importance of personal recognition and determination, an emphasis on communication and contact with others also constitutes much of the recovery process. For those with a mental illness, outside support is vital but family and friends can also suffer difficulties and be negatively affected when someone close to them is having problems. It can be a frustrating situation to see the behaviour of someone close to you change without understanding why, and a daunting idea to broach the subject with him or her directly.

Elijah Wolf and the Rubalous are an indie band whose bassist Cage has bipolar disorder. In the band's press release for their single Camouflage - which was released in January to raise money and awareness for the bipolar foundation Equilibrium - Elijah relates, "Whilst working on the new single, Cage had a dramatic change in personality. He went from being a committed, enigmatic, driven person to being vague, distracted and elusive. We had no idea why and our immediate reaction was anger."

Such a reaction is common and highlights the need for de-stigmatisation and raised awareness of mental health issues in order that others in similar situations can understand, and support their friends and family through mental illness. The Mind Matters Society aims to demystify mental health issues and educate



MIND MATTERS SOCIETY: this year's Healthy Week in the Riley Smith Hall

Photo: Ali Hung



HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL?: a change in perspective can alter your mental health

Photo: Richard Smith

students to be able to recognise and react helpfully towards them. During Healthy Week this year the society hired out the Riley Smith Hall for Mind Matters day in which four zones - nutrition, exercise, relaxation and art/creativity - were explored to promote the different aspects of mental well-being.

The President of the society, Dominic, has also had experience with anxiety and depression, and cites CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) as his most helpful resource for recovery. His time in CBT has motivated his plans to train as a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist after graduation from Leeds. Though Dominic's treatment was private, the Student Counselling Centre holds a FLASH (focused learning and self-help) clinic every Wednesday, which incorporates certain CBT techniques to provide practical tips and guided self-help. Dominic describes why he thinks it is so effective:

"CBT is mainly about challenging negative thinking," he explained. "There are certain negative thought patterns which are very harmful. For example there's one called 'dramatisation' where you'll be sitting outside your exam room and you think to yourself, 'Oh my God I'm going to fail this exam.' CBT would say in this situation, 'Well actually, you've done lots of revision, you've been to all your lectures, you're going to be fine.'"

"It's very much a practical way of thinking about things," he continues. He gave another example of negative criticism: you go out with a friend, he calls you tight for not buying him a drink, and you go away dwelling on how ungenerous you are. "It's this idea of heaping criticism onto yourself," Dominic says. "CBT teaches you to say, 'No, you're not tight at all, look at the evidence.' Basically it's all about positively re-assessing the way you think."

Low self-esteem is something everyone can relate to. After all who hasn't at one time or another worried about exams or taken unfounded criticism to heart? However in the wrong circumstances such thinking can escalate into something a lot more serious, and by taking the problems back to their origins, CBT and other guided self-help can overcome the effects of a snowballing mental health issue.

It's important to recognise and deal with mental health problems as soon as they emerge, and with the establishment of the Mind Matters society the issue is at the forefront of the university's consciousness: mental health was the focus of this year's Healthy Week, and a campaign called Mind Your Head is currently being launched in conjunction with Leeds Met and Leeds Trinity in order to raise awareness of local support resources. This year will also see the establishment of a Mental Health Officer, a new role within the union whose job will be to help students access specific mental health resources.

There are up-coming events to raise awareness too, with the Mind Matters Society holding a press conference next week to release the results of their survey alongside guest speaker Rufus May, a clinical psychologist who was diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 18 and is concerned with creating more peaceful and helpful approaches to mental health problems within the NHS. After Easter there will also be an open mic night for people to come and talk about their experiences with mental health.

Dominic from Mind Matters sees these sorts of event as crucial to ending discrimination, which is among the society's top priorities.

"We'd like to help change attitudes towards mental health, to show that it's not something that people should be afraid of or feel embarrassed about," he says. "If we can empower people to come forward, I think that would be a great thing."

Clare Pidsley

On the reverence of science

A cultural shift in the UK alongside poor marketing to youngsters has left science under-represented in schools



Felicity Inkpen
Third-year Physics
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Despite its incredible heritage, the education of science in the UK has been experiencing its own recession in recent years, and although our government is waking up to this impending crisis it may be a case of too little too late. With science departments in universities across the UK closing, there is a danger of the country of Newton and Darwin suffering a lack of world leading scientists in future years. With the advancement of science in such countries as China, if the UK wishes to remain a world contender, attitudes towards science must be changed.

Physical Sciences suffer from a case of bad marketing. The stereotype of a crazy, white haired scientist is still too prevalent and I personally have not escaped the 'geek' caricature that is stamped across my forehead by some as soon as my choice of study is revealed. The fact that most physics students are not the spotty, antisocial and asthmatic stereotype is overlooked to such an extent that I have known students to be ashamed of their subject, not admitting it in social circles unless pressed. Maths and Physical Sciences are perceived by many as hard, dry subjects that you either 'get' or you don't. Somehow we have developed a culture in this country where it is ok to have limited maths skills and to be rubbish at science. To be illiterate is seen as a terrible fate, yet it is socially acceptable to be incapable of multiplying fractions.

The teaching of science and maths in schools is a key problem. In recent years GCSE Science has been undoubtedly simplified and involves more ethics, less facts, more social commentary, less investigation. In an effort to increase the appeal the content has been compromised; science at this level has become more emotional, more like an art subject, and the result is that students are leaving schools without having their curiosity ignited. Recent research has shown that the

take up of all sciences post GCSE has dropped by 25 per cent.

The lack of physics teachers in particular is having a detrimental effect on science education. A report by the University of Buckingham has found that almost one in four

It is socially acceptable to be incapable of multiplying fractions

secondary schools in England no longer has any specialist physics teachers. With physics being taught by biologists, who may themselves believe it to be boring, how can any passion for the subject be conveyed? With fewer students going on to study physics, fewer teachers are being produced and a vicious

circle is created. Ignorance of the opportunities physical sciences can provide is a further problem. Whilst arts subjects are heavily marketed as providing 'transferable skills', physical sciences are still seen by many as leading only to a job in a laboratory, despite the fact they can lead to a wide range of careers and studies show that the average physical science graduate will earn £98 000 more in their lifetime than the average arts student. The misapprehension that studying science provides you with fewer opportunities needs to be addressed.

In contrast to this worrying situation within science education, the science research community in the UK is thriving despite only having 1 per cent of the world's population we produce 9 per cent of the world's research papers. The University of Leeds Maths and Physical Sciences department reports that all its schools are judged to be conducting "world leading" or "internationally excellent" research. Supermassive Black Holes are being found, Quantum Computers are being developed and self assembling nanoparticles are being engineered, yet where is the publicity for all this excellent research? The scientific community must make greater efforts in public engagement to light the spark of curiosity and imagination in all of us.

