



Leeds Student

Irish PM legal battle causes resident woe

Laurie Whitwell

The Prime Minister of Ireland is at the centre of a dispute over the management of Carr Mills, the Leeds University halls of residence, which is having an effect on maintenance repairs at the complex and causing distress to residents.

Brian Cowen, the Taoiseach, is a member of an Irish consortium that owns apartments in the complex, which has become embroiled in a legal wrangle with the freeholders of the site located in Meanwood.

Among the accusations levelled at the Irish owners, The Carr Mills Partnership, by Adderstone Group, the freeholders, is that they are illegally sub-letting the properties to the University. Adderstone are also threatening to take Mr Cowen and his fellow investors to court over non-payment of £100,000 in rent and

management fees.

Over Easter a clutch of Irish papers reported on the developments with the Times revealing that Adderstone Group has written to Mr Cowen and his colleagues informing them: "Contrary to the terms of your leases you have sub-let without authority to the University of Leeds." According to the paper, Adderstone see this as "an irredeemable breach of covenant" and have told the investors legal action and repossession of property is a real possibility.

The Irish consortium bought the apartments from the developers at Carr Mills in 2005 with a view to sub-letting the apartments to the University, maintaining management rights during this time. But formal written consent to go ahead with the letting was not recorded.

When the developer then sold to Adderstone in 2007 this discrepancy quickly became apparent. Importantly, the new freeholders also

took over management rights from the consortium. The Irish owners were keen to keep hold of this aspect of their investment, as it can be quite lucrative with managers charging high fees.

In late April, The Sunday Times reported how a student became trapped in a lift in one of the blocks while the emergency phone used to dial out for help was dead. When Adderstone sent workmen out they discovered the Irish owners had changed the locks.

The freeholders' inability to get into the property they manage proved the catalyst for the legal case launch, with the dispute becoming public in the last few weeks.

The company says that it has been trying to recover £100,000 in unpaid management fees and ground rent from the 36 investors who own the 48 apartments in the development.



REPUTATIONS

THEY DON'T COME MUCH BIGGER.

Full Masters Open Day
 19th May 2009 10am - 12pm
www.leeds.ac.uk/mbms09



Above: Carr Mills, centre of the dispute
 Right: Prime Minister Brian Cowen

Photo: Tommaso Padellaro

SPORT

Leeds' footballing finest
 Interviews with Lee Sharpe and
 Simon Grayson

Comment & Debate

Terrorism, journalism, and the G20
 Are the police given too free a reign?
 Is modern journalism to be trusted?

Feature

How far would you go?
 LS1 investigates student escorts
 and interviews Tony Benn

Leeds Student

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.

Got a Story?

Has a crime or dodgy landlord made you the victim of injustice? Are you fed up with your School's constant blundering? We're here to inform as well as entertain, and we want to hear from you.

Email us at news@leedsstudent.org or call 0113 380 1450. All correspondences will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Make contact. Right a wrong.

Corrections

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

Meet the team



Union Girl

The ballot boxes have been locked, campaign posters torn down, and people are wondering if "Vote for that Guy" can be rearranged into anything useful to ensure those letters don't go to waste.

The Union breathes a collective

sigh of relief - voting is over.

Not just Union Council elections, the future of the Leeds Student newspaper will itself be determined by the outcome of what is surely the longest running election campaign in LCU history (three months and 26 days from nominations through to results).

Will some kind of endurance award await the two candidates who had to battle through this extended period?

Sidly not; the unfortunate truth is that just like any other election only one person can come through victorious, regardless of the seemingly never-ending efforts of both parties and their supporters.

That is of course the saddest part of any Union election.

I can't claim to have spoken to every single campaigner, but I didn't come across a single person that didn't care about the role they were aiming for, or didn't believe that they were the right person for the job.

In a Union that constantly battles against student apathy, it seems a shame to take that enthusiasm and process it into an end result of victors and losers. How many of those that are unsuccessful will never fulfill their potential to make a difference in this Union?

Anyone wanting to sit on Union Council must surely be commended

for making such an active interest in the service we as a Union offer to our members.

As was the case during the final elections, the most common theme amongst candidates was change. I'm sure Obama's success in the US isn't completely unrelated, but then nor can a man on the opposite side of the Atlantic take too much credit.

Students have a long history of taking a stand on the issues that other sections of society choose to do nothing about.

Let's hope all the candidates make true their promises, elected or not. It doesn't take a title to empower a person to make a difference.

Cowen in Carr Mills wrangle

From front

accumulated since it began managing the complex in late 2007.

Throughout this time the two companies have been arguing over who should maintain buildings, leading to delays in repairs and upkeep. The disruption has been concerning for dozens of people living there.

Speaking to *Leeds Student*, Joanne Slack - a fresher residing at Carr Mills said maintenance issues had plagued her first year living away from home. "The hot water first went off on a weekend before the Christmas holidays.

"There's no on-site office at weekends so we rang one of the warden. Maintenance didn't come until another couple of days after and because they couldn't fix it straight away we were without it for quite a few days. I didn't know why there

was a delay"

"It went off again when we came back after Christmas," the first year Culture Studies student added. "It meant we couldn't wash up or clean ourselves for a week as we came back before term started."

Problems for Joanne escalated before Easter. "The lighting in the stairway was off for a week. Every night that we came in we walked up the stairs and it was pitch black.

"People went to the site office straight away to complain but it still took quite a while for it to get fixed."

Residents and staff have since confirmed that the lifts were out of action for a large part of the holidays while the problem was being located and mended.

While any halls housing large groups of students is likely to attract problems, the length of time taken to

fix issues at Carr Mills in the current climate is unique.

The legal case will be yet another headache for the University over the Halls, which opened in September 2006. In November, *Leeds Student* investigated a series of muggings in the area around Carr Mills, which prompted the University to launch a bus scheme to transport residents home.

The difficulties throughout the year have led to Joanne questioning her choice of Halls. "I don't think these are the best halls," she said. "We're paying a lot of money for them. There are things wrong with the halls that mean we shouldn't be paying as much as we are."

Joanne told us she is paying £3790 for her year tenancy. The accommodation website states that prices for the next academic year

range between £4100 and £4250, representing an increase of approximately eight per cent.

The University has guaranteed its Carr Mills residents that their tenancy won't be affected by the legal conflict.

A spokesman said: "We want to reassure those students presently living in the building we lease, that recent disagreements between the University landlord and the freeholder pose no threat to their ongoing residence at Carr Mills."

Speaking to *Leeds Student* yesterday, a representative of Adderstone said that discussions were ongoing and that he was "hopeful the situation would be resolved quickly". But he added that when lawyers were involved in a dispute of this nature time, was often inestimable.

Car crash victim is remembered

Geoffrey Archer

A memorial service has been held for a final year student who died earlier this year.

Shivali Dave, a final year Joint Honours Modern Languages student, was killed in a road traffic accident on the M25. The accident occurred on the anti-clockwise section of the M25 near Reigate, London on February 17.

The Peugeot 206 she was driving was part of a four-vehicle accident. Her car collided with a Vauxhall Corsa which in turn hit a Vauxhall Zafira and a Citroen van.

Miss Dave was taken to hospital in East Surrey but died two days later as a result of her injuries.

The memorial service, held on the March 18, was conducted in the Fimmanell centre and was attended by family, student colleagues and staff.

A posthumous degree was conferred upon her and a commemorative tree planting ceremony was held in St George's field.

David Shaw, Director of the Centre for Joint Honours Modern Languages said:

"Shivali touched everyone who met her. Since the sad news arrived, the Centre for Joint Honours has been inundated with messages, from her friends and her tutors, paying tribute to Shivali's immensely likeable personality, her energy, her flair and, above all, her interest in others and her awareness that she was a citizen of the world."



TREE MEMORIAL: University friends plant tree for Shivali
Photo: Centre for Joint Honours

Editor
Laurie Whitwell
editor@leedsstudent.org

Associate
John Puddephatt
john@jdp.org.uk

Associate
Rob Heath
Daf Pritchard

News
Virginia Newman, Adam Richardson, Claire Freeston, Matthew Power
news@leedsstudent.org

Sport
Owen Bradley, Joe Hibbert, Ifor Duncan
sports@leedsstudent.org

Commentary

Marya Yasin
comment@leedsstudent.org

Features
Head editor Clare Pidsley
Sarah Allen, Caitlin Vandertop
features@leedsstudent.org

Big Debate
Andrew Rogers
debate@leedsstudent.org

Photography
Ali Hung
photos@leedsstudent.org

Designers
Katie Szadzievska, Rachel Wyncoll, Melissa Rachel Black, Frances Kehinde, Jessica Nicholls

Proof Readers
Mark Selick, Phil Lewis

Toby turns runner for marathon mission

Jess Elliott

No time for the obligatory Sunday morning hangover for Leeds student Toby Stewart who was gearing up to take part in the 26 mile London Marathon.

Finishing in a time of five hours, second-year History and Sociology student Toby was running the marathon for the first time to raise money for the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS).

"It is a charity that is close to my heart as I am hard of hearing and understand the difficulties many children go through and the support they need," Toby explained.

He has been training hard for the past four months in preparation. This has included short runs during the week and longer distances of 20 miles at weekends. Toby said: "It has been tough at times, especially when it was snow and ice but it all will be worth it come the finish line and the money raised for charity."

The NDCS is an organisation of families, parents and carers who offer support to families with children who have hearing difficulties. They also campaign for improvements in services for deaf children.

Toby finished with a time of five hours and said: "I'm glad I finished as it was so painful over the last few miles to the finish, but I definitely have a time to beat next time I take part, and most importantly it was an immensely enjoyable day and experience."

"As hard as it might seem I would recommend giving it a go to anyone as it is immensely satisfying completing it after months of training and the pain of physically doing it," he added.

73 people ran in the Marathon for NDCS and raised a total of £100,000. NDCS said: "We would like to thank each and every of them for their hard work and dedication."

Toby has a target of £1500 and is still in need of donations at www.justgiving.com/tobystewart.



"I JUST FELT LIKE RUNNING: Looking tired, Toby ploughs on

Photo: Toby Stewart

Takeaway rubbers for sex-hungry students

Matthew Power

Fast food is one of the biggest sins for drunken students yet it may be the key to having safe sex.

Local late-night takeaways have added a free toy to their menus in the shape of condoms and will be offering them out for free to their customers.

118menu.co.uk features 65 takeaways in the LS2 postcode and has sent out tens of thousands of condoms to hundreds of UK fast food outlets.

Entrepreneur Mark Hall, based in West Yorkshire, came up with the scheme. He said: "We've sent out the condoms, together with a range of other branded merchandise, to takeaway restaurants that are attached to the site in cities such as London, Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield.

"We will also be handing them out to students on campuses up and down the country. Whilst take away food may not be the healthiest course of action we are definitely endorsing a healthy approach to safe sex.

"There's a serious issue here with the growth of sexually transmitted

diseases and we're hoping to tackle that by targeting people visiting fast food outlets or ordering online," added Mark.

In a recent *Leeds Student* sex survey, 52 per cent of students who have had a one-night stand admitted that they had done so with out contraception.

Suzie Tobias, Leeds University Union (LUU) Welfare Officer, stated: "There is no quick fix to encourage students to have safe sex, however catching them at crucial moments is key to tackling the issue.

"Providing free condoms at places students often visit after nights out, e.g. takeaways, may make them more likely to pick up a condom and use it.

"I think it's a clever idea, and will encourage safe sex amongst those thinking about going home to have a bit of fun."

Guy Bottomley, a first-year Spanish student, said: "I'm not sure what to make of it. If underage children get a takeaway then they are going to be encouraged to have sex. But it will also encourage safe sex with everyone else. What's more important safe sex or preventing underage sex?"



LIVE ON AIR: Mayo and Kermode in front of an adoring Hyde Park crowd

Photo: Sam Dainton

Picture House stages BBC first

Laurie Whitwell

The Hyde Park Picture House played host to Radio 5 Live's Simon Mayo show, the first time it has been broadcast away from the BBC's London headquarters.

Almost 300 people queued for nearly four hours for the chance to be in the audience for the programme's Film Reviews segment, headlined by the popular critic Mark Kermode.

Airing every Friday, Mayo and Kermode's dissection of the latest cinema releases has developed a cult following, regularly attracting over six

million live listeners, while the podcast version is the most downloaded movie show in the country, hitting on average 134,000 subscribers each week. The pair are famous for jovial bickering and inventive games.

Kermode, who is also resident movie critic for BBC's *The Culture Show* and regular *Observer* contributor, was thrilled with the turnout:

"We didn't really know how well it was going to go as we've never done the live thing before," he said. "But it was incredibly successful and we were absolutely thrilled that so many people, with such a wide range, turned up."

The pair, who had earlier been

interviewed by LSRfm, were initially sceptical at how performing in front of a crowd on stage, rather than alone in a studio, would be received.

"It's completely different when there's just two of you sitting in a studio with a microphone in the middle talking to each other," Kermode said. "You've got no real sense of how many people are listening."

Throughout the hour-long output the audience were asked for their opinions on the highest grossing films that week. The quality of analysis offered was no surprise to Kermode.

"People were funny and witty and had intelligent things to say," he said.

"There was no delay; we trusted the audience and assumed they were up to speed.

"I've always been fairly knocked out by the standard of contribution from listeners' emails. The idea of dumbing things down to be popular has absolutely no merit."

Kermode, as famous for his opinions as his quiff, thought the listed building was an excellent choice of location for the inaugural madshow event and advocated the wider consumption of art house cinema:

"It was a lovely place to start. The Hyde Park has a real sense of history and theatre – it's such a fabulous building.

"I do think there's something about in art house cinemas. People forget they used to call them picture palaces; they were a little bit like going into church.