Beware of false profits

President Obama's protectionist policies are no way to save the world economy, and they won't make America any richer either



Liam Keogh
Third-year English
liam@kcommunications.co.uk

Just over 150 years ago a French satirist published a story about a group of candle makers. Their business was being undercut by a foreign supplier so they petitioned the King, asking him to help boost profits by shutting out competition from this alternative source, The Sun. The Monarch did not agree. His advisers, recognising the lunacy of such a scheme, pointed out that, although the lighting industry's revenue would temporarily soar, the population would end up spending so much of their money on candles that the wider economy would collapse.

Faced with such a request, the decision seems obvious. If a cheaper option is available, why make people pay more by removing this choice? Who would be mad enough to block out the Sun?

Even so, the beginnings of such insanity are surfacing in Washington, coming in the form of President Obama's \$787 billion fiscal stimulus, which was squeezed through Congress just a few weeks ago. Although this financial boost – funded by Government debt – is a necessary evil, its positive effects are being undermined by a loaded clause that stipulates that all iron, steel and manufactured products paid for by this money, must come from the USA.

Not only would foreign goods and materials be cheaper – about 15 cheaper in the case of steel alone – giving the stimulus, and tax payers'

reason enough to drop such a short-sighted policy. International trade fuels the economy of countless states, if it is curtailed then lots will be in serious trouble.

In Britain, exports to the US alone are worth about \$63 billion – over half the annual running cost of the NHS. If that market goes, so will thousands of jobs here.

The actions of the President are not surprising. Not only is he a staunch protectionist, but he knows that grandstanding on a xenophobic – and untenable – promise to guarantee American jobs for American people will pick him up support at home. However, it is shocking that the head of a country, which has spectacularly increased its wealth – and that of the whole planet's – through free trade is beginning to pursue such a backward, discredited and dangerous policy.

There is little need to rehearse the old arguments against protectionism. Dismantling outside competition – by greatly increasing the cost of foreign products through tariffs – temporarily improves the profits of domestic industries but inevitably bloats prices, slows consumption and puts companies out of business as international markets collapse, causing widespread unemployment.

The relationship between the US and China is a case in point. The first survives by borrowing heavily from the second – currently owing around \$700 billion. In return, a sixth of China's economy – about \$336 billion a year, or 808 million jobs – depends on exports to the USA. If

China can't sell to America then it is unable to lend money, a scenario in which neither economy would survive.

Obama is on his way to block out the sun

If Obama is to retain his halo on the global stage, he should quickly backtrack on this decision. In the late 1920s, his predecessor was faced with a deep recession caused by trouble in the financial sector. His answer was to shut off trade with the outside world, inadvertently causing The Great Depression – a 12 year economic slump – and world wide war.

Despite these dire ramifications, the President isn't stopping. He's planning to increase taxes for companies that move jobs overseas and considering ending trade agreements with Mexico and Canada – worth tens of millions of jobs and \$2.5 billion a day. Obama hasn't yet blocked out the sun, but he's on his way.

This proviso attacks Free Trade

money, far more clout, but, critically, this Buy America proviso attacks a globally respected principle to uphold Free Trade.

China and the EU have already warned that they may follow suit if this condition is not reconsidered. Retaliatory measures like these – which can create a spiral of poverty – should be

The impotent ICC

An arrest warrant for the Sudanese president has exposed the International Criminal Court's weaknesses



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The International Criminal Court's unprecedented decision to issue an arrest warrant for the Sudanese president, Omar Bashir, was undeniably a bold one, but one that has already had harmful consequences. This is the first time that a warrant has been issued for a sitting head of state, and this has had a series of unintended effects. Firstly, President Bashir has responded by expelling international aid agencies from the troubled region of Darfur, impacting upon the millions of people in the area who depend upon aid to survive. Also, the warrant for Bashir's arrest has damaged the

ongoing peace process taking place in the region, and has stalled talks between the Sudanese government and leaders of the separatist groups of the South. On top of this it will now only encourage the Sudanese president to remain in power for as long possible, as he knows he faces the possibility of being tried at The Hague if he steps down from power.

All this suggests that the ICC has little concern for the practical consequences of its actions. The court was only formed in 2002, and like a newborn baby it has a loud mouth but lacks teeth. In the absence of an international police force to go around arresting badly behaved leaders, the institution relies on its member countries to extradite war criminals. It is therefore extremely difficult to arrest suspected war criminals when they are still in power, as they are not likely to simply hand themselves over. Instead, only foreign intervention or an internal change of government can lead to accused leaders being brought to justice. While Bashir's harsh reaction shows that he is worried about the warrant, the way he is using it to build political capital shows that he is determined to remain in power. His fiery rhetoric and accusations of neo-colonialism seem to have struck a chord with his supporters, who have rallied to his side

in response to the ICC's indictment.

Admittedly, Bashir's allegations of Western double standards have an element of truth to them. The recent Israeli assault on Gaza as well as the illegal invasion of Iraq have given rise to demands that Olmert, Bush and Blair be put on trial for war crimes too if the court is really to be a neutral body. Although this systemic bias in no way excuses Bashir's role in the horrific slaughter taking place in Darfur, it does highlight an inherent flaw in the current system. Only countries which are relatively weak or have been defeated will ever see their leaders tried in the international courts, while the leaders of powerful countries and their allies can act with relative impunity. The trials of German and Japanese war criminals in the wake of World War 2 were a great triumph for international justice, but there was no consideration of prosecuting Allied leaders over their role in the killing of millions of innocent civilians in systematic bombing campaigns. It seems that from the outset the rule has been the same, it is always the victors who dictate the terms.

While this lack of true justice in the international system is obviously problematic, the idea that one day all leaders may be held accountable for their crimes is surely one we should all strive for. However, there is a danger

that the current arrest warrant will undermine the ICC's authority, as it has highlighted its inability to act upon its decisions. Crucially, China's blocking of motions concerning Sudan in the Security Council has ensured that no real

The lack of international justice is obviously problematic

action on an international level can be taken. Until such a time as the court has the power and international backing to implement justice globally, and independently, issuing arrest warrants for sitting heads of state will only serve to aggravate situations such as the current conflict in Darfur. Consequently, for now the ICC should stick to its role of trying the defeated tyrants who are willingly provided by victorious states or subsequent governments.

Offending the overly sensitive

The withdrawal of a scheme to educate children as to the causes of extremism will only perpetuate the myths of 'terrorist factories'



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Although we may be no further in our quest to understand dark matter, or to knowing the truth behind the perpetual insecurity 'are we human, or are we dancers?', I have recently made a discovery which dwarfs these trivial ponderings:

Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, listens to aging pop-cougar, Madonna, on repeat. All day. Everyday. His favorite song is her 2006 chart-shagger, 'Sorry'.

This may seem a far fetched assumption from someone who has never met Balls – or indeed trawled, High Fidelity-style, through his record collection. There is one piece of damning evidence, though. The song begins with the old bag critically whispering apologies

in enough languages to make Angelina Jolie's crèche look culturally bland. This mantra of confession must have some kind of hypnotic affect on a career politician of evident malleability, for this constitutes the only explanation I can come up with for the limp apology issued by his department last month.

A new training pack that had been launched by Calderdale Council in West

discussions surrounding forms of extremism can take place".

The government had also approved the material in what looked like a progressive move to tackle a hitherto hush-hush topic. However, complaints came and – possibly having listened to Madge utter the erroneously-translated 'Ik ben droevig' ('I'm sad' in Dutch) one-too-many times – Balls' department showed its regret and withdrew the resource.

This unfortunate capitulation to misdirected pressure is quite frankly, ridiculous. The DSCF quite rightly stated that the pack "is designed to educate against violent extremism". However, they surrendered in the caveat that while "it's important young people discuss these difficult and controversial issues ... in this case, ministers apologise for any offence caused".

Rather than being offended, shouldn't the families of 7/7's victims encourage these initiatives in order to understand terrorism and prevent further tragedy? Using their reasoning, should we prevent children from questioning why the Nazi party rose to power because it might offend Jewish people? Just because someone feels offended, it doesn't mean they are right.

The mental scars from the 7/7 bombings are far from healed, and as with any loss of innocent life, sensitivity is required. However, the ideas expressed in the training pack are not disrespecting the incident or victims in any way.

The mental scars from 7/7 are far from healed

The material was merely aimed at making people realise that extremists are humans too, and it is not without a myriad of causal relations that they chose to take their own life. Only by understanding that there are justified reasons for anti-Western mentality can we seek to quell this virioli.

Unfortunately, many of us still believe the image of an Islamo-terror-base – chiseled into a volcano somewhere in the Tora-Bora mountains, no doubt. Robotically-minded young men are thought to be wound up with a hidden key in their back, and sent to the world's airports and train stations. If only it were that simple.

Extremism and terrorism happen for a reason. Educating our children not just to treat these people as motiveless crazies is key to smashing misconceptions. Getting kids to see things from the extremists' perspective could thus be an effective process. Maybe then we could contemplate why many people – whose families and homes have been destroyed by our bombs, whose countries have been displaced by Western satellite-states – fall under the influence of those offering swift and final retribution.

Would we be able to see through our rage and happily negotiate with those who had killed our family or pillaged our land? Surely the teaching pack would have given us the answers which are so evidently clear.

The rise of the Israeli Right

The recent elections in Israel highlight a dangerous shift in the political views of her citizens



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Last month's Israeli elections and the resulting nomination of Binyamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister have underlined, if that is even necessary, the fundamental shift to the right in the nation's politics. Kadima leader Tzipi Livni's refusal to form a coalition with Netanyahu means that the next government will be formed through an alliance of right wing and hard-line religious parties who stand united in their opposition to Israeli concessions in the Palestinian peace process.

The hawkish Netanyahu has rejected the idea of a two-state solution and vehemently

supports the controversial Jewish settlement of the West Bank that has so damaged relations with the Palestinians. Moreover, a report published by Israeli pressure group, Peace Now, on March 2nd revealed that the government is planning a massive expansion of West Bank settlements. Despite the fact that it is illegal under international law, Israel aims to build a further 73,000 houses, doubling the total number of settlers to approximately one million.

Equally worrying for Jewish liberals and the region's Arab population is the rise of Avigdor Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel Is Our Home) Party, who took third place in the elections. Lieberman is himself a resident of a West Bank settlement and has taken his party to unprecedented electoral success by demanding that Israeli Arabs swear loyalty to the Jewish state or risk losing their citizenship. Such an uncompromising stance is designed to establish a dichotomy that has become all too familiar in recent years. Following the example set by Bush, Lieberman has offered an ultimatum to Israel's Arabs and dissident Jews: they are either with the State or against it.

This intensely authoritarian rhetoric stands in stark contrast to the socialist roots

of the Israeli state, which found its fullest expression in the kibbutz. These communal societies were, and in some cases continue to be, largely anarchic in their organization, collectivising land and property, while eschewing control from above in favour of an egalitarian form of grassroots organisation. Significantly though, this spirit of equality and worker solidarity was, for the most part, not extended to Palestine's Arab population. The irony of dispossessing peasant labourers in order to build socialist communes was apparently lost on the kibbutzniks, who played a huge role in the annexation of land for Jewish settlers.

It is tragic to think of what might have been had the same people who exhibited the power to overcome the class system been able, or willing, to transcend racial barriers and recognise the Palestinians as equals. Yet the success of the kibbutzim, at least prior to the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948, also offers some hope for future progress. The divisive policies of Netanyahu and Lieberman represent a danger to both Arabs and Jews, heightening the possibility of conflict by denying the possibility of a culturally heterogeneous society. The anarchist kibbutz on the other hand, demonstrates what is possible when people

from diverse backgrounds unite as equals.

On a purely utopian level it would be impossible to fight over land if it were collectively owned and managed. Surely the one thing that both Israelis and Palestinians share, besides their common humanity, is a deeply ingrained love of the land in which they live. Could this not be capitalised upon, as it is in India, to unite those separated by disparate religious and cultural histories?

From a more pragmatic perspective though, it is essential that solidarity movements between Israeli Jews and Arabs are encouraged to flourish. Unfortunately the reverse is currently the case. Israeli scholar and anarchist Uri Gordon has described the 'beatings, tear-gassings and shootings' that accompany joint Palestinian-Israeli protests. He argues this is because 'Israelis who demonstrate hand-in-hand with Palestinians are threatening because they are afraid neither of Arabs nor of the Second Holocaust that they are supposedly destined to perpetrate.' While the threats to Israel's security are obviously real, the most effective way in which they can be overcome is through a rejection of a politics based on fear and the recognition that a society based upon justice and complete equality is the only way in which a lasting peace can be ensured.

Jackboots in Whitehall

The government is doing everything in its power to tear down our personal freedoms: this cannot be allowed to happen



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Saturday 28th February saw the beginning of a new mass movement in British politics.