"People didn't go into them and treat them like they do now and just talk all the time and use their mobile phones; they treated them a little more respectfully. I think the place you watch a film actually affects your reaction to it."

Show producers revealed to *Leeds Student* that the next outside broadcast would take place in Edinburgh in June, to coincide with the city's famed film festival.

Leeds students at G20

G20 injured speak out

The violence came from the police first, say protesters

Joey Severa

Several Leeds students have made formal complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) about police behaviour after they were injured at the recent G20 protests.

Joey Severa, 21, was injured during the protests in the city centre. He says he was hit in the back with a baton, which he says he did not see.

"I was 'The injured girl who was standing at the police and I could see them using baton police that was thrown at me and hitting me on the back of my head and then on my face."

"The officer said to me 'Go for the door' they were screaming."

Open wounds

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.



WORSE FOR WEAR: Matt shows his scars

in the back of my head and then on my face."

Leeds students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

They said they were hit with batons and they were hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Scratched eye

Colin Jones, 21, was injured during the protests. He says he was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.

Other students who were injured during the protests include Matt Wear, 21, who was hit in the back with a baton. He says he was hit in the back with a baton and then on the head with a baton.



POLICE CHARGE: Protesters and police clash at G20 protests

Protesting: know your rights

There is a lot of information available on the internet which was brought to our attention. However, it is not clear if it was used by police to gain names and addresses of protesters as the law requires a person to give their information.

There is a lot of information available on the internet which was brought to our attention. However, it is not clear if it was used by police to gain names and addresses of protesters as the law requires a person to give their information.

There is a lot of information available on the internet which was brought to our attention. However, it is not clear if it was used by police to gain names and addresses of protesters as the law requires a person to give their information.

'I met Ian Tomlinson before he died'

Virginia Newman

A Leeds student has given evidence at the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson.

Virginia Newman, 21, was a political activist who was involved in the G20 protests in Leeds. She says she met Ian Tomlinson before he was killed by a police officer.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

and he was in the way of it and she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

She said she met Ian Tomlinson at a protest in Leeds. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her. She says she was talking to him and he was talking to her.

He said he was talking to Ian Tomlinson before he was killed. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her.

He said he was talking to Ian Tomlinson before he was killed. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her.

He said he was talking to Ian Tomlinson before he was killed. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her.

He said he was talking to Ian Tomlinson before he was killed. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her.

He said he was talking to Ian Tomlinson before he was killed. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her. He says he was talking to him and he was talking to her.



Geed (right) addressing Ian Tomlinson



Photo: Joey Stevens

How the day unfolded

Rosy Dorfman

Thousands of people took to the streets of London as part of the three main G20 demonstrations on April 1.

G20 Mcdtdown protests began at 11am as groups gathered at four locations within the Square Mile, the financial district, and marched behind the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse to the Bank of England at 12 noon. Protesters were venting their anger over the financial mismanagement that resulted in the worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Thousands of protesters bought the area around the Bank to a standstill, a sound system was set up for live performances including a set from Billy Bragg and Russell Brand even turned up for a walk around.

Environmental protesters gathered and swooped on the European Climate Exchange at 12.30pm creating a Climate Camp a tent community to show the opposition to carbon trading the process of selling off carbon credits by companies and countries. The street had a village fete atmosphere with workshops on environmental practices and homemade cake being sold as music was played from a bicycle powered

sound system.

At midnight after the mainstream media had left the area riot police began to forcibly shut down the camp. Officers stormed the streets getting people up from the ground where they were lying with arms and legs linked. The northern defence line of bikes was destroyed. Tents were trampled and demonstrators were pushed backwards.

Joe Finlayson, first year philosophy student, said: "I stayed sat down and linked arms with whoever I could. The police pinched my neck; they punched the back of my neck repeatedly and slapped me. Finally they choked me, with both hands around my neck.

"One pair of hands grabbed my left foot and dragged it from the link, another pair grabbed my right foot and pulled it into the air. I was in tears. I shouted continuously 'this is not reasonable force!'"

Finlayson has made a complaint about how he was treated to the IPCC.

The Stop the War Coalition held a march from the US Embassy at Grosvenor Square to Trafalgar Square calling for the end to the wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan as well as an end to the occupation of Gaza.

The march culminated in speeches from the likes of Arthur Scargill.

Tony Benn, president of the Stop the War Coalition, has openly condemned police action.

For a full interview with Tony Benn go to page 9.

CALLING ALL PROTESTERS:
Megaphone man leads chanting
Photo: Joey Stevens



A history of violence

Anti-BPP rally

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) tactics were brought into question by injured protesters during last November's anti-fascist rally.

The protest, organised by a coalition of anti-fascist student groups, was in response to a BPP demonstration against rap music. Several students filed complaints against the police.

A Section 14 was put in place during the day which put limits on the movements of the protesters.



Climate Camp, Kent

Leeds students were arrested at a climate camp, Kings North Kent, last summer.

David Howarth, Liberal Democrat justice spokesman, publicly condemned the police for confiscating protesters banners and crayons.

Kent police force claimed that 70 officers had been injured, but were later forced to apologise after it was revealed that listed injuries included bee stings and heat exhaustion.



Hyde Park House Party

Police were called to a student house party in 2007. Riot officers were brought in to disperse the crowd, along with dogs.

Complaints were made to the WYP about police violence.

A letter from the WYP obtained by Leeds Student states that individual officers could not be held accountable due to their identities remaining unknown.



'A Taser was aimed directly at me'

Virginia Newman

Two protesters were hospitalised after riot police raided a building armed with Taser guns, Leeds Student has learned.

Leeds students were arrested but not charged after riot police raided a building that they had been staying in on April 2, the day of the G20

summit. Another building, rampART, where protesters had been based, was raided in Whitechapel the same morning.

The disused block of flats, located on Earl Street near Liverpool Street station, had been a two-day convergence centre for protesters.

Riot police, dressed head to toe in black uniforms with visors and only their eyes visible, raided the building armed with Taser guns.

Guy Mitchell, second year Politics and Southeast Asian Studies student, said: "For a moment a Taser was aimed directly at me, I can honestly say I have never been so scared in my life."

Taser guns were issued to the police in November 2008 by Jacqui Smith, the home secretary, to help fight against violent crime. The Taser fires two copper darts that send out an electrical pulse.

Hannah McClure, a third year political studies student, explained: "There must have been hundreds of riot police. One policeman held a Taser at us, he held it out like it was a real gun, and I personally thought it was a gun. I was petrified."

The protesters were instructed to

lie face down on the floor and remain still. McClure was on the edge of the group and when she moved her hand an officer stamped on it.

She continued: "One guy was attempting to film and they started to hit him with a baton. All I could hear was him crying with pain. About ten minutes later I heard him yelling 'I need a medic, I need a medic' but none of us could do anything."

Two protesters were hospitalised due to injuries that they suffered as a result of police actions.

People were searched on entering and leaving the building, video recorded and had their details taken by the police.

Mitchell however commented: "Every time I was searched I was wearing a top hat, and not once did the police look under it"

The building was legally taken over by protesters to use a base under the laws of squatting. It is therefore thought that the police must have had a warrant to carry out the raid.

Mitchell explained: "We were told at first that we were being detained, but we weren't told why and then later on a police officer told me that I was being arrested on suspicion of violent

disorder."

Protesters were hand cuffed and led out of the building individually by police officers.

McClure said: "The police had no right to use those laws against us, it was complete intimidation."

Mitchell added: "The only reason I can think the police did this was incompetence or to get our details, which they could not have done without arresting us."

Both McClure and Mitchell were arrested under Section 50 and 60 though no charges were made, and have subsequently made complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Despite the criticised police tactics, McClure commented: "I think that the police tactics are to separate the movement and make people more paranoid. But it is not going to stop future protests as the issues are really important."

For video footage and to leave your comment visit www.leedsstudent.org

By 7 Student activism's
front with a powerful and
positive outcome



Riot police storm building Photo: Video still, see website for full video

Power cut sparks campus shutdown

Claire Freeston

Leeds University suffered a severe power cut last Friday causing chaos across campus.

The power cut meant that students had to leave the libraries, evacuate the Union and could not access their email while other online services were unavailable for hours.

Many university buildings were closed for health and safety reasons as fire alarms and smoke sensors do not function without electricity.

Notices put up at the Henry Price halls of residence warned students that it was not known when the power would come back on and to try and stay with a friend off campus if possible.

The power cut happened in two stages, the second of which started just before 4pm. By 9pm that evening, power had been restored to some on-campus buildings including the Union but the remaining ones were without power until 2am on Saturday morning.

Some dissertation and essay deadlines had to be extended due to the power cut. There are also concerns that people entering the library with books without checking them out as the electronic barriers were not in operation.



PRICE MELT: Union sells-off food
Photo: Ali Hussain

Helen Burne, a third year History student who was finishing her dissertation when the power cut occurred said:

"It's ridiculous that the libraries had to close - that was the problem, there was nowhere to go where students could work."

Union staff sold reduced pizza and ice-cream to students waiting to get back in.

Kevin Hogarth, Leeds University Union's (LUU) Retail Operations Manager, said: "It was unclear when the power would return. The Union didn't want to have to throw so much food away so we made the decision to sell it to the waiting students outside LUL. We also gave some produce to St George's Gyms so they benefited."

He continued: "The atmosphere among the staff and students was generally very positive and I thought we handled the experience very well."

The power cut was caused by problems with the two cables which supply the campus and the Leeds General Infirmary. Power was diverted to the hospital to keep essential services running.

Friday night's 'Fruity' was a sell-out despite staff concerns that the event would not go ahead. However, power returned to the campus in stages and the Union at approximately 8.45pm. Alan Hill, LUU's Facilities Manager, said, "The University

allowed us to receive the power back first before other campus locations so our event could go ahead. The support LUU received from the University was excellent."

Laura Tennet, a third year Law student commented, "I was really affected by the lack of library catalogue and online databases, I had to wait until Saturday afternoon to reference quotes and to find the articles I lost when the computers crashed."

Laura continued: "We were told at first that the power would be back in 15 minutes, then we were told to go to the Brotherton or the Edward Boyle. In all honesty the situation was completely out of the hands of the library staff, but was very frustrating so close to my dissertation deadline when I didn't need any extra stress!"

Margaret Coutts, University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection commented: "The University Library took the decision to close for safety reasons. The libraries lost all power so there were no lights or public address system."

"Library staff remained at the reception desks in the Brotherton and Edward Boyle Libraries until the normal closing time of 19.00, and allowed users who had been out of the buildings at the time of closure to return to collect their possessions."

Pay dispute engulfs HE

Matthew Power

The University and College Union (UCU) will ballot its members this week over possible strike action.

The Union will send out ballot papers on Friday and the process will conclude on May 22.

Leeds Student revealed in March that Leeds University sent out a letter to staff in January, outlining its stance in the event of industrial action. Personnel were told that their pay would be withdrawn if students were harmed by a strike.

Higher education staff are asking for an eight per cent wage increase, despite receiving a five per cent wage increase in 2006. University Vice Chancellors were also given a pay rise, with 45 VCs now earning more than £200,000.

Leeds University Vice Chancellor, Michael Arthur, took a pay freeze, at £244,000, in 2009.

Sally Hunt, the General Secretary of the UCU, has condemned the pay rises given to University VCs. Her comments came after a BBC survey showed that more than half of University bosses wanted to see an increase in student tuition fees.

In March, Hunt said: "At a time when universities are pleading poverty and asking staff to exercise restraint or risk losing their jobs, it is rather unfortunate and perhaps a little distasteful that vice-chancellors have enjoyed pay increases almost double those of the rest of the academic community."

Yet Leeds Student has learnt that Hunt received a salary of over £16,000 in 2008, a 50 per cent pay increase on her income of £78,000 in 2006/2007.

The BBC survey showed that two thirds of University Vice Chancellors want to see an increase in student tuition fees with over half of University bosses wanting students to pay up to £5,000 a year.

Leeds Metropolitan University are planning to increase their tuition fees for 2009/2010 in order to prevent job losses at the institution. Leeds Met students currently pay annual fees of £2,000 but this could increase by up to 50 per cent if plans go ahead.

The National Union of Students (NUS) has voiced its concern at plans to increase UK tuition fees.

Danny Adilypour, LUU Education Officer, said:

"Students are already faced with increasing levels of debt and an uncertain climate in the graduate jobs market. The threat of industrial action affecting their university education would be another burden that they shouldn't have to bare. Therefore a solution needs to be reached that minimises the impact on learning and teaching at universities and all the parties involved need to sit around the negotiating table and end the threat of strike action."

Campaign halts airport expansion

Adam Richardson

demonstration was part of LUU's Green Week.

Protesters have succeeded in postponing a planned expansion of Leeds Bradford airport.

The campaign, led by Leeds University Union (LUU) forced councillors to vote 8 to 4, deferring the decision pending more information on issues raised by the campaigners.

In celebration a protest picnic was held at the airport, last Saturday. The event involved protesters eating cucumber sandwiches, gingerbread aeroplanes and a cake with the logo 'Climate change is no picnic'. The

The picnic, organised by LUU and 'No Leeds Bradford airport expansion', saw 90 protesters take part in a picnic in the check-in area of the building.

The proposal was to build a £28 million two-storey expansion to the terminal building that would house an improved check-in area, departure lounge and would also create 3,000 jobs.

Campanign and Leeds University student Guy Mitchell said: "We are hoping this will be a great chance for people who have concerns about climate change and airport expansion to express them in a fun, family friendly way

"The airport claim they have been notified of environmental concerns however they have clearly not taken them into account and continue to want to put private profit over local people and the future of the planet," added Guy.