In eight UK cities politicians, journalists, campaigners and ordinary people from across the political spectrum met to discuss the state of liberty in Britain today.

By the time this Convention on Modern Liberty had convened on Saturday evening, the standard had been raised, the call sent out; our freedom is in danger, the strength to defend it lies with us, the people, and the time for us to exercise that strength has come.

Too long have the people been asleep, unaware or uncaring, as slowly and quietly our government has chipped away at our freedom, piece by piece.

A much longer article than this could consist entirely of legislation brought in by this government that strengthens the police, limits our freedoms of speech and protest and undermines our basic human rights.

But to list some of the worst: the 28-day without-charge detention limit (the limit has been twice doubled since 9/11); the Terrorism Act 2006, which made it illegal to 'encourage' terrorism in speech, the sort of vague law that gives the courts free reign to interpret any number of legitimate expressions of free speech as illegal; the collecting of a DNA database, opposed by the European Court of Human Rights, of 5 million people, 800,000 of whom are innocent.

Add to this record the underlying erosions of liberty represented by the 4 million CCTV cameras on our streets (one for every 14 people) along with the monitoring of electronic transactions, emails and text messages.

Fears of a nascent police state are all too real.

Justice Secretary and former Leeds Union President Jack Straw dismissed such fears as daft. Those suspicious of "some awful conspiracy planned in Whitehall basements" to create a police state are way off the mark, he said. He may be right. The government may not want to create an Orwellian dystopia.

But they do want to secure themselves in power. They do want to avoid headlines in The Sun, The Mail and The Express that might

accuse them of failing to protect the people. They are afraid the people will realise that their entire agenda since 9/11 has been a huge overreaction. And so they will create an atmosphere of fear, and as they do so, seek to

detention without charge, tortured with the consent of our elected government, is living testament to this.

What atrocities lie in the future for the country and its people, if we let the government go further and further along this road? Jack Straw fails to realise that this government's actions may have consequences far beyond its intentions.

There is so much more to say about the extent to which our liberty is being endangered, about how fundamental a thing freedom is, and about how we can defend it. One need only visit the websites of Liberty, Amnesty, Human Rights Watch or another of the organisations on the frontline of the defence of our freedoms, to gain a fuller appreciation of the seriousness of what is at stake. But, for now, what are we to do?

Quite simply, take up the call sent out from the Convention on Modern Liberty. A General Election is coming. Sometime in the next 14 months the people will elect new representatives. We must tell our politicians at the next election that we love our liberty, and are afraid that it is in danger. We must tell them that if they will not promise to defend our liberties in parliament, by rolling back the mistakes made since 9/11, we will not vote for them.

Our freedom is in danger, and the strength to defend lies in the will of the people. Let us exercise that strength.

Fears of a nascent police state are all too real

silence those who see clearly enough that we have more to fear from the far-reaching power of government than we do from a small band of extremists.

Old assumptions about what our government is capable of are being torn down everywhere we look. Binayam Mohammed, that broken man we all saw on the news a few weeks back, released after seven years of

LS Sport

COMMENT

Barrera may prove that Amir Khan't

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

13

Actual number of goals scored in the Bayern Munich-Sporting Lisbon tie.

0

Friends that Dwain Chambers has left in British Athletics.

PUNDIT WATCH

“

“Arsenal have won their last four matches 0-0.”

”

An unknown Sky Sports commentator on the Gunners' unique way to win

“He may have been knocking them out left right and centre, but I'm going to make him wake up and smell the coffee. It looks like Prescott will be testing out what I've been learning in the gym.”

This was Amir Khan's warning to Breidis Prescott before their fight last September. Unfortunately, the admonition proved to have been fired with the venom of a water pistol, as Khan was knocked out in the first round.

In reality, it transpired that Khan's work in the gym would have struggled to make an impact on John Prescott.

It appears that the Bolton fighter has yet to curb his bombast as he looks forward to his potentially career-defining bout with Marco Antonio Barrera.

“I think he's made for me,” Khan insists. “He's shorter than me, and has moved up quickly to lightweight.”

Barrera is in no mood for polite

small talk either. “By the time I was Khan's age I had made six world title defences and beaten some greats. Everybody wants to beat me, but at the end I win.”



Amir Khan, on the canvas, showing Breidis Prescott who's boss. One presumes.

The Mexican is, after all, used to crushing the dreams of British boxers, exemplified by his 2001 demolition of Prince Naseem Hamed. While Hamed entered the

ring on a circus swing and accompanied by fireworks, Barrera stood menacingly still, eyeing his prey from his corner.

Barrera went on to win by a

reasons to be fearful.

A seven-time world champion at three weights, one would think that Barrera's record alone is ample justification of his confidence. To quell any lingering doubts, though, is the preaching of promoter Don King.

“Marco Antonio is like the Hispanic fighters of yesteryear, people who fought for the lumpen proletariat. He's fighting for the Mexican people.”

Or in boxing-friendly lingo, he adds, “He's coming with vigour, spirit and grit. He's going to kick ass on Amir Khan.”

Khan has been warned. The twenty-two year old has been made to look daft by previous assertions of his apparent brilliance but his height, speed and agility may prove enough to overcome Barrera tomorrow evening. Just don't mention coffee.

Dafydd Pritchard

Could this be the end of Squeaky Bum Time?

It's that time of year again folks. The British countryside is alive with newly born lambs bounding through luscious green fields, flowers are in bloom, our days are becoming longer as the sun shines, and bums are squeaking.

The delightful phrase ‘Squeaky Bum Time’ was first coined by Sir Alex Ferguson in 2003 as part of his ongoing ‘mind-games’ with arch-nemesis Arsene Wenger. “They have a replay against Chelsea and, if they win it, they would face a semi-final three days before playing us in the league. But then they did say they were going to win the treble, didn't they? It's squeaky bum time and we've got the experience now to cope.”

The delightful phrase conjures a disturbing insight into Sir Alex's 65-year-old bowels, which apparently suffer at this time of year. Or rather the bowels of Wenger, as Ferguson has the “experience” to cope with his squeaking backside.

Ever since this famous quote Sir Alex has made it his job to announce the start of ‘SBT’. In a procession that rivals the Queen's opening of Parliament, Ferguson dons the ceremonial velvet robe,

holds a golden sceptre aloft, sticks in another Wiggles and proclaims the start of Squeaky Bum Time.

However, this season, Sir Alex has failed to fulfil this duty. Perhaps he's going senile just like Real Madrid suggested. Or perhaps, ‘SBT’ has been stolen by politics.

Politics has taken away our Squeaky Bum Time, or rather political commentators have. The broadsheets and political blogs are littered with the phrase.

SBT is always the highlight of the season. It's where it all happens. SBT is why Arsenal bottled the championship in 2002-03, and it's why Kevin Keegan had his first televised mental breakdown in 1996.

Ler's face it, the middle bit of the season is a bit boring and pointless. In fact, why not cut out the boring middle of the season and just have the excitement of the opening day and then cut straight to Squeaky Bum Time? The season would be much more fun.

Joe Hibbert

Blatter needs perspective to halt goal-line gaffes

The debate surrounding goal-line technology has been opened once again this week, after Chelsea were denied a goal when Didier Drogba's free-kick crossed the line in their Champions League match against Juventus.

Fifa president Sepp Blatter has repeated his claim that any changes are unworkable, but surely it is only a matter of time before the relevant authorities look seriously at the problem?

Because this is a problem. Luckily for Blatter, Chelsea went through on the night anyway, but imagine the scenes if the Blues had not secured that crucial away goal and Juventus, not Chelsea, were now in the hat for the quarter-finals?

The claim of “unworkable” seems a pathetic excuse, given the way that tennis and cricket have both incorporated Hawk-Eye referrals so successfully, and that the National Hockey League has been using exactly what top flight football needs – goal-line video replays – for many years now.

The simple system of referring any contentious decision ‘upstairs’

is much quicker than many opponents of the change believe, and means that mistakes aren't being made. The extension of that? The right team are scoring goals, winning matches, and securing titles.

The argument that implementing technology at the highest level isn't fair because every level of football won't be treated in the same fashion is redundant too; massive amounts of money can hinge on a few inches of white goal-line, and if only the top leagues can make the change, then certainly something is better than nothing.

Refereeing mistakes are part of football. They contribute to the fabric of the game and long may they continue. But goal-mouth errors are at the sharp end of results and any steps that can be taken to ensure the right decisions are being made should, and must, be implemented.

Owen Bradley

Rhinos' charge halted

World Club Challenge

Leeds Rhinos 20-28 Manly Sea Eagles

Ben Miles

Leeds Rhinos missed out on a second consecutive World Club Challenge victory after a 20-28 loss against Australians Manly Sea Eagles. The game was decided in a frenetic six minute burst at the start of the second half as Manly strode through an almost stationary Leeds defence.

The home team lost their influential scrum-half Rob Burrow

early in the match after he was flattened by a heavy challenge from Anthony Watmough. Burrow, who had passed a late fitness test on a back injury before the game, did not return to the pitch again. Leeds were forced to strongly defend their line early on as Manly attacked hard, but their defence held strong.

The home team seemed to find it hard to strike up a rhythm and resorted to set after set of running straight at the defence, while their opponents tried to be inventive, running the ball across Leeds' line in an attempt to stretch it.

Tempers flared on the field after 20 minutes as Jamie Peacock and

Josh Perry both saw yellow after a short fight. From the resulting Manly penalty the Australians continued to pressure the line and Brett Stewart showed some quick thinking to scramble over for the first score of the game. Watmough then extended the lead after a pass from Matt Orford stretched the defence, allowing him to scythe through the hole created and score. Leeds' situation very nearly became a whole lot worse with seven minutes of the first half remaining as Watmough again broke the defence only to see Stewart drop his pass with an easy run to the line ahead.

Leeds did not waste their good



fortune as Kevin Sinfield sent a high kick towards the in-goal area to Danny McGuire, who was stopped over the line by Orford only for the ball to bobble loose and Jamie Jones Buchanan was happy to touch it down. After a lengthy deliberation by video ref Steve Ganson the try was awarded but Sinfield failed to add the conversion.

Hopes that this was Leeds' chance to come back into the game were ended by Manly's flying start to the second half. Stewart was able to capitalise on Carl Ablett's inability to deal with a loose ball to score his second of the match while Watmough took advantage of the disorganised defence to touch down in the corner. Two minutes later the defence again watched as Heath L'Estrange worked the ball wide to Steve Matai, who put the visitors in complete control.

Leeds showed signs of life late on in the half as quick handling from Ali Lauititi sent both Keith Senior and Ryan Hall through in quick succession. But their hopes seemed to be ended when Lauititi again sent a pass to the same position only for Ryan Bailey to knock on.

In the last minute of the match

McGuire made the scoreline more respectable as he raced through to score down the left flank. It was nothing more than a consolation as Manly deservedly lifted the trophy. They had been the better team, showing much more invention in attack and could have beaten a lesser defence by a huge score.

Leeds showed signs of life late on in the second half as quick handling from Ali Lauititi sent both Keith Senior and Ryan Hall through in quick succession.

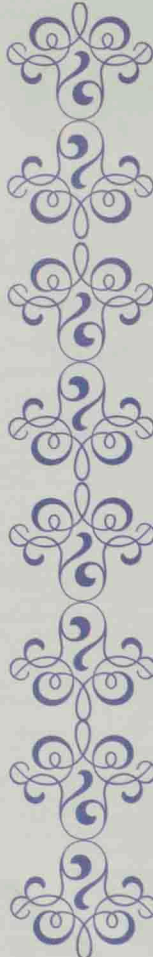


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the big debate:

Athletes are free to flee

Jamie Presland

With the current state of the English Rugby Union side a pale shadow of the 2003 World Cup winning team, or even the 2007 final-reaching squad, perhaps an injection of European flair is just what's needed. Sport has become an increasingly global activity, and with our shores being infiltrated by foreign talent at a rapid rate in the last decade it was just a matter of time before our own home-grown stars made the reverse trip to ply their trade on pastures new.

Just take the example of David Beckham, global megastar, sports icon, and fairly handy with a football too. Becks, who has now spent over a third of his professional career abroad after a phenomenal eleven years at Manchester United, has recently wowed critics again at his stint in Milan, revitalising his bid to play for England up until the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

And given the host of foreign talent gracing British sports teams, we shouldn't begrudge foreign leagues a willingness to emulate them. What would the Premiership be without Ronaldo or Torres, or the Guinness Premiership without Butch James or Martin Castrogiovanni?

English-based players have been notoriously overlooked in world sports awards. Before Ronaldo this year, English clubs had never been host to a World Player of the Year winner, and they have fared little better in the Ballon d'Or stakes, Manchester United's holy trinity of Best, Law and Charlton picking up one apiece before Michael Owen, later of Real Madrid, in 2001 and Ronaldo this year. Yet Kevin Keegan won the prestigious award twice in a row whilst playing for Hamburg in Germany, so it's not that our stars simply can't compete with the likes of Ronaldinho or Zidane. Similarly, the IRB awards are dominated by Australians, South Africans and Kiwis, with Shane Williams and Jonny Wilkinson the only Brits to pick up the award in its eight year history.