LUU Communications and Internal Affairs officer Laura McFarlane Shoppes said: "We were hoping for 60 people and ended up getting around 90, it has gone really well. We have created a fun, friendly atmosphere whilst showing how strong the opinion was against the airport's 100 per cent expansion and the noise, traffic jams and greenhouse gases that it will bring."

Leeds Bradford Airport commented:

"The airport intends to improve air quality where possible. We expect to improve and refine our method of monitoring air quality in line with EU requirements and industry standards.

"Clearly there are concerns about the environment and the location of the airport within the green belt.

"There are also a few respondents who consider the airport should be either restricted in its growth or not develop at all. However, the vast majority of respondents consider that the airport is an increasingly important asset for the city region and that the airport should be developed in line with the draft masterplan."



NO TO AIRPORT: Campaigners begin protest outside the Parkinson building

Photo: Courtesy of Campaigners and Democracy Support

Letters to the Editor

Idiots all round

Dear Editor,

I suppose it's not normally the 'done' thing for lecturers to invade the letters page of the student newspaper, but after reading your story about the PhD student whose library purchase suggestion was rejected (13 March 2009, p. 5), I feel unable to restrain myself.

Let's get this straight: this person is effectively a trainee academic, and yet he isn't even willing to spend £20 (about the bare minimum price for an academic monograph these days) on a tool of his trade that he claims is 'essential' to his research? An undergraduate could reasonably argue for greater library provision on the grounds that they pay large tuition fees and would probably have no use for such a book after leaving university. But someone studying for a doctorate is preparing for a career reading and writing this sort of stuff.

I probably spent around a grand a year on books during my time as a PhD student. This was considered perfectly normal, and furthermore I have continued to use those books intensively, both for teaching and research, in the ten years since I got my PhD. If your interviewee was talking about a specialist hardback on an obscure topic costing £250 (they do exist) and that was only tangentially relevant to his research (the sort of work you need to be aware of, but in no more detail than can be gleaned from a quick skim-read), then I would fully support his belief that the library should buy it. But a research postgraduate complaining about the prospect of having to spend £20 on an 'essential' text really does make you wonder if

he's made the right career choice.

And as for university libraries complaining that their budgets have been torpedoed by the fall in the value of the pound, the pound has been abnormally high against the dollar during most of the last decade, compared to long-term historical norms (I am just old enough to remember when, in the late '80s, the two currencies almost reached parity).

If an organisation which receives its income in pounds and pays a significant proportion of its outgoings in dollars failed to budget for the possibility that the value of the pound might return to those historical norms (let alone go below them), then, like the idiots who took out huge mortgages at the height of the housing boom, utterly dependent on interest rates never going above 3% in the next 25 years, someone somewhere has failed to learn the lessons of history and to do their sums accordingly.

Yours,
Leo Enticknap
Director of Learning and Teaching
Institute of Communications Studies

Sanctuary for satireless?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you about *The Sanctuary*. It is a free-ad leaflet, in the style of a newspaper, carefully padded out by ham-fisted volunteer student writers.

You may not be aware of it, since their publication is poorly distributed and hardly read, but they seem obsessed by your newspaper, and even dedicated their cover story last

term to Paul Dacre. *The Sanctuary* seem to relish the fact that Dacre is the editor of the *Daily Mail*, yet this is an obvious reflection of our university's demographic from 1968! He is one of 20 past editors of *Leeds Student* to currently hold a senior position in print media.

It is unheard of for a student newspaper (if we can refer to *Sanctuary* as that) to obsess itself over another student newspaper, to the point that they sacrifice their cover story to information available on Wikipedia! Do their writers (if we can refer to them as that) not know they're being exploited by a Norfolk-based advertising company?

I think the editors of *Sanctuary* should save their £10 prize (offered for sending a bogus letter to *Leeds Student*) and put it towards their savings. I hear Greggs offer a poor pension scheme.

Yours devotedly,
Caj Nelluak

From the message board...

Comment on 'Tealights Are For Lovers'

Easy there Dasha, remember me? :)
x

Posted by Anon on April 23

To air your views at the click of a button, log on to

www.leedsstudent.org



Leeds Student

-Citizen journalism crucial-

The police handling of the G20 protests has brought citizen journalism into focus.

Videos and photographs taken and put forward by the public have enabled the media to gain a better insight into police tactics.

The criticism that has now been put forward by these images coming to light can be seen as a direct result of the rise in importance of citizen journalism.

Our history of police violence, page 5, has shown that these policing tactics are nothing new. The same kettling methods are employed by police across the country, as a way to contain large crowds, resulting in similar complaints being made.

It is only now, due to the grand scale of the G20 demonstrations that these complaints are receiving due media attention.

The increase in citizen journalism inevitably brings into question the new anti-terrorism laws, which prevent images being taken of police officers. Ironically, many of the cases at G20 could not have been raised without such potentially illegal material.

Further to this paradox,

information the public received from the police - not only in the wake of Ian Tomlinson's death but at the protests themselves - has been muddled.

As reported in various newspapers, the story from the Met changed each time fresh evidence from regular citizens came forward.

Whatever the reasons, this poor communication can only serve to alienate the public from the police. Students who spoke to *Leeds Student* said that throughout the policing process they received little or no communication about what was going on.

This can be seen in the police's interpretation of Section 50 and 60 - both against protesters and journalists - in order to move observers out of certain areas.

Whilst it is evident that the majority of police officers act appropriately there still seems to be a hardcore element who are spurred on by aggression when faced with large crowds.

It is tragic death has had to be the catalyst for a full inquiry. Hopefully the IPCC investigation will be carried out fully, fairly and give transparent conclusions.

-High maintenance halls-

The Carr Mills saga is a complex and, to many, incomprehensible case.

With a combination of freeholders who own the land, leaseholders who possess apartments, a leaser in the form of a University and tenants who are also students, there are a multitude of contractual obligations. It is because of this intricate web of interested parties that problems have arisen: each has a different motivation. With so many different reasons for people being drawn to the site it was almost inevitable disagreements would occur.

The fact that one of these parties is the Irish Prime Minister is a surprising revelation. It is rumoured that top brass at the University didn't even know of his involvement in a property so entwined with our

accommodation services.

Across the Irish Sea the story has been reported as an embarrassing episode for the Taoiseach. In West Yorkshire the legal tangles have a more important effect. We have found a flat which was without hot water for half a week on two separate occasions and lighting in a stairwell for a few days more. The delay in fixing the problems has stemmed from a squabble between the moneymen far removed from the daily grind of living in halls. That this has become a visible argument is unacceptable. Safety and welfare of tenants should be of paramount concern.

Ler's hope everyone involved can find common ground and put an end to the disruption of students' quality of living.

Union democracy labelled 'play-thing' by survey

Adam Richardson

Leeds University Union (LUU) democracy has come under scrutiny this week after questions were raised over its workings by a new student-orientated review.

The market research report, conducted as part of the Union's four-year strategic review, is used to measure progress against defined plans and objectives. LUU is currently in the process of making its next four-year plan for the period 2010-2014.

The report revealed that students feel that "Union democracy is a 'play-thing' for a clique who are more interested in pursuing their personal agendas on the wider stage than affecting any

meaningful change for the benefit of members."

The report goes on to say that "the current democratic landscape does not look encouraging."

This comes on the back of a referendum turnout that saw some motions fail because they had not received enough votes to count.

Richard Mellor, candidate for Democracy and Communications assembly convener, said: "This doesn't come as much of a surprise to me. Because the image of the Union is that it is run by people with their own agendas, less people vote, even fewer stand for election and then we end up with a situation where it is a politically-minded minority making decisions for the general student population."

Despite this, many of the

participants appeared happy with LUU, with many giving the Union seven to nine out of a maximum mark of ten. Students appear pleased with services the Union offers with 26 per cent wanting the Union to help them have fun.

This market research will be used to help create LUU's next four-year plan. The planning will take place between the Executive and Union staff during the summer. It is hoped that students will be able to give feedback on the plans when they return in September. After this consultation, the plan will go to Referendum in November.

Leeds Student will next week report on the bottled water ban to see if the Referendum process has been successful in cradating bottled water from the Union.

Police hate?

the
big
debate:

The action taken by the authorities in policing the G20 protest has been subject to fierce public scrutiny. With horrifying video images in the news and fears of a police state emerging, this week's Big Debate asks:

Was police conduct at the G20 protest justified?

Yes

James Legge
james.legge@hotmail.co.uk

When people organise a large scale protest in a public place it is assumed that the state has every obligation to facilitate the exercising of their democratic right. Democratic rights of free speech are really, really important and ensure that we can always show displeasure at a government policy and remind those in power that they only get their mandate to rule from us, the people. But those who think that this is the full extent of the state's duties are unfortunately mistaken. You see, before the state's role as defender of political liberty comes its role as enforcer of order and custodian of public safety. This is because, without public order there can be no such things as society, let alone such luxuries as liberty and democracy. So, when a protest is planned of such magnitude as those which coincided with the G20 summit in London, and public order is placed directly at odds with democratic expression, I'm going to show you why there can be only one winner: order.

Put bluntly, people can't be given complete freedom to behave how they want. That's why we have the government and the police; to ensure that anarchy doesn't ensue and that all of our lives and property aren't put into great peril. If we were, for any period however short, to abolish all laws and remove all authority of the police, that is what would happen. So, when any individual or group threatens to disturb public order or do anything illegal, it is of the utmost importance that it is stopped and that the authorities are in control. For the reasons I have explained above this must be maintained at all costs.

The disturbances and clashes which made the front pages of the papers in the days following the protest were for some reason attributed to heavy-handed policing, but the culpability of the crowd at large has surely been underestimated. Yet the overwhelming majority of them were only out for a peaceful protest and reports confirm that it was a largely good-spirited affair, but when such a large number of people descend on such a busy, built-up and important part of the capital, with enough anarchists and people manifestly out for nothing more than violence and vandalism, this

necessitates a large, well-armed police presence. This is because of the reasons I have detailed; when people are running round with masks on, smashing into buildings and when crowds are as dangerously large and energetic as those at the protests, the police have no choice but to subdue however possible.

One might suggest a police force which is told to use the utmost sensitivity when dealing with disturbers of the peace would be better, but if we implemented that then I'd bolt up your doors and windows. Then your bedroom door. And buy a gun. This is because if angry mobs are allowed to act above the law, our country will disintegrate and life will get pretty grim. The sad reality is that we can't attain some kind of golden mean or system whereby the police act authoritatively but with the subtlety to deal with crowds of individuals more diplomatically. This would have exactly the same consequences as the police dropping their shields and going home.

I'm not for a second condoning the behaviour of the police officers caught launching unprovoked attacks on innocent people that day, and those who have broken the law should be treated to no less than the full extent of British justice. All that I have argued here is that it is still a lot better that the police be in control of our streets than protesters baying for bankers' blood. I know it's not nice to contemplate, but we need to be controlled, especially when angry and in large numbers. And so overall it is clear that there was no alternative but for the police to act with as much strength and in as many numbers as was necessary to maintain public safety and, except for the ill-disciplined officers who went too far and will be punished accordingly, that they did.



Results from last week's poll:

Are library fines a good idea?

Yes: 65%

No: 35%

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



No

Paul Haydon
paul.r.haydon@btinternet.com

The police response to the G20 protests was indisputably heavy-handed, with scores of protesters being injured in addition to the well-publicised death of Ian Tomlinson. With hundreds of eyewitnesses confirming reports of police brutality, it is difficult to deny that the police were over the top in their reaction to what was on the whole a peaceful demonstration. The Guardian has released footage of a number of incidents of unmitigated violence directed at anyone present at the protests, including members of the press who were aiming to record the event and thus hold the police accountable. One notable clip shows a group of protesters visibly showing no resistance and holding their arms in the air, repeatedly chanting "this is not a riot."

However, this does not prevent them being charged by heavily armed riot police and repeatedly hit with batons. It seems that the police were indiscriminate in their brutality, targeting anyone who happened to be within a certain area that they were charged with clearing. It was not so much a question of police responding to provocative violence, but more a matter of inciting the violence themselves through heavy-handed tactics.

This attitude has worrying ramifications for our society, in particular the right to protest, which is seen as an inalienable part of any truly democratic society. This is what differentiates liberal democracies from dictatorships, which are free to quash any sign of dissent with an iron fist. When and where this occurs, people find themselves in a situation in which they have absolutely no chance to voice their concerns and are therefore open to

oppression. The shock that resounded around the world in the wake of the massacre at Tiananmen Square in 1989 emphasised the contrast between countries where legitimate protest is permitted, and where it is ruthlessly repressed with machine guns and tanks. Whereas violent protestors may cause widespread damage and destruction, in the history of protests it is the state that has been responsible for the worst violence, killing and terror. Riot police, in all their varying forms, serve one crucial purpose; to instill fear into the ranks of demonstrators and therefore bring about a semblance of order.

Of course, a police presence is necessary at any large scale demonstration to prevent an escalation into violence and acts of vandalism. To allow a protest to go unsupervised would be to invite riots on the streets and the breakdown of law and order. However, on this occasion the police seem to have taken it upon themselves to break up the demonstration, rather than simply keeping order and allowing peaceful protesters to express their grievances legitimately. It seems that in response to the media's hyping up of the situation and predicting of riots on the streets of London, the police felt it was their job to quash the protests by any means. It must be accepted that it is difficult for the police to differentiate between peaceful and violent protesters in the midst of a demonstration, but on this occasion there were numerous incidents where wholly peaceful crowds were charged and beaten by police. That is simply unjustifiable, whatever the sheepish justifications given.