Andy Murray, Britain's best hope of a Wimbledon men's title since 1936, moved to

Can Britain survive the exodus?

As Wasps stars James Haskell, Tom Palmer and Riki Flutey lead an exodus to France, English rugby union is losing some of its leading stars. While sports stars throughout British sport continue to flee these shores, LS Sport asks; Will British sports stars playing abroad affect British sport?

Barcelona aged 15 to train with Emilio Sanchez, and Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton currently lives in Switzerland along with other F1 luminaries such as Schumacher and Fernando Alonso, albeit probably for tax reasons, not to further his career. Even Britain's Olympic swimming heroes in Beijing are packing their Speedos to train abroad in preparation for London 2012, preferring the warmer climes of the continent to Aldershot's Olympic training camp.

Therefore the world away from these shores offers much to our athletes. Apart from the obvious attraction of more money in their pockets, there is the lure of a different experience, top training facilities and simply a warmer climate. England's top rugby stars' emigration across the Channel to France could be beneficial for the standard of our national team. Given the Man City-esque sums of money these French teams are willing to splash out on England's finest, and continued participation in the Heineken Cup, rugby union's biggest club competition, it is likely that the French could inadvertently make England a rugby superpower once again as our big guns hone their skills in a different competition.

On a club level, it could also lead to a new generation of young English hopefuls being thrust into the limelight, and before long we could find a new Jonny Wilkinson amongst the youth ranks of the likes of Wasps, a rough diamond finally coming to the fore after years of playing second fiddle, as they get their chance to play in the absence of those already elevated to stardom.

Salary cap damaging England

Joe Short

Last Friday provided relief for English rugby union as Wasps fly-half Danny Cipriani signed a one-year extension to his contract with the London club, quelling rumours that he was to follow a growing group of players out of the Premiership.

Unfortunately, the lure of the continent has attracted some of rugby's finest assets. Wasps stars such as James Haskell, Tom Palmer and Riki Flutey have already signed contracts with French sides, and the exodus may continue.

The main reason why British players are leaving the Premiership is the financial attraction of the French league. Unlike the French Top 14 league, the Premiership has a salary cap which has prevented big money being splashed around in the same way as football.

The current salary cap of up to £3.4m imposed on the Premiership clubs was deemed a viable solution to keep high standards of competition within the nation's top league.

However, even though this ensures competitive domestic play, with no singular team being able to offer exceedingly over-priced salaries, the scheme is set to help excel the exodus of players from the English game.

After all, why would a player want to play for a club on capped wages, when he can live in continental Europe and earn more money?

This argument could have a detrimental impact on the domestic game. England head coach Martin Johnson has already hinted that those who leave these shores for greener climes will see their place in the England

squad come under scrutiny. "Not being in that structure (the Premiership) will inevitably affect individual players' selection chances."

This warning to departing players is one that union fans may well be concerned about. Not only will the quality of the domestic game be affected, but so will that of the national team, if Johnson is prepared to expel those who move to France.

A similar concern has been raised in other international sports too. The Indian Premier League has taken great strides in recent months to ensure English cricket players will participate in their tournament, costing them big bucks, and possibly costing England players international places and a crippling effect on the domestic scene.

In football, we are all aware of the distortion money can cause. England and Spain have seen their international credentials limited to just two major trophies, even though their leagues are deemed the best in the world.

A possible reason for this is the imposition of foreign players on their leagues, with the Premier League attracting footballers from all over the world, while La Liga continually absorbs a torrent of South American stars.

Money clearly talks with a greater voice than ever. While sports stars leaving their domestic leagues can damage competition, any input of sportsmen on a certain league could have a detrimental effect on that country's international aspirations.

As for union, it seems that England, already on a downward spiral since Jonny Wilkinson's World Cup-winning drop goal in 2003, do not have what it takes to challenge the best in the world at this moment, or in the immediate future.

Whereas English players may need to remain in the Premiership to structure a successful international team, it could be argued that the lure of money from the uncapped French league will be enough to disband the spine of the England team.

For the future of the domestic game, the Rugby Football Union must find a way to prevent England's best players from moving abroad, leaving a weak domestic game, while impacting on the international stage.



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Rumble in the urban jungle

Boxing

Leeds Boxing Varsity

Sam Rider

Blood, guts and a bucket load of courage were on show as Leeds University boxing took on Leeds Met and Huddersfield at the Queenswood Social Club on Thursday March 5th. Ben Crossley and Pete Baldwin came away victorious, while Uni suffered narrow defeats in the four other bouts, but all can be proud of what proved to be a humdinger in Headingley.

The night featured 14 bouts in total, with the majority of competitors making their first official appearance in the ring. Yet, in front of a packed arena and the Amateur Boxing Association judges, all looked fearless and resolute as they stepped through the ropes.

The opening bout could not have set a more ominous precedent. Barely a minute in, the pre-pubescent fighters had opened up each other's nose, splattering blood onto the canvas to the baying crowd's approval. One for the future was 39Kg Oliver Simpson, who trains at Kelly's Amateur Boxing Club – the same as the University's boxers – and dismantled his young opponent within the first round.

The first Varsity confrontation of the night witnessed a hostile turn in atmosphere as the divided partisan crowd got behind their pugilist.

The University's Tom Ridsdale, fighting all in blue at 64Kg, set off at a furious pace landing with a flurry of shots in the first round. However, the high tempo took its toll and he noticeably tired in the remaining rounds. Leeds Met's Pete Baldwin weathered the initial storm narrowly by majority many, but Ridsdale can take experience from his first University official bout.

Leeds boxing



Rivalries are renewed before a fierce Headingley crowd

Photo: Alex Pavlou

With rapturous shouts of "Uni" rebounding around the room, it was clear that the crowd were up for the fight as much as the boxers.

captain, James Oliver, speaking to Leeds Student at the end of the night, paid tribute to his gallant

effort: "Tom Ridsdale put in the fight of the night for me. He put everything into that first round and dug deep until the end."

Next up was Ben Crossley, fighting at 66Kg, who evened it up for the Uni, winning by unanimous decision against Met's Chris Corkhill. Having sent his opponent's mouth guard flying in the first round, Crossley sparked rapturous shouts of "Uni" rebounding around the room, and it was clear that the crowd were up for the fight as much as the boxers.

Oliver, who fought twice previously last semester, also singled out Crossley for recognition. "Ben deserves it all," hailed a pumped up Oliver. "No one puts in more effort and works harder in the gym than him."

In only his second official bout, Crossley – who lost his first – demonstrated a master class to win over the judges. "With the crowd against him tonight, on his back, he has done brilliantly to come away

with his first unanimous victory," added Oliver.

Similarly to Ridsdale, Sam Smith, fighting at 75Kg, went down valiantly by a majority decision to Met's Driscoll. In an even contest, both showed great endeavour and a formidable defence to go the distance.

Uni's Steve Enderby (76Kg), competing in his first official bout, threw some powerful right hooks but was ultimately overpowered by the Met's formidable Rose. Referee Jack Goodwin stopped the contest midway through the second round after Enderby hit the canvas, clearly feeling the effects of a pulsating one and a half rounds.

Joe Berg (83Kg), who followed, was stopped by Met's Shephard in a battle fought at breakneck speed. Despite a superior reach, Berg could not land the crucial head shots he was looking for, and was undone by his opponent's counter-punching. After the resolute Berg, making his debut in an official

contest, received three standing counts late in the third round, the referee had to stop the contest.

The final bout saw the University overcome Huddersfield University. Pete Baldwin, fighting at 86Kg, won by unanimous decision against Bagshaw after bloodying his nose early on. Baldwin continued to pick his opponent off skillfully for the remainder of the fight and collected his winning trophy, after the referee raised his arm, to the cheers of the Uni faithful.

As the crowd filtered out of the venue, Oliver was still visibly fired up, ready to deal out some retribution in the ring, but above all he was brimming with pride for his team: "With the same levels of effort and heart from everyone here tonight, we'll be ready for the Met next time," he said.

Every fighter there will feel emboldened for their boxing future, ready for their next battle of wills and stern tests of character.



Attack meets attack in the Headingley humdinger

Photo: Alex Pavlou

Results 11th March

Men's Fencing

1sts 106 - 135 Loughborough 1sts

Men's Football

3rds 1-1 York St. John 2nds
4ths 1-1 Sheffield Hallam 4ths

Men's Hockey

2nds 4-2 York St. Johns 1sts
3rds 2-1 Newcastle 3rds
4ths 2-1 Sheffield Hallam 2nds

Women's Hockey

2nds 4-0 York 1sts
4ths 3-2 Sheffield Hallam 2nds

Women's Squash

2nds 1-3 York 1sts

Women's Tennis

1sts 10-0 St. Andrews
(Promoted)



Remarkable comeback seals silverware

Pool

BUCS 8-Ball championship, Great Yarmouth
Matthew Horsewood

Last weekend Great Yarmouth staged the largest University pool event ever held in the UK, with over 400 students competing.

Leeds, captained by Martin Pratt, were competing for the first time in the competition, entering into the Shield tournament along with 37 other hopefuls.

In the first two days Leeds were able to win their group and progress to Sunday's quarter final. Quarter-final opponents Bath then semi-finalists Sheffield were brushed aside with 6-0 wins. Leeds could not have gone into the final with greater confidence.

London School of Economics were the only team between Leeds and their first silverware. LSE had reached the final by knocking out pre-tournament favourites Portsmouth and would be no pushovers.

Things got off to a bad start when Glen Spalling went in-off on the break and was helpless to prevent LSE captain Lee Mager clearing up on his

first visit. Fleming pulled one frame back with an excellent long black but Pratt also potted the white on his break. Again LSE were able to take advantage with a great clearance from Robert Lee.

Warren Rennie stepped up and won his first frame to draw level at 2-2. He looked certain to secure his second but his opponent Alpesh Varsani had other ideas. An incredible full table double on Varsani's final yellow allowed him to pot the simple black that was covering the pocket. Leeds' hearts sank, but worse was to follow. Having dominated his frame Joe Newby went all out on the black only to see it come out of the jaws and develop his opponents final yellow.

Meanwhile, Dan Fleming had made one too many mistakes against Lee Mager, who took full advantage. Leeds found themselves 5-2 down.

Newby, with no time to recover from his loss was put straight back

to face Robert Lee. Knowing that any mistake could be the last, Newby held his nerve to pot his black and win.

At 4-5 it was time for Martin Pratt to show us what he could do, a careless miss from his opponent was all he needed to finish the frame off, to the great relief of the Leeds contingent.

Now at 5-5 a best of three matches

clearance under pressure he won one of the two needed frames. It was now all down to Vabsley and Spalling to win a single frame.

Glen, with his key red blocking the pocket for Varsani's two yellows, was in a strong position. That was until Varsani played another stunning shot, potting one yellow and somehow managing to develop both his other yellows with the cue ball.

Varsani sunk both yellows into the opposite pocket and was left only with one other yellow and the black. In a tense moment where Varsani falters and undercuts the yellow, Spalling started chalking his cue only to see the yellow come out of the jaws and along the cushion.

Then, like something out of a Tiger Woods commercial, the yellow stopped dead before dropping into the pocket. LSE erupted in excitement, Varsani was on the strait black, and at that exact moment Lee Mager on the other table was also eyeing up his black. Both need

to fall for LSE. Lee sinks his first, but somehow, unbelievably so, Varsani misses and leaves the black near the pocket. Now it was time for the Leeds players to erupt with shouts of encouragement for Glen Spalling. After potting his final red Spalling takes his time to settle before potting the winning black for a Leeds victory.

Heartbroken LSE played out of their skins and after so many chances, faltered only at the last hurdle. Credit must go to the Leeds team however, from 2-5 down they were able to get themselves back in the match and win it. A great all round performance saw each player lose a frame and each player win a frame. But in particular Glen Spalling and Martin Pratt, with added expectations and pressure, played magnificently well.

After the match Joe Newby said, "I'm extremely pleased, this victory puts us in the BUCS Championship next year. We hope to develop further as a club and put in another strong performance."

To watch the match go to <http://eupsportv.com/player/index.htm> (select the "UK Pool" tab) If you would like to join the Pool Society please email Poolsoc@gmail.com.



would be the decider. Glen Spalling's frame against Alpesh Varsani soon turned into a tactical affair, with Glen having his reds in all key positions it was hard to see how he could lose. Martin Pratt was again matched up with Robert Lee but it was now Pratt's turn to let loose. With a sublime

Evans suffers horror fracture as Leeds are held at home to York

Men's Football

Leeds Uni 3rds 1-1
York St Johns 2nds
Jamie Frenland

Johnny Evans suffered a horrific dislocated fracture of the ankle on Wednesday at Weetwood as Leeds saw a one goal lead slip against an impressive York St. John side.