This sets an alarming precedent for the future of protests in Britain. Most disturbing was the invocation of recently passed "terror laws," in particular to prevent the filming or photographing of police during the protests. The use of such laws in unrelated circumstances is indicative of a gradual descent into a more authoritarian society, in which the police are increasingly using legislation as a way of avoiding accountability for their actions. Although we are by no means yet living in a police state, this is surely a slippery slope we should avoid before it is too late.



Photo by Joe Severn

Big Benn

'Young people should be commended for their active involvement in politics,' says veteran politician in exclusive interview



Tony Benn, the eminent ex-Labour MP, most definitely vocal and sometimes controversial, came to Bodlington Hall on 20th April to deliver the annual Bodlington Lecture. This year the event attracted an interested audience of students and staff members, the speaker's popularity clearly obvious as he addressed a packed room.

Seated opposite such a seemingly kindly gentleman, even though Benn works hard to assure everyone that he is in fact quite the opposite, and fully lit with out a pot of tea and biscuits, I began by asking about the title of his forthcoming book. He said: "It's the most difficult one I've ever written. It's called a Letter to my Grandchildren and I say to myself, is there anything that I know that they don't know better than I do?" Indeed. But both Benn's political career and life experiences are vast and he is eager to share them with younger generations.

We begin by discussing the recent G20 and the accompanying protests. Benn vehemently believes that the police conduct needs to be properly examined: "The police behaviour there was quite disgraceful. I think that the Home Secretary has got to answer for that because the police operate under orders. It's no good saying that you leave the operational responsibility to the police because in

a democracy the minister is responsible."

He goes on to criticise the media coverage of the event saying, "The BBC have a rule, which I keep drawing their attention to: never ever report the speech made at a public meeting. They send a film crew in, in the hope of an arrest, or a scuffle, or a fight, or a Muslim with a beard waving his fist, but they never report what is said. But do you really want politics based on coverage of violence? I don't. Also, I think the media underestimates everyone's intelligence because they think people are just interested in gossip and scandal and football and Big Brother and in my experience, talking and listening, it is quite the opposite. I think the level of public intelligence is far higher than they give us credit for."

Having been informed that many Leeds students attended the G20 protests, Benn heartily agrees that it is admirable that so many young people are willing to actively participate in politics. "I think we should reduce the voting age to 16. I think if you're old enough to marry, to have a job and pay taxation and join the army then you're old enough to vote. Plus, I think voting at 16 would mean a lot of younger people would begin to take an interest in what was going on."

But are British teenagers ready to take on such an important role? Benn

says, "If you ask about that when you talk to young people, they say two things. First of all, 'nobody listens to us' and secondly, 'we don't believe a word we're told.' Now, distrust and anger are not apathy but what they feel doesn't fit into the way the parliamentary game is played. But they're there at the G20 or the Climate Camp."

A love for politics certainly runs in the family. Benn's granddaughter Emily, 19, is standing in the next general election as the Labour MP for East Worthing and Shoreham. If elected, she will become the youngest ever parliamentary candidate. Similarly, Tony Benn's son, Hilary, is the current MP for Leeds Central. His father says, "He's a very conscientious guy - wherever he is, he's always in Leeds on a Friday. When he was International Development Secretary, he'd ring me up from Darfur and say 'Well, I've got to be back in Leeds on Friday.'"

Benn himself stood for leader of the Labour party but does not regret that he was unsuccessful, saying cheerfully, "My view is simple: an election is an opportunity for a debate. I put forward very clear policies. People didn't vote for me and I've never had a moment of regret that I used those elections to put forward policies I thought were right."

Despite his political know-how, Benn makes it clear that he doesn't do

forecasts - "I don't predict the future, my job is to try and influence it which is more interesting." But when questioned about who he would like to see win the next General Election, he says, "I don't want to see the Conservatives win so I'm Labour. But I'm not part of New Labour."

Believing Brown's party to be a "Thatcherite party", Benn sympathises with Alice Mahon, the MP who recently left the Labour party saying that it was not the same one she joined fifty years ago. Benn agrees: "I don't regard New Labour as having anything to do with the Labour party at all. But Alice is symbolic of the support Labour must have if it's going to win an election so it's symbolically important. What the Labour Party stood for is more relevant now than it was when it was set up, just the crises are on a bigger scale."

Benn condemns the recent smear campaign as "utterly disreputable" and "based on the idea that people will vote on the personal failings of another party." "Well," says Benn, "that's not what it's about."

We discuss Benn's view on Britain's foreign policy and he is disparaging about the motivations of Blair and Bush's intervention in Iraq. "I don't think intervention is ever really motivated by humanitarian things, for example in Iraq, Bush wanted the oil - it was nothing to do

with Saddam at all."

In 1990 and 2003, Benn met and interviewed Saddam Hussein. "The first thing I asked him was, 'Do you have weapons of mass destruction?' he said, 'No' and I didn't know whether to believe him or not but actually it was true! Blair lied to the House of Commons - what he said about Saddam having weapons was a complete lie - so the whole war was based on a fraud and Blair himself has a heavy responsibility for that."

Benn also talks about the future for American politics. "Years ago, when I spoke in Hyde Park, if I'd been able to say that the next President of the US voted against the war, I'd have been taken to a psychiatric unit! But that's actually what happened of course because Obama did vote against the war."

Benn retired from Parliament in 2001 but this has not slowed him down. "Nowadays, I just go round campaigning for the things I believe in, peace, student rights, civil liberties and pensioners' rights - all the things that matter to people." His Labour persuasion isn't a part of it but he does admit, "I think the best thing to do - and this is what I'm doing - is simply concentrate on the policies you believe in and if you do that you'll get Liberal, Conservative support right across the board."

None of this extensive career would have been possible if, in 1963, Benn hadn't become the first peer to renounce his inherited title. I ask him if he ever regrets this decision: "Oh God no, I'd been an MP for ten years and they threw me out on the grounds that my blood had turned blue - it was a ridiculous law. I wouldn't be caught dead in the House of Lords."

After our interview, Benn takes a few minutes out in the grounds to "reflect" before the lecture. But before he leaves, he lets me in on some of the intricacies of pipe-smoking: "No-one does pipes these days though, do they? It's such fun; you scrape it and clean it and tap it and fill it and light it, then it goes out and you light it again."

Tony Benn, a parliamentarian, activist, and vegetarian, still wouldn't say no to a pipe of tobacco and a cup of tea.



Tony Benn answers students questions in a forum before the lecture

Photos: Catherine Cho

HOW MUCH FOR THE NIGHT?

The truth behind student escorting in Leeds

With student debt soaring to crippling new heights, it's no surprise that a large number of university-goers are resorting to more 'lucrative' forms of employment. But is escorting a career option that we should all be considering?

ESCORTING: WOULD YOU?

Liam Keogh, 22

Would you consider being an escort? Definitely not. I think the short-term gains might be good, but think of the long-term mental scars. Also, it might affect your future career and relationships - imagine if your future husband or wife found out, or your children. And that doesn't even take into account the chance of getting an STD or meeting a violent person.

How much cash would you have to be paid to sleep with someone? As a one-off? Tens of thousands, I can earn a 1000 quid easily... and with honours.

Rachael Thompson, 21

Would you consider being an escort? If it was through a safe, vetted service - and it is organised privately between me and some freak, then I'd definitely do it. It just involved getting paid to go out for dinner.

How much cash would you have to be paid to sleep with someone? Well, I can see how it would be tempting for a poor student, but I don't think I could outpace myself in that way.

It's the first day of your brand new job. After quickly checking your appearance in the mirror you make your way down to the lobby of an inconspicuous hotel, where a balding middle-aged man awaits you. Smiling nervously, he offers you a clammy hand, followed by an envelope stuffed with £500 in sweaty banknotes. You spend the evening listening to his marital problems, laughing at his ill-timed jokes, performing oral sex in the toilet. You end your first day with enough cash in your pocket to pay off a large chunk of your tuition fees. It's not your average part-time job, that's for sure.

In reality, this scene constitutes a very normal day's work for the some 8000 escorts currently working in the UK. With the profession of courtesanship dating back to the ancient Greeks, the escort industry is said to be one of the most enduring of all time. And business is certainly booming in Leeds, where it has been reported that approximately 60% of all sex workers are full-time students. This high figure caused nationwide scandal in 2001, with critics condemning the rise in tuition fees for prompting a large-scale 'turn to vice' among the student body. With alarming rises in student debt, the lure of escorting has never been more compelling: employers estimate that students can earn up to £30,000 a year just through part-time work. But how do the majority of students feel about escorting? Is it a veritable goldmine, or a recipe for danger and an ethical Pandora's box? Talking to escorts, charities

and average university goes alike, the Leeds Student set out to uncover the sex appeal behind escorting.

The student life is rarely one of wealthy indulgence, but the current economic crisis has rendered the produce of Urban Outfitters a matter for 'browsing only', and the shiny new Apple MacBook a futile dream. With heart-sinking media statistics that predict we'll be up to our necks in 20 grand's worth of debt before long, it isn't hard to see why shelf-stacking has lost its allure. But what exactly is escorting? Is it down and out prostitution, or a harmless dating service for the particularly lonely or luddish in love? Are we talking a three-course dinner with a rich and attractive member of the opposite sex, or a two minute fumble in a back alley with an obese version of your great uncle Fred? Although technically escorts are not required to offer any 'additional' services, it would be naive to imagine that the promised 'GF' (girlfriend experience) didn't include certain 'added perks'. Take a look at any escort agency's website, and the pictures alone tell you what you're buying. Nevertheless, clients officially purchase good company and fine conversation: 'Girls can conduct other negotiations separately, but this has nothing to do with the agency', quotes one leading escort service.

It is perhaps unsurprising, in a culture of one-night stands and alcohol-fuelled acquaintances, that the boundaries between dating and sex have become rather hazy.

But legally, escorting is less of a grey area and more of a technical minefield. The BBC home affairs page states that while the act of prostitution is in itself not illegal, 'a string of laws criminalises activities around it'. Under the Sexual Offences Act of 2003, it is an offence to cause or incite prostitution or control it for personal gain; which means

that pimps, traffickers, brothel-owners and street-walkers have to watch their backs. Recently, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced that England will be removing a need for persistent nuisance in the kerb crawling offence, and that paying for sex with someone 'controlled for another person's gain' will be criminalized.

So there you have it: a job based on your looks, charm and patience, where wealthy clients pay you for anything from an hour-long chat to an all-expenses-paid holiday abroad. They'll tell you what to wear, what to bring, and they may just ask you for 'extra' services that you can say yes or no to. Perfect, right?

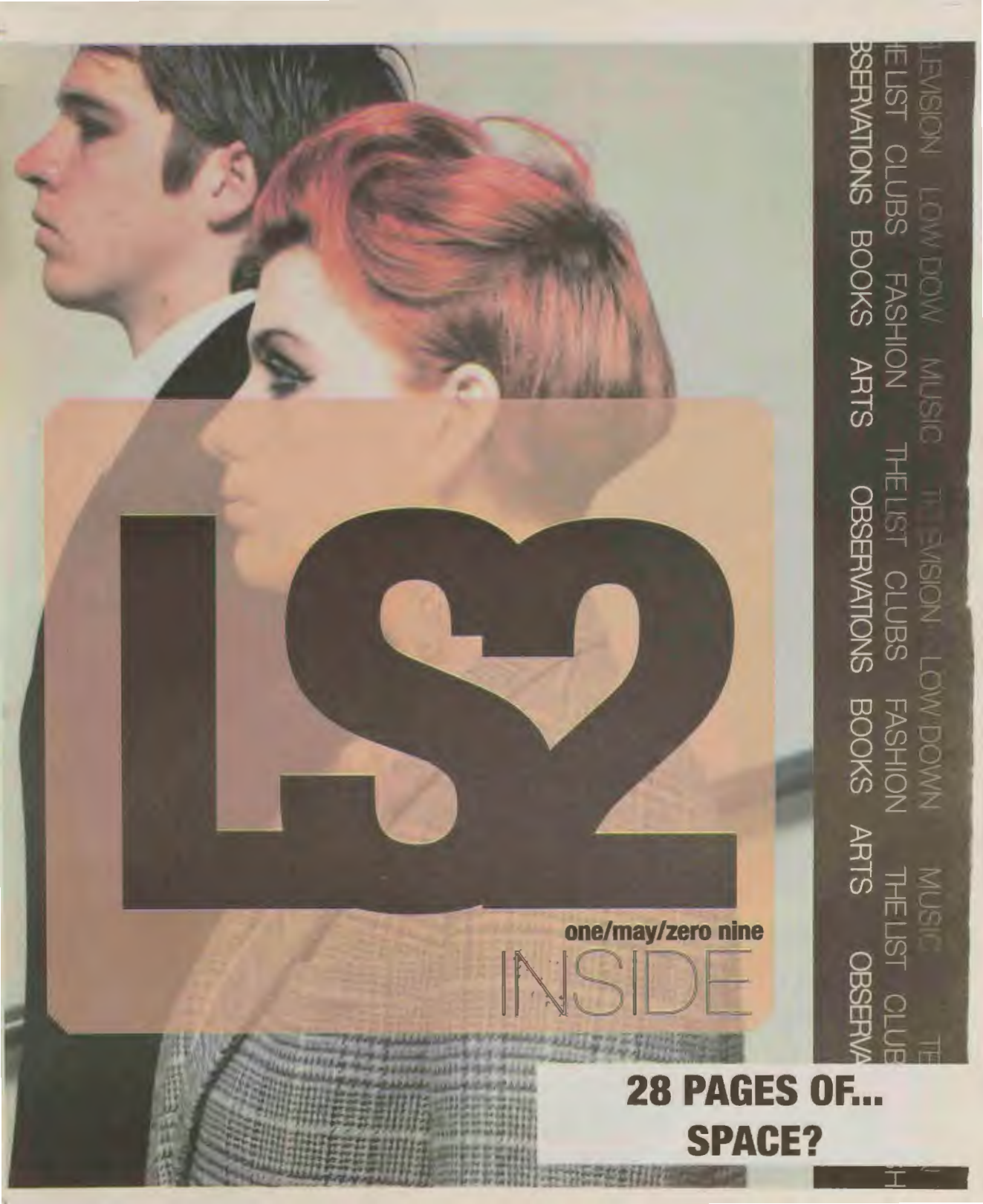
Unfortunately, not quite. There are a lot more risks involved with this line of work than flipping burgers at your local Maccy D's. For starters, you're on your own with a bloke who could be an axe-wielding maniac and, even if he doesn't own an axe, he may be incapable of taking no for an answer when you refuse him the full GF experience. A spokesperson for a Leeds-based agency insists that 'our clients undergo a thorough screening process before they are booked in with a girl'. Of course, there are risks with any job - but is this one worth taking?