Evans won his team a controversial penalty which was coolly dispatched by Gaz Brinkhurst, but the hosts gave away a needless corner in the second half which was fired home to ensure the points were shared.

The visiting team started the match the stronger, restricting Uni to breaks, yet the home side always looked dangerous, and Dom Chivers could have done better with a sharp volley from a Johnny Rogers cross. The ball was stuck in midfield with neither team really having any clear-cut chances, though the Uni defence had to be alert to clear off the line when keeper Ash Fox was caught cold by a flick-on by the opposing striker.

The real talking point came mid-way through the first half. Evans raced up the touchline and was brought down inside the box by an innocuous looking challenge, yet the referee was quick to point to the penalty spot.

Evans stayed down and treatment revealed he had suffered a break to his left ankle, with the game paused while an ambulance was called. Evans left for hospital immediately and from the resulting penalty Brinkhurst kept his composure to calmly chip the ball into the top right-hand corner.

The second half began as a drab affair, as Uni looked to rely on their usually solid defence rather than go for a second goal. This

gave the visitors free reign to attack, and Fox had to be at his stunning best to produce a marvellous double save when it looked like the away side might draw level. They didn't have to wait long, however, as a corner was whipped onto Fox's near post and bounced out for an easy volley into the net from close range.

Substitute Mike Ward had a

Player of the Match Gaz Brinkhurst

A constant threat

It's a good tackle, just unfortunately he's gone over on it and it's broken, but you can't help these things.

- Matt Banister, York St. John full-back

chance to immediately restore Uni's lead, played through brilliantly by Rogers, but he waited too long and the keeper easily smothered the ball. It could have been worse for the hosts, with the visiting captain somehow firing over from six yards with just one minute of play left, as the sides both left this match with one point, and Leeds with the much bigger loss.

After the match, York St. John full-back Matt Banister said of the injury, "It's a good tackle, just unfortunately he's gone over on it and it's broken, but you can't help these things".

Gutsy Leeds miss out on Cup glory

Christie Cup

Leeds University, Liverpool
Duncan Morpeth

From the moment the Leeds University teams boarded the coaches to Liverpool, it was clear that the daunting prospect of playing two games against rival universities had just sunk in.

For the entirety of the two hour journey, various individuals carried out their pre-match preparation rituals, and whether it was silent musing, or nervous joke-telling, the immense apprehension was clear.

On arrival, however, after a brief, good-natured attempt to out-chant the vast number of Liverpool University supporters, it became apparent that the tension was based on friendly competition.

This initial affability was the different unity, and ended short-lived, however, as themselves when the matches themselves began. The encounters, high and scoring, intensely competitive and physically, particularly between the visiting teams, Manchester and Leeds, were thrilling to watch, and even Liverpool students found themselves cheering Leeds on.

One such game, where Leeds University rugby league took on

Manchester University, saw over ten tries. Fittingly, the climax of the event came as the sunny day drew to a close, and the final whistles blew, when a long, loud, ecstatic cheer erupted from alongside the rugby union pitch, where Liverpool had scraped a last minute victory against Leeds. The vast array of supporters, players, coaches and referees then made their way to the award ceremony.

Despite Leeds securing victories in some overall Manchester dominated Christie competition, secured placing Cup, with Lividrid.

second, and living to the fact that Leeds are not to rest first team Leeds for other competitions, the fact that was displayed was immeasurable.

The day then finished in the Liverpool University union, with everyone congratulating the gold medal winners on their triumph. Thus the Christie Cup, infinitely enjoyable to both play in and watch, not only represents a merging of the serious nature with which teams approach games, but also highlights the comradely friendship between universities and incites a friendly rivalry that not many competitions achieve.

LS Sport

www.leedsstudent.org/sport



Seconds edge towards top after scraping past York

Men's Hockey

Leeds Uni 2nds 4-2
York St Johns 1sts

Joe Short

The Men's Hockey 2nd team secured a solid second place league position after they overcame a tricky York St. Johns side at Weetwood on Wednesday. What was described by the Leeds coach as a 'scrappy game' was nonetheless a crucial match for the Uni that was steadily manoeuvred into a comfortable 4-2 victory.

Not that Leeds had it all their way. From the start, St. Johns looked ready to play, passing the ball neatly round the Uni midfield.

Their dominance showed when the Uni defence left a York forward with enough time and space in the area to fire over the right-hand

shoulder of 'keeper Josh Smith and into the goal after only nine minutes of play.

This did not perturb Leeds, however, as they dominated the play for the rest of the half, equalising ten minutes later with a neat deflection by captain Chris White off a well-worked penalty corner.

The Uni's heads were visibly high, as the team began to take full control of the game, resulting in three penalty corners in the space of two minutes. The pressure was well absorbed by York, however, with their defence just about keeping the scores level. The most notable piece of defensive courage came when Leeds forward Alex Simpson ran through on goal, only to see his shot saved rather unorthodoxly by the goalkeeper's testicles; a five minute break ensued for recovery purposes.

Leeds eventually took the lead in

the 29th minute. A sly ball through by George Adair was thankfully placed home by Richard Mearns. The reaction was relief rather than

excitement, as the players and coach were justifiably getting frustrated with the York defence.

The relief was clear, but the tempo after the goal suffered. Leeds went until half time without much of the play. They sat back and let their opponents pass around the ball, but with no real results.

The second half started much like the first, with York St. Johns carrying the momentum and dominating pressure. However, Leeds hit St. Johns against the run of play with great deflection by forward Simpson off the strike of Anthony James. Leeds looked comfortable after this, slowing the pace down to a steady game whereby they passed the ball well along their back line, gradually moving forward.

At 3-1 you may forgive Leeds for being complacent, but a broken

down attack led to York moving forward in a three-on-two situation. Luckily for Leeds, their effort went wide of the goal.

The home-side learned from this mistake and kept a solid backline for the rest of the game, as their midfield pressed forward in search of a comforting fourth.

And it duly came in the 70th minute as another low through ball by James was deftly tapped in by Jack Wasserman, securing victory for the Uni even though York snatched a goal back with minutes to spare.

After the game the players seemed pleased with the result, and with the knowledge that they had pushed out Durham 3rds to secure 2nd place in the league, just below Durham 2nds. A comfortable victory for Leeds that was never really under threat.

The shot was saved rather unorthodoxly by the goalkeeper's testicles. A five minute break ensued.



The two sides clash in another battle for possession, a challenge that typified the scrappy nature of the game

Photo: Sarah Greene