Unable to overcome the temptation of enough cash to deter that blood-thirsty Student Loan Company, I thought it best to acquire an insiders view for a clearer picture of the business. 26-year-old Daniela, who works as a registered escort at a Yorkshire-based agency, was kind enough to answer my prying questions. The thing with escorting is that it's pretty much the opposite of a typical 9-5 job. One day you'll be sitting down at a wedding with a man you've just met, and then the next night you'll be off to a fancy business convention having champagne cocktails bought for you! Of course it's not always as glamorous as that, with most dates taking place in a restaurant or hotel. Even so, Daniela confesses, 'unlike at a normal desk job - you're always meeting new people and having a laugh.' The best aspect of the job is undoubtedly the money. 'I can earn £1000 on a really good week, and through this job I've been able to afford a down-payment on a flat, a car, and loads of



“

Most people make half the money I do at some boring admin job



L&S

one/may/zero nine

INSIDE

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

**28 PAGES OF...
SPACE?**

H

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

LS2

CONTENTS

3/	Special Low Down first of three
4/	The List: Ways to sit out the recession ...
6/	Lifestyle
8/	Music
12/	Feature: Off Your Facebook
16/	Fashion: Warm out places; abandoned spaces
18/	Clubs: Soundwave festival 2009
20/	Arts: The Boat that rocked
22/	Books
23/	TV
26/	Technology
27/	Observations

ORDER FOOD ONLINE
HUNGRY?
LAZY?
 HAVE WE GOT
 A WEBSITE FOR YOU.



118menu.co.uk

118MENU.CO.UK

THE ONLINE TAKEAWAY SERVICE

LOW DOWN

with Zupnik and Simon



There is a lot of power being drawn... The power is being drawn... We don't know when it will be back... The power is being drawn... We don't know when it will be back... The power is being drawn... We don't know when it will be back...

Friday 24th April 2009: The day the University stood still. Who knew such a simple power cut could cause so much chaos?

The carnage hit as far out as Bodlington, which is where I heard the news and when I realised... I could no longer connect to the internet. Without the ability to repeatedly check my emails and Facebook, I'm lost. Panic-stricken, I sprinted to the computer cluster in some vain hope that I would be able to glean some remnant of interaction

many times and another dared student commented he hadn't been out of his flat for three days. Even when I finally decided to venture out from my abode, pathetic as it sounds, I wondered how it would be possible to get the bus without consulting the online timetable.

It wasn't only the Halls of Residence which suffered; apparently many students lost their work on the University computers when the power cut struck, although I feel less sympathetic because at least they had the opportunity to help out the Nigerian government with the promise of receiving "\$21 million dollars" when they got home.

Staff had to shut down the whole University including the Union (yes, democracy had to wait for another day), as apparently us students can't manage without electricity. "Health and safety!" cry the powers that be. I suppose they live in fear that some of us may bump our heads. Well, at least there was one nugget of joy to appease the masses: discount LUV ice cream!

At the time of writing, the University was still disorientated and still hadn't figured out what the correct time was resulting in lectures overrunning, cafes shutting early and civilians either speeding by or slowing down as they passed the Parkinson building.

Anthony Zupnik

Likewise, what I found most distressing about the power cut was how quickly man (woman too) regressed when he (or she) found out that they were no longer able to charge their gameboys... just me? It was

truly depressing seeing swarms of girls having to sit around just waiting for their hair to dry. It was heartbreaking to see man's dependence upon electricity has become so intense that he has forgotten how to make even the most basic of meals without a microwave. Without the ability to boil a kettle and having forgotten that our hot water taps run hot enough to give even lava a jolly good burn, we were forced to sit around eating party rings and heaven forbid... converse with one another in (in real life)

The power cut was unsettling to say the least. I was forced to abandon my PC and go out for a walk. Outside. On a sunny day. What I found was truly a terrifying place. Everyone around me looked healthy as they jogged around proclaiming loudly at each other how aroused they were that they got their five portions of fruit and veg today. I later read a Sainsbury's health flier stating that apparently we should be getting five portions of fruit a day, three portions of milk and at least one portion of a shopping trip to Sainsbury's a week. Convenient. I'm starting to think that this five a day notion was actually concocted by Granny Smith in order to secure her pension.

Worse than the "X a day" propaganda is the health inducing "challenges" companies set you to consume their products. The "Kellogg's challenge" of having to eat two bowls of cereal a day, for instance. If you find eating two bowls of cereal a day challenging then I'm pretty sure you should go on the "learn to tie your own shoe laces challenge"

Simon Rowbotham

GOING UP ^

The Swine Apocalypse

The swine flu is coming to wipe out the human race. On the positive side, more jobs available for all and a reduction in global warming!

Hyde Park

Finally you can sit in the sun and have a quiet barbecue with the other 32,000 students. Enjoy it while you can: It's only a matter of time before the University builds on it.

Facebook

Studies have shown that users of Facebook get worse grades. Fuck it, who needs a first anyway?

Exams

There's still 2 weeks until exam period starts, shit! It's about time...wait is that Jeremy Kyle on?

Chances of Survival

"4 in 10 Britons could fall ill in flu pandemic." Barricade yourself in your home and stay away from the freshers.

Free movies

Pirate Bay found guilty. Rapidshare handing over personal information to authorities. It's back to the dodgy man on the street corner for your entertainment.



Well, at least there was one nugget of joy to appease the masses: discount LUV ice cream!

with the outside world but with no success. What is the modern man to do without access to the world wide web?

The students I passed just didn't know what to do with themselves. One reported a serious case of repetitive strain injury caused by refreshing their browser too



"...Orgasm!" "Yeah one of those would be nice about now" / "Richard, don't be a dick" / "So yeah, the World Health Organisation has raised the pandemic alert level to 5" "Ohh...is that what it stands for, I was wondering why a band would issue health warnings."/

OVERHEARD

GOING DOWN v

10

Ways to sit out the recession...

With university taking hold, it's not just fat men in bowler hats and expensive suits feeling the effects of global recession. Students too are feeling the pinch with the traditional student stereotype of living off baked beans set to make a comeback - that is, unless you follow LS2's top ten ways to sit out the recession...

1.

See the world

Disappear from reality and enter the world of Facebook photo albums, living a life of complete denial as you smile on a beach in Thailand or stand before an unintelligible signpost in Hong Kong. You'll spend lots of money, meet useless contacts and it won't look good on your CV. On the plus side... you can save lives, have underage sex and work on that tan. If you're on a tight budget then perhaps consider Huddersfield or Felkxstowe, but the tan will have to be yellow fever or dirt.

2.

Do a teacher training thing

Mmm... long holidays interspersed with terms of meek and mild pupils sharing your love for literature. Teacher trainings are a good idea, since there will always be a need for teachers, especially core subjects. The main problem is that teacher training courses suck the life out of you. Teacher trainings are essentially cocoons that transform you from socialiser to social-worker, from wino to winger, twinkly to wrinkly and healthy libido to suppressed paedo. 'Holidays' is a codeword for paperwork and it soon becomes apparent why the word 'terms' is used. Do you really want a life of sitting in a staffroom drinking shit coffee?

3.

Puzzles

Earn an income solely from entering competitions, quiz shows and doing puzzles. Prizes range from DVD players, to pony trekking in the Shetlands, to one million pounds, or a table tennis bat. Would you rather live on champagne and M&S picnic hampers or starve to death on the streets like everyone else will? Your only overheads are a packet of cheap biro's and a thesaurus, get code-cracking!



4. Over qualify yourself

Humans love to qualify themselves - a love affair that started with the Kellogg's 10m swimming badge; the one you look at guiltily every time that towel is used to clean up after sex. There are plenty of certificates to collect during the recession, and some only take a couple of days like First Aid, cricket umpiring, bus driving, GCSE ceramics or degrees from Lincoln.

5. Read

Libraries are free, at least for now, so the recession is the perfect opportunity to pop the kettle on and get stuck into all those books you said you would read one day. You might start to smell like dust and piss sitting in a library all day, so alternatively you could throw them out of the Brotherton's back windows and collect them from the shrubbery at night.

6. Live with Mum and Dad

Haha. Just joking. I've been to see mine once in the last year, and that was to check if the anthrax had worked. But seriously, living with rents is fine so long as your reasons are purely financial and not sexual. My mum's Italian so there's usually enough pasta around to last ten recessions. If you have siblings it's probably best to go home occasionally to re-mark your territory before Bret makes his own mini-gym or Jasmine gets that walk-in f**king wardrobe.

GO TO



JAIL

7.

Go to jail

Do not pass Go - do not collect £200. Prisons are so underrated. They're actually quite fun. Do a few press ups, write an autobiography, eat cheap lasagne, take origami lessons and enjoy forced same-sex relations with people who look like Popeye villains.

8.

Be a missing person

An M1 service station? Portugal? Moorside estate, Dewsbury? Running away is perfectly acceptable in a recession and the media always relish a missing person story for summer, you could even profit from the media fanfare of it all. Make sure to make an interview deal with The Sun and a book deal with Tesco before you leave. Destroy any bad photos of yourself before setting off, for once the papers have picked an image, they'll use it again, and again, and again.

9. Start a pokey-faced pop career

Pop stars don't even need to read music these days. Just pick a song from the 80s and ruin it like The Saturdays did. If Flo Rida can sell re-bashed Pete Burns classics to a misogynistic, obese and homophobic US market then anyone can do anything really. In a recession there's nothing to lose, why count the pennies when you could slap on some Primark sunglasses and make a tit of yourself? Call your album 'I Created Disco', and pass off the hollow unjustified narcissism as self-disparaging irony.

10.

Cryogenics

This is probably a last resort. But why spend two miserable years eating frozen fish fingers when you could just freeze yourself instead? Just hope there's not a power cut and you defrost into a pile of death, that would be embarrassing.

Follow this advice to cruise through the recession unscathed. Hopefully.
words/ jack cullen

FOOD/

BBQ SEASON

The last of the sun's warmth dips slowly towards the horizon, and the hazy blue of the sky is blushed with a sweep of gentle orange. From back gardens along the street, wisps of charcoal smoke curl lazily into the static air, twisting and eddying amongst the tender green leaves on the trees. The soundtrack to the evening is gentle, almost hypnotic: the quiet sizzle of the grill and the occasional puff of flame when a globule of hot fat slides down the side of a sausage and hits the hot coals. Above this, babbling like a stream, is the ready conversation of friends: laughter and jokes and excited chin-wagging. The sun has warmed the land, and like a giant radiator the earth is giving back the heat of the day: warming the al-fresco cooks and their makeshift kitchens.

As a self-confessed foodie, nothing excites me more about the imminent onset of summer than the thought of eating outside on warm evenings, watching the sun slump, tired, under the horizon and seeing the sparkling pinprick of stars appear above; all with some delicious food and wine, of course. It is easy to get stuck in a rut with any food, but particularly so with barbecues, and so here are three recipe ideas which I hope will inspire you.

Grilled Mackerel

Nothing could be more summery than perfectly fresh fish cooked over a fire, and if it's a driftwood fire on the beach, then all the better. This sort of thing takes me right back to family holidays in Devon, grilling mackerel on the beach after an evening swim in the sea. If you're grilling fish, you have a multitude of possibilities, but to me the undisputed king is mackerel. The smoke of the fire permeates the fish,

and provides a complex and beautiful undertone to the pungent, oily flavour of the fish, a perfect combination. Brushed with some garlic butter during grilling, and served with a squeeze of lemon and black pepper, the mackerel approaches grilled perfection. Fresh crusty bread and a simple, herby green salad are the perfect plate-fellows for the fish.

Lamb Koftas

The kebab is the victim of a terrible injustice, one which has been wreaked mercilessly by greasy kebab shops across the country. Please, abandon your prejudices for meat-on-a-stick, because, done well, kebabs are mouth-tinglingly brilliant. If you want to step beyond simply threading meat and vegetables (or fish) onto skewers, then perhaps try Koftas: spiced mince-meat encasing a skewer, grilled straight on the barbecue. Search the internet for recipes - there are plenty out there, so find one which best suits your taste. Serving suggestion? Minted yoghurt, finely sliced cucumber and flatbreads.

Aubergine and feta parcels

I love aubergine, and it is undoubtedly best when sliced lengthways 1cm thick, brushed with oil and grilled. You can salt it first if you wish, to reduce the bitterness. After grilling, the slice will be significantly thinner and malleable, with flavours infinitely concentrated and improved. Brush it again with a dressing of lemon juice, olive oil, chopped parsley, salt and pepper. Place on a chunk of feta cheese and a thin slice of sun-dried tomato, then roll up like a carpet and secure with a sprig of rosemary.

words/ sam leach



HEALTH/

THE HOT TOPIC

So I'm on the hospital ward round and my blood is boiling. Not so much because the radiators are on full blast but because the windows are open. We've just been educated about how the NHS is in crisis; not enough cleaners, not enough cures, not enough doctors... basically not enough dosh. And now, stood on a West Yorkshire ward with a bunch of hot and bothered doctors and overheating cancer patients,



I see why. It's because the NHS is trying to heat up outside: don't tell the polar bears but I think Leeds' hospitals are behind global warming. It seems they've become so immersed in the clever life-saving lark that the good old-fashioned common-sense stuff about saving shillings has been neglected.

You might think that relatively, this waste is insignificant. Well that's a load of shit (if you'll pardon my French).

words/ benji waterhouse



The NHS has the largest capital spend programme in Europe and this waste is happening up and down the country with colossal cumulative effect. Throw in the recent 15 per cent hike in energy prices and you're looking at a significant burden to finite NHS resources, more than £500 million annually to be exact. If a more green energy philosophy were adopted, this money would be free for those things previously mentioned; more clinicians, more research and even one or two of the posh cancer drugs. As for cleaning we'd have the whole place spick and span before you can say methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

Perhaps even more importantly, and concerning climate change, this frivolous wasting of power sees the health service accountable for 3% of carbon emissions in the UK. ** The Government aiming to cut this total by 80 per cent by 2050 clearly the NHS has a vital role to play in reaching this end, both directly and indirectly through the example it sets to the population's patients. ** This isn't insignificant, it's a BIG issue and action is required now. So, hospital managers listen up; throw this thoughtless energy policy out the window. Then close it please.

Britain's energy price fiasco is fastest in Europe, The Daily Telegraph, Andy Boxham (June 4, 2008)

**www.carbontrust.co.uk/carbon/publicsector/nhs/

***Government pledges to cut carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. The Guardian, Deborah Summers (October 16, 2008)

Contraception and Sexual Health

(CaSH) clinics in Leeds

Providing free, confidential advice and support on all contraception and sexual health matters for everyone



KNOWLEDGE.

need to get home but got no money for a taxi?

Call Amber taxi on **0113 231 1368**, let them know you want to use the **student ID payment scheme**.

You can pay to get home using your student ID card. After a few days your card will be returned to your Union and you can pay off your debt then.

knowledge-leeds.co.uk

BURSTING THE BUBBLE/

Diary of a Leeds Student
abroad:
Beer-tasting in Germany

As I flew back to Germany after the Easter break a few days ago, I was reminded of coming over here for the first time back in October. Due to a chronic lack of organisation throughout the summer, I had ended up booking a last-minute flight to somewhere miles away from where I was actually going, so I had plenty of time to mull things over as I trekked across southern Germany.

I had chosen to study for a year on the Erasmus programme at the University of Bayreuth, which is in South-East Germany, near the Czech border. I was met at the station by a

couple of students from the "International Society" equivalent, who drove me to my flat. The university and nearby halls of residence where I live are not far from the town centre, so after the short journey and a flurry of paperwork from the German guys, I was left alone to unpack.

Despite floundering somewhat under the mountain of bureaucracy that accompanied my first few days here, I had some time to explore the town. Bayreuth is primarily known outside of Germany for its association with Richard Wagner, and plays host each year to the

"Festspiele", music festivals showcasing the composer's work. It's a pretty town, featuring plenty of greenery and some fine baroque architecture in the centre, albeit one that falls rather silent in the evenings and at weekends. As with any student town though, there is appreciable nightlife to be found, once you know where to look.

Initial concerns about the rustiness of my German disappeared fairly quickly in the first few weeks. There were plenty of social events and trips laid on by the



International Society, which offered ample opportunity to meet fellow Erasmus students and inquisitive Germans alike. The university, like the town itself, is relatively small and consequently friendly, and as such, you can't go far without running into somebody you know. I had worried that spending a lot of time with internationals would mean speaking English, but German is definitely the common language. My own competence sits somewhere in the middle of the range of ability among the non-Germans, which (generalising, of course) seems to improve from western to eastern Europe.

The lazy and neglectful attitude with which Britain tends to treat the learning of foreign languages has incidentally been highlighted by meeting residents of so many other European nations. I've hardly met a German for instance who doesn't speak at least one other language pretty well, and that's not even counting English... Anyway, our reputation in this regard certainly precedes us, to put it mildly.

I couldn't write about Bavaria without mentioning the beer; indeed, the region of Oberfranken, in which Bayreuth itself is located, contains the highest rate of breweries per capita in the world (if Wikipedia is to be believed). Bayreuth has its very own brewery, where they produce the excellent "Malsers Weisse", which is the local incarnation of the Bavarian speciality "Weißbier", or wheat beer. Should you ever happen to be in this neck of the woods, I very much doubt you will get away without trying it, nor indeed should you! That said, my decision in October not to bring English tea with me proved to be nothing short of catastrophic, and a mistake that I have since rectified. Consider yourself warned.

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

Email features@leedsstudent.org to find out more.

Honestly, I wasn't always especially looking forward to this year, but I have been spectacularly proved wrong. I would highly recommend taking any chance you might have to study abroad - new people, places and experiences have made it absolutely worthwhile. I've also found time to travel quite extensively, both in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, for which Bayreuth is ideal, situated as it is right in the heart of the continent. Of course, the main reason we're sent over here is to improve our language skills, which is certainly something I have achieved and hope to continue to do over the next few months.

STUDENTS – GET SPACE SHARP

.... WITH 25% OFF AND AN MP3 PLAYER UP FOR GRABS

It's that time of year again – term's nearly over and a summer of freedom beckons. Except now you've got to work out where you store all your stuff!

The solution could be easier and cheaper than you think – Big Yellow Self Storage is offering students 25% off on storage costs, based on a 16 week stay, as well as its student box pack. With easy access 7 days a week and units starting from as small as 10 sq ft, it really is that simple to pack up your life for the summer! Check out Big Yellow Storage at 1 Gelderd Place, Leeds, and get some space in your life!

To shout more about the benefits of storing your items safely and securely, Big Yellow is offering you the chance to win one of the most innovative space savers of modern times – an MP3 player – as well as a whole summer's worth of storage at Big Yellow.

To enter simply search for "Big Yellow" on Facebook and become a fan, then answer the following question:

"Tell us the main freephone number for Big Yellow Self Storage"

Hint: Check online at bigyellow.co.uk

Search for "Big Yellow" on Facebook or "BigYellowSS" on Twitter to join the Big Yellow community.

*Terms and conditions apply



RECORDS

SINGLES

Dirty Projectors
'Stillness Is the Move'

(8)



An uncharacteristically pop serving from Brooklyn-based art rockers. Punchy opening percussion is very much impossible to keep still to, and the hip-hop guitar hook is laughably infectious. The female vocal is the lead, soulful and immaculate as ever, and mouthwatering string arrangement puts the track to sleep. Stunning

words/ michael waters

Lady GaGa
'Poker Face' Remixes

(2)



'Russian Roulette isn't the same without a gun'. No, it isn't, because then it wouldn't be Russian Roulette. Idiot. Nine mixes of a terrible song, each of which are longer and thus more soul-crushing than the original. Listening to this is 59 minutes of your life you'll never get back.

words/ joseph armstrong

The Big Pink
'Velvet'

(6)



The guitars on 'Velvet' are BIG in the style of The Jesus & Mary Chain but the vocals almost sound neutered, devoid of any personality or passion. If the success of Glasvegas is anything to go by then The Big Pink have a bright future ahead of them but this won't be the song to propel them to stardom.

words/ malcolm mathieson

Stone Gods
'Start of Something'

(2)



It's great that Stone Gods have tried to distance themselves from The Darkness. However, the track has dad-driving CD written all over, so unimaginative and tedious that it leaves you longing for five-minute guitar solos and spandex. If this is the best Stone Gods can do then they are going to start very little.

words/ rebecca atkinson

The Maccabees
'Love You Better'

(4)



Tolerance levels for tremulous wailing over repetitive guitars has recently declined and so, despite The Maccabees being a slightly better than their indie counterparts, they remain just as annoying.

words/ lizzie ibotson

Pet Shop Boys
Yes

2010

15 years ago, Pet Shop Boys' fifth studio album *Very* consolidated the commercial gains of its predecessors with a strong anabandon to mad, passionate synth-pop that it looked like bad manners when it entered the British chart at number one. In so doing, it closed the book on the duo's life in the top three over the next decade, they issued a succession of almost apologetically experimental records—all brilliant, all transformative, but all too keenly aware of the career to which they added and from which they emerged at ever more distant remove, blinking in the bizarre light of the musical and political landscapes of the developing 21st century.

This latest experiment brings them full circle, with the meat of their tenth album treating the same euphoric heartbreak that sent *Very* to the top spot. But *Yes* is by no

Yes, Pet Shop Boys.



means fraudulent autopilot. Building upon the black social comedy of 2006's *Fundamental*, the LP attacks the historical process, the decade, superiority, and the myth of consistency, but adds to these keen political instincts the Pet Shop Boys themselves. *Yes* is the sound of a band finally at peace with its extraordinarily successful, extraordinarily inconsistent past, confronting governmental collapse with an Owen Pallett

The Horrors
Primary Colours

The anticipated new album by gothic indie pen-pals The Horrors has when take a new direction. Gone is their one-dimensional sound that split opinion over their debut *Strange House*. Instead, they have gone down a new wave route.

'Mirror's Image' is a strong opener that doesn't simply trash around as much of *Strange House* did. It builds up with big guitars, and there is venomous vulnerability to Paris Badwan's distinctive voice. 'Who Can Say' starts off with Joy Division synths, before leading into a middle eight which sees Rortler explain the results of telling a girl he didn't love her anymore. Guitar effects, raging drums and heavily echoed vocals ('tick tick tick tick DEAD!') power 'New Ice Age', the first song that sounds like it could fit on *Strange House*. Meanwhile 'Scarier Fields' is as close to a ballad as The Horrors will ever create, once again, the synthesizer gets a good work out, creating a strange but listenable backbone to the album. The long 'I Only Think of You' is the first time for several songs where it is clear what Badwan is singing; the band's fragile side made evident here, as Badwan declares 'if I lose you I'll go mad'. The album closes with the epic single 'Within a Sea', a fitting finale which features oddly catchy use of sound effects and samples.

It is best to put your preconceptions of The Horrors aside for *Primary Colours*. Although still a bleak listen, the album will appeal to a wider audience than its predecessor; this may disappoint its original fan base as the band step away from their roots, but it is worth a listen. You'll definitely be surprised. (8)

words/ nick todd

Delta Spirit
Ode to Sunshine

Despite having by far the ugliest cover of the year, the debut from US five-piece Delta Spirit is an uncannily worthy record. It was recorded live in a cabin in the Californian desert and sounds exactly as you'd expect—all dry crackles and warm woody acoustics.

The songs are light-hearted and refreshing, reminiscent of Supergrass or The Kinks. They perhaps lack the pure, hooky repeatability of the latter, but Delta Spirit will be selling far more records to the over-40 Fleet Foxes/Elbow crowd than they will to 'the kids', so audience attention span needn't be a limiting factor.

Unlike the aforementioned Mercury Prize winners, however, Delta Spirit manage to capture the elusive easiness their music demands; it is summery, but you can't imagine the band breaking a sweat as they play. They lend their songs a relaxed airy feel, as though they could do it while barbecuing. 'Bleeding Bells' is a standout track, deploying oboes and mariachi trumpets to a lazy, acoustic groove. Brandon Young's drums are clear and natural, and strong without being intrusive or overplayed. On guitars, Sean Walker manages to play with feeling but without anguish. The vocals are about as tight as is possible, topping off these anthems to the summer sun with the breathy, parched shouts of a man celebrating his first beer after a long day's work on the plantation. It all fits the bill precisely, which makes up for any small shortfall in the writing.

Hopefully, the second album will provide some stronger and more searching songs, but without sacrificing the exquisite awareness of this first attempt. (7)

words/ george reece

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

orchestral arrangement and a French circus breakdown, seven-minute closer 'Legacy' shares a tracklist with songs so reminiscent of late-period ABBA in their astounding disco tragedy that the years since *Very* melt away. The ambitious electronic majesty of 'King of Rome' recalls the post-rave sobriety of *Behaviour* but adds the dimension of time, Neil Tennant sounding like a desolate, aging, Allen Ginsberg when he pleads simply, after a string of dense literary allusion, 'call me'.

Yet the record is affirmative, even and especially in the face of defeat. 'Did you see me coming?' is a disarming sugar rush that dares, outrageously, to fall in love, while 'All over the world' joyously marries Tchaikovsky to The Knife. Best of all, 'Pandemonium', abandoned in the middle of the LP's 'difficult' half, is an exasperated 12/8 whirlwind which remarks with a poorly concealed grin that it is 'quite an achievement that, after all, I still love you'. And so with *Yes* after four unforgettably complicated records, its aggressive perfection makes it a challenge to accept on its own terms but the rewards for so doing are manifold. (9)

words/ ed. i. tor-cullen

MORE ALBUMS

Jeniferever
Spring Tides

Only having released one LP since 1996, it's evident how vigilant Jeniferever are about their recorded output. This lovely, if somewhat predictable, offering from the Swedish pop post-rockers is appropriately shinier than their debut: Choose a Bright Morning.

'Green Meadow Island' kicks off the record excellently with its irregular phrasing and moody guitar hook, establishing the spacious and emotive realm in which most of *Spring Tides* resides. Like a cross between Robert Smith and Jónni Björgsson, vocalist Kristofer Jonsson's rubly exasperated tones nestle, low in the mix, amongst characteristic reverb-soaked guitar textures. Although the instrumental soundscapes behind are often far from original, the lyrics and vocal performances are strikingly personal outpourings for their genre.

Occasionally, certain timbres take the listeners aback by their sheer lushness, such as the sonars like synth in 'Lives Apart' and the string arrangements throughout; however, they do milk cliché post-rock guitar sounds dry, and some sonorities have a tendency to grate, such as the crude modulation effect occasionally heard in 'Concrete and Glass'.

Highlights include the unrelenting prettiness of 'Nangijala' and the thunderous 'Or-Eye' with its intense spoken word, and anthemic climax. The moving piano lines that follow on 'St Gallen' are another emotionally affecting treat.

There are some successful efforts at pop songs on this record, particularly in the form of 'The Hourglass' and the title track but besides these, this is an album whose appeal relies heavily on subtlety, shying from excess at every turn. (7)

words/ michael waters



GIG OF THE MONTH

Lily Allen Academy

20/10/09

Uplifting, bass-thumping, electro-powered pop princess La Roux kicks off this evening of feminine wiles with newest release 'In for the Kill' which is a huge hit with the crowd. Unfortunately the following tunes seem glaringly, such as first release 'Quicksand' which might as well have been a prototype for 'In for the Kill'. Still, the set is catchy regardless of the samey nature of the sound and Eleanor Jackson's voice is effortlessly arresting. Before Allen appears on stage she teases the anxious audience by hiding behind a white screen showing only the outline of her silhouette while she performs 'Everyone's At It', opening track from the new album *It's Not Me, It's You*. The white screen then drops to the floor and Allen, fearless, dances around the stage in a flowery mini dress and three-inch, gold-studded stilettos (the same as those worn in the video for new

single 'Not Fair'). Allen performs every song from her new album, and 'Never Gonna Happen' follows the opener with a accordion-



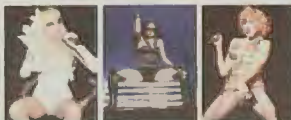
based accompaniment. Allen performs some of her old material including tracks from her debut album *Alright, Still* such as 'LDN' and also the Ronson reimagining of Kaiser Chiefs track 'Oh My God' before segueing into 'Dance With Me' (Calvin Harris) which she then... dances to.

The gold stilettos are inevitably discarded in favour of the less glamorous but far more practical and 'trademark Allen' trainers. Around mid-way through the night the accompaniment becomes acoustic; a setting which undoubtedly shows off the twenty-three year olds' understated but impressive voice. In accordance with the now intimate set-up, personal and more delicate songs are performed including 'He Wasn't There' - about her father Keith Allen - and 'Little Things'. Returning to a livelier tempo the set is finished off with new single 'Not Fair', a enjoyable pastiche of Country 'N' Western, and a tongue-in-cheek rendition of 'Tuck You', her tribute to the Bush administration. Returning to the stage for an encore, Allen has changed into a gold sequinned jacket over a short pink dress to perform 'Smile' and recent number one hit 'The Fear'. A cover of Britney Spear's 'Womanizer' also makes an appearance, a well-known favourite of hers to perform live. Overall the songstress has stepped up the girly glamour but has kept her cheeky, fairly crude lyrics in the repertoire, making for a more mature, but distinctly Allen-esque performance. (10)

words/ juliette bains
MORE GIGS

COLUMN/ JULIETTE BAINS

Pop Stars to Pop Tarts:
The Rise & Fall of Girl Power



Women in the pop industry today leave little to the imagination - whether it's Lady Gaga in her sparkly underwear speaking directly from her 'Playboy mouth' about how she's 'bluffing with her muffin' or Ciara wearing next to nothing, on all fours and writhing over Justin Timberlake (who, by the way, is fully clothed in the new video for 'Love, Sex, Magic'). 30 years ago, this kind of behaviour would have been seen as something that a pop star would need to make a comeback from. Now this is the comeback.

The representation of women and the image that female artists choose to project to audiences has changed considerably over the years. The biggest transformation in recent history was during the '60s, with the rise of punk rock and feminism, but when exactly did female pop stars begin to sell their bodies and sexuality as a commodity? Madonna could easily be pinpointed as the leader of the pack with her controversial videos and infamous Jean Paul Gaultier pointed bra, but it was the pivotal Spice Girls era that has the most relevance to what is in the charts nowadays. Clipping onto *Riot Grrrl* magazine's concept of 'Girl Power' and turning it into a successful marketing gimmick, they went on to become the most successful British band since the Beatles, with their first six singles debuting at number one. However, the Spice Girls' sexuality was often pushed to the forefront. Evidence of this can be found in the music video for 'Say You'll Be There' where they are dressed in black, dominatrix-inspired PVC outfits. Another memorable example is that of Geri in her infamous Union Jack Dress, which made it to the front cover of *Playboy USA* in 1998. It could be argued that this heavily sexualised image trampled on the positive steps made for feminism in recent decades and desensitised older and, more worryingly, younger audiences to sexual imagery and the sexualisation of women in the media.

It would be easy to point the finger of blame at MTV for promoting music videos that could be labelled as soft porn (for example NERD's 'Lapdance') but it is primarily the responsibility of those women who allow themselves to be portrayed in such a way. The aforementioned pop stars may feel that they are demonstrating their sexual freedom and independence as women when, in reality, they are willingly selling their sexuality, inevitably pandering to the male gaze and promoting and conforming to patriarchal notions of femininity. It seems that sexuality has become our cultural currency - take a look at *Girls Aloud*, *The Saturdays* and the *Pussycat Dolls*. Could we say that these girl groups are the modern day take on the Spice Girls? If so, where will we be heading in another 10 years' time?

The only antidote to this air-brushed, groomed and glamourised pop world is authenticity. Talented and autonomous women such as *Bat For Lashes*, *Adelle* and *La Roux* show positive signs of progression. Let's hope they're here to stay.

Scotch-fest Royal Park Cellars

20/10/09



Local DIY gig organisers Tiger Trap bring us another tribute night in the vein of their recent Pavement-themed evening. This time, seven local bands have come together to celebrate Scotland's musical output. With a very Scottish £2 door charge and free shortbread, it promises to be an evening full of Caledonian joy. First on the bill is young chanteur, Model Warships, whose tender and heartfelt interpretations of Idlewild songs cause an intimate and eerie hush. Next up is This Many Boyfriends covering Ballboy, whose ramshackle, cheerful indiepop arrangements are a hit with the crowd. With a set punctuated by some of their own songs, these energetic youngsters show a lot of future promise. Third on the bill is the Christopher Carney Band lending a dark, hard, rock edge to the works of Primal Scream. Following them is yet another change of atmosphere with Sheffield-based Robert George Saull performing as Malcolm Middleton (formerly of Arab Strap), who is then succeeded by Eleanor Everything performing a retro-tinged imitation of Teenage Fanclub. Abigail's Party take to the stage after, offering up a loving homage to indiepop forebears Orange Juice. Finishing up the night, 4 Or 5 Magicians charge their way through a raucous interpretation of a selection of The Vaselines' back catalogue, taking a similar route that Nirvana did when they famously covered the song. Interspersed with some of their own songs, their set seems rushed as they blast through almost without stopping to talk to the audience. The band finish suddenly, throwing instruments to the floor with an instruction to 'go home'. Och aye, we shall. (8)

words/ ed mccollum

Animal Collective

TJ's

20/10/09



Awkwardly straddling the post-rock season of older works and the dance-lesion that this year's excellent *Merriwether Post Pavilion* set explored, tonight's show is something of a disappointment. Touring, nominally, their largest critical success to date, Animal Collective seem unsure which version of themselves to be. The result is not so much endearingly schizophrenic as half-baked: the more traditionally expansive psych-folk improvisations sit uncomfortably next to clearly delimited breaks in the set so that their developing Pitchfork axis can play the songs that 6 Music listeners actually know. Each version shows up the other: the extended motif developments seem strenuous and apologetic, while the likes of 'Also Frightened' and, particularly, 'My Girls' are far too self-conscious to sparkle, lacking any of the hip-hop punch that makes them so immediate in the context of their recorded versions. The recently-released latter single has a Frankie Knuckles mash-up on its B-side, but the version they play tonight has had all the handclaps inexplicably muted; unsure whether to throw shapes or chinstroke, the audience is breathless with confusion.

Perhaps the only point at which the two halves come together is the excellent treatment of 'Fireworks', whose stuttering drum programming teasingly siphons in over the course of an ecstatic ten minutes, and whose climax is every bit as glorious as the Strawberry Jam version - but this is very much the exception. Until Animal Collective come to terms with the success of their current album, their presentation is likely to be disturbingly out of sorts. (6)

words/ ramzy alwalek

Eagles of Death Metal

Cockpit

20/10/09



The Hot Melts are a little lukewarm tonight and the enthusiasm with which they are received is probably too generous from the gradually unimposing crowd. While their affable display clearly demonstrates the influence of big names like The Strokes and Weezer it is on their many original songs that the band show potential. All this is forgotten however when Jesse 'The Devil' Hughes and co. saunter on stage to the provocative strains of 'Ladies Night' signalling the start of a two-hour love in. Opening with 'I Only Want You', and playing a comprehensive mixture of the old and new, Eagles of Death Metal command the stage for the duration of their feel good set.

QOTSA behemoth sticksman Joey Castillo has joined the band for this tour and is clearly the most talented musician here tonight. This is not to belittle the rest of the band however, who do a very tidy job considering this is the kind of show where music plays 'second fiddle' to showmanship. Hughes is all over flirtation and parading; indeed the song 'Prissy Prancin' is the most adequate description of tonight's set. Everyone in the jam packed Academy loves each and every minute: drinking, dancing and having one hell of a good time. The highlights of the night are undoubtedly the majestic 'I want you so hard (The boy's bad news)' and 'Cherry Cola', and yet tracks from last year's 'Heart On' are far from overshadowed and prove that there is most certainly life in the (dirty) old dog yet. As the grinning crowd pour out onto the streets with 'Speaking in Tongues' still ringing in the ears there is no doubt that there are more important bands, but you would be hard pushed to find a more entertaining one. (9)

words/ rebecca atkinson

LIVE AT LEEDS - SATURDAY 2nd MAY

The Livecrat Leedstory



Live at Leeds is now in its third year and has been expanding all the while. In its first year (2007), its organisers, Futuresounds a music management and promotions company - tentatively set out to see if they could create a successful inner-city festival comparable with the likes of The Camden Crawl, The Great Escape and Dot-to-Dot Festival. Arguably, they have.

Whilst promoter Simon Stevens makes it clear that the festival does not want to expand too quickly, he is pleased with the progress that has been made. Last year, The Wardrobe joined the list of participating venues and, this year, the Holy Trinity and Leeds Met Students' Union join that list, with a hope that Leeds University will participate next year.

The *raison d'être* of the event is the showcase of Yorkshire-based acts, with the hope of promoting a larger national profile for music in Leeds and the surrounding areas. Stevens emphasises that, although this year there are fringe gigs with bigger acts, such as Art Brut and White Lies, it is still very much a festival about local music. The more nationally recognised artists, Stevens suggests, will help to attract the all important 'London labels', who can spend the weekend scouting the local talent; as the profile of the festival grows, national press coverage from magazines such as NME and Clash Magazine should serve to increase the festival's publicity.

So to this year, and the seemingly infinite line-up, split across three(ish) days, and nine(ish) venues.



Friday

On Friday the 1st, The Cockpit is headlined by Art Brut, currently plugging their Frank Black-produced third LP. *LS2's* personal tip, Blue Roses (Laura Groves) is supported by Jeremy Warmley over at the Brudenell. Marvellous.

Saturday



But Saturday the 2nd is when events mostly occur. *LS2* counts 105 depressingly alphabetical bands in the line-up, so it's just as well that we have something to say about a few of them.

Those with programmes, an enquiring eye and a dangerous mind will have realised that the rather unrevealing billing 'special guests' crop up in several of Saturday's boxes. *LS2* can now 'reveal' that these guests are to be Future of the Left, headlining the Brudenell, and Good Shoes, headlining the Cockpit.



Brainwash Promotions, who, in previous years, have brought you the excellent festival of the same name at the Brudenell, are holding events at the Library, the Packhorse, and the Elbow Rooms (a super prog, dirt and disco party, notes last.fm). Look out for Leeds based noise etc. outfit Castrovalva (who also appear live at Crash Records later in the week) at the Packhorse. Touring their second LP *Wall of Arms*, and

supported by excellent DTTR-types Grammatics, The Maccabees headline Leeds Met on the Saturday. The gig should be a treat if the new material is anything to go by.



iLiKETRAiNS at the Cockpit and Duels at Joseph's Well make up the Leeds contingent, and both are well worth catching; the latter, in particular, are for fans of Blur and Bowie, and guarantee a spectacular set with superb inter-cousin flirting, witty and precise vocal delivery, and synths a-plenty, ePlenty, iPlenty, o'Plenty, and u-plenty (Y Plenty declined to appear).



Recent Leeds success story Dinosaur Pile-Up play the Met at 8pm, and up/coming Essex act Baddies grace The Cockpit's Room 3 at 10pm, or thereabouts.

LS2 can reveal that the 'special guests' headlining The Cockpit and the Brudenell Social Club are Future of the Left and Good Shoes, respectively.

Sunday

Drop the bill for the Met on Sunday are recent UK Album Chart aficionados White Lies. Sounding nothing like Joy Division, regardless of what everyone says, they nonetheless promise jolly good fun. Over at the Brudenell, a British Wildlife evening includes performances from Human Hair and the astoundingly talented Two Minute Noodles (with the incredible drumming skills of Moz, whom you will probably have seen in most other bands).



words/ Ioleana and Iolay





UNION COMMUNITY REP.

YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY
IN THE COMMUNITY
YOU LIVE IN.

Leeds University Union is recruiting 10 Community Reps as part of its commitment to support members in the community.

The aim of the Community Reps will be to help identify issues affecting students' lives and to work to improve communication and understanding between students and more permanent residents. The Reps will also work with LUU on community campaigns and initiatives, for example, to promote a positive contribution to the community.

You will receive full training and a £350 bursary.

The Reps are due to take up their positions in September 2009, and you must be available for training the week beginning 8th June.

For more info and to apply, please visit www.luuonline.com/ucr or email r.j.hampton@leeds.ac.uk

Deadline for applications is 6th May.

Leeds University Union.



Tel. 0113 2435758

Fully Licensed
203/205 Woodhouse Street •
Leeds • LS6 2NY

ASIAN RESTAURANT & TAKEAWAY

Visit our local Asian Kashmiri cuisine, we offer quality and the best of value. Try our Kashmiri cuisine at 25% special discount for students.

Come for the best,
forget the rest



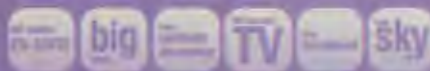
25% STUDENT DISCOUNT

BROADCASTING TOWER

The perfect location
for all Leeds students

SHOW FLAT NOW OPEN

Situated on the brand new Broadcasting Place development, Woodhouse Lane opposite Uropol immediately adjacent to Leeds Metropolitan University Faculty of Arts and Society and close to all Leeds' academic institutions.



For more information visit www.broadcastingtower.com

Alternatively call us on 0113 257 2565

or email info@broadcastingtower.com

Great value
rental
available

Full
furnished
apartments
available

Quality &
modern
interior
available

Full
range
of
furniture
available

Call us now to see the show flat and to view the development. It's the perfect location for all Leeds students. Call us now to see the show flat and to view the development. It's the perfect location for all Leeds students.



Off Your facebook

Profile Friends Networks Inbox



Joe Bloggs is in the library :)

Uploaded just 2 minutes ago (edit)

Networks: Leeds University

View More Photos Of Me

Edit My Profile

Mutual Friends

Joe Bloggs Friends

Friends In Other Networks

Like many of the social networking sites created in the last decade of the Internet, Facebook is a worldwide phenomenon. I can remember being in my halls of residence in first year when one of my flatmates turned on my computer and told me of this new website that I 'had' to join. On telling him I already used MySpace, his reply was 'you need Facebook'. Persistent, I thought, but I was new to University and willing to do anything that would involve me meeting more people and becoming 'friends'. Within a day, everybody in my block seemed to be marveling in this new found book, and within a week, the rest of the halls had been caught up in the hype. This shows how powerful and influential such a site can be. Moreover, when naive young students are involved, this process is propagated even quicker.

If you walk through a computer cluster in the university, it is not unusual to see half of the screens showing Facebook. This doesn't even count those who are working but have a craftily hidden window of Facebook, lurking minimized on the screen's lower toolbar. Facebook has been banned at many places of work for this reason, so that productivity does not suffer. On another point, many of your friends (your age), and think of how many of them do not have their own Facebook page. If you can count past one hand (especially if you just count university students), I will be impressed. This pattern is present all around the world: in places of education and work, as well as in homes. The question is, what effect is Facebook having on its 175million (and rising) users? Furthermore, are there instances whereby Facebook use could actually constitute harm?

The still water issue that Facebook may run a bit deeper than just a way of interacting with friends first occurred to me this summer. Whilst at times I had wondered why I had spent the last hour browsing from page to picture to profile to group or even why I had chosen a spot of Facebooking over an essay, I had never thought of how it could be seen as a problem.

It was only whilst relaxing in the foyer of a

remote hostel when travelling in Japan last July, when a fellow guest arrived at the reception, that such an issue came to me. After handing over the designated room fare for her stay, the girl in question dropped her bags and bounded over to the computers. There is no prize for guessing the first site that she accessed. It occurred to me then that in a country as interesting and beautiful as Japan, was the compulsion to get onto the site so powerful that the girl had effectively blocked out such surroundings and focused solely on getting on Facebook as quickly as possible? Having said this, it could have been an isolated case. Maybe her boyfriend had sent her a message? Maybe she needed to access the page to get details about her stay? Or maybe this guest had a deeper yearning for Facebook than your average user.

When back in England and researching potential dissertation topics for my Psychology degree, this moment in the hostel came bounding back to me. With a bit more reading, I discovered that despite the widespread use of Facebook, and other such social networking sites, there is little research investigating the possible negative effects on health and general psychological well being of users. I believed I was onto something.

In the past 6 months, I have designed, conducted and have now started to analyze data from a psychological study, alongside fellow researcher Tom Mountjoy, and under supervision from project leader Catriona Morrison. Previous study has shown that there are parallels between internet addiction and pathological gambling. Pathological gamblers show an increased arousal, in response to cues related to gambling. Such perceived excitement may maintain motivation for gambling-type behaviours via reinforcement principles. In turn, from this knowledge, it would therefore be expected that problematic Facebook use would share characteristics of pathological gambling, an impulse control disorder. The study was comprised of two parts: one, an in department study whereby 27 participants filled in a questionnaire related to their Facebook use, before having their physiological arousal such as heart rate measured in response to Facebook related, and non-social network related stimuli. Secondly, a Facebook use questionnaire available online, and completed by 1050 people. The questionnaire implemented an adapted form of the Online Cognition Scale (OCS) to measure four separate areas of thought processes relating to social comfort, loneliness/depression, diminished impulse

control and distraction. We hypothesized that higher registered scores on the OCS would correlate with higher physiological arousal scores in relation to Facebook related stimuli.

Although the complete set of results is pending, initial results showed that there is a relationship between OCS scores and physiological arousal scores. If we could give more information at this stage we would, but unfortunately, due to scientific restrictions, we cannot report any more information until analysis is completed, and the report is approved. However, if the results do turn out to

could increase the risk of health problems as serious as cancer, strokes, heart disease, and dementia.

Sites such as Facebook clearly do have a useful place in society, yet as with other related phenomena, should be used in a healthy fashion. It does beg the question as to how obsessed we are with a concept when Sony Pictures have confirmed they are in the developmental stages of a movie about the creators of Facebook. The Facebook phenomenon is growing faster than the research is keeping up with. More research is

Spending too much time on social networking sites? The effects could be more sinister than you think.



L-R: Tom Mountjoy and Sam Donnison

be significant to the study of health psychology, and in particular, addiction type, then we will aim to get our study published.

Interestingly, since the study's conception, several leading psychologists have also started research in a number of issues regarding Facebook. In 'Biologist', the journal of the Institute of Biology, Dr Aric Sigman has stated that people's health could be harmed by the social networks that set out to enrich people's lives, because in reality, they keep people apart, reducing levels of face-to-face contact.

Moreover, this lack of 'real' personal interaction social networking, may have biological effects altering the way genes work, disturbing immune responses and mental performance. More shockingly, Sigman suggests that Facebook

needed. What is emerging is that there may be risks involved with such sites, such risks that we hope to highlight as soon as possible.

For more information, or if you are concerned about your Facebook use, please contact:

Facebookstudy2008@gmail.com

words/ sam donnison

Since writing this article Sam Donnison and his research partner Tom Mountjoy have been invited by the British Psychological Society (BPS) to present their dissertation findings at the annual BPS conference in Sheffield on the 26th-27th of June.



Amazed and Confused

Master of subtlety, poise, creativity and imagination.
Introducing Drummond Money-Coutts...

Journalism aims to find out the truth. It's a bit like being a member of the underpaid, unappreciated squad division of the CIA or MI5 or a parliamentary expenses committee. You're not invited to the meetings held (in my imagination) in a bunker or submarine, nor do you have the power to actually interrogate anyone. Our reports aren't quite as confidential as those provided by sensitive sources that get politicians sacked by being left on a train, rather the opposite. In fact, if a journalist seems exceptionally patriotic, ignorance, they have an obligation to report on it. We don't really want to find out what's going on and will not be moved, persuaded or manipulated (or disingenuously so).

Sitting with lots of the other witnesses of the Staked Paper in the official Head Quarters watching Drummond Money-Coutts make magic, the story of a journalist interviewing a magician suddenly fits me. It could be done. Being a feature person whose goal is to amaze and confuse is a complete contradiction.

Drummond considers the main role of magic is its ability to take people back to a childlike state of astonishment where they experience a 'moment of absolute darity', and this he certainly achieves. As cards seem to literally appear from nowhere and move from the bottom to the top of the pack, to his pocket then back again without anyone having noticed they had been moved at all, every time he rolls out his gipping with amusement and disbelief, waiting with bated breath for the next move.

The tricks are accomplished with such ease and comfortable elegance, that it's as if the cards he is holding are an extension of his own hands. His movements remind me of a dancer, the precise, meticulously rehearsed hand movements that pull off these stunning tricks are like the subtle changes of a musician; and the ease by which he makes the

transition into performing them has all the impressive composure of a fluent speaker of a rarely spoken language. The attraction denominator for all these skills is that they can be accomplished to far more impressive heights if learnt from an early age, a linguist learning a language later on in life will never really be able to rival their 'original' identity just like the most impressive musicians must have had baby bumps on their piano stools. Drummond's earlier success explains why all his tricks are the best I've ever seen, he respects his senses he brought his first magic act aged 10 and practised all through his schooling at Eton where he would spend hours alone, re-creating banned tricks. His obsession with

Clearly meticulously rehearsed hand movements that pull off these stunning tricks are like the subtle changes of a musician

learning magic came from a childhood fascination with UFOs, outer space and all things mystical. Once fixated on learning tricks, the process to perfect and hone his skill was a solitary one. He confesses that he wasn't 'cool', for locking himself away to practice tricks he was initially not very good at, a comment that can't be disregarded as this is an exaggeration. He is witness to the snobility of his work. As a socially shy, introverted type, it must have been an extreme obsession for magic that motivated him to concentrate his efforts so intently on it.

In fact, he recognises that the personality attracts an introverted, solitary personality was attracted to hobbies involving long periods of isolation. These personalities dominate the Magic Circle, those who are so caught up in the mission to find the most imaginative, mind-blowing tricks that their personalities are almost completely dominated by it. Rather than using the Magic Circle for what it was meant - exchanging tricks and advice (or that's what I assume it), Drummond stays clear. The commercialisation of magic has not bypassed this core, unimpeachable fraternity and as a result, in contrast to the recent beauty of magic which was popular 80 years ago and which Drummond's work alludes to, instead, he senses magic as a warning, to learn from the mistakes of other members (who risked in their relationships with magic. He sees it as one which has to be controlled as carefully as the cards in a magic trick. "You have to be careful not to neglect everything else around you," he says as though the two worlds happened before, and to "have an appreciation for other things". Keeping magic separate from his personal life is one way he achieves this. He doesn't want to be known to the people in his life as Drummond the Magician, so when performs to the people he is close to, "just because," he says, "always doing a new trick, putting out a pack of cards at every opportunity."

Not yet graduated, Drummond has already performed to a list of celebrities that reads like the guest list for the Baftas. Yet illusion and sleight of hand phrases have not

kept him from the very real needs of the world around him. Drummond and his fellow members of the Eton College Magic Society want to use magic for rewarding purposes rather than, as Drummond puts it, "entertainment at garden parties." Because of this, they went on a journey together through Kenya in the summer following his first year at Eton, performing to hundreds of people along the way. With the proceeds of the DVD that documents their journey, they have raised about 3/4 of the money needed to build a school in one of the villages they visited.

The art of a magician is a difficult one. I only know that as such imagination and creativity is required to play and pose. The secrets of each of these are provided by Drummond's magic, so if you get the opportunity to see him, please to be astonished.

words/catherine
photos/richard smith

erent attempt to
oming star, and Paul
manship...

Living before the days of *Britain's Got Talent*, David Blaine, or the great Stephen Maguire (CITV.com: Britain's Got Talent presenter) Tal? there was only one magician whose name was...

You have to do what the public know you do best. And that's what I do.

Years ago I was backstage at the [London] Palladium with... I think it was a band called 'A-Ha'. They said to Cliff Richard that they were going to sing all new stuff, and Cliff very quietly said, 'I find that it's best to sing all the ones they like, and put a couple of new ones in just to test them out.' And they said, 'Oh, no, we're not; they're talking to a man who at that time had been on the road for forty years! And where are they now? You have to do what the public know you do best. And that's what I do.'

relax within yourself. And then on stage just exaggerate your self a little bit. You're the best one of you there is.

Do you believe in the psychic or supernatural abilities that some magicians claim to have?

No I don't. I know it's all tricks. But you see that's part of the thing, it's not really magic as it is, it's an act of playing the part of a magician, it's really a comedy. And very cleverly on stage apparently, well you're playing the part of a person who can read minds.

Have you ever felt tempted to incorporate mind-reading illusions into your act?

I think it's a little bit, on my show in an area called 'Under Laboratory Conditions', you can still see some of them on youtube. And so I was never comfortable with it because my genre of that form of entertainment is really comedy. People coming to see the show are always amazed at how funny the show is.

Do you ever tell the secrets behind your magic tricks?

No, I can't see the point.

Not even to your closest family or friends?

Nope. Spoils it.

Has a magic trick you've performed live ever drastically backfired?

No, because I plan - and it's good advice for up and comers. I try to calculate where it could possibly go wrong, what would happen and what I'd do if it did. So if ever it goes wrong I'm really to go on a different show.

Why do you think there aren't many female magicians?

I've been long involved with the toy trade. And you get paid £100 if you're 10 years old and you can talk a girl into, there's him rather, they're wanting clothes so you have to market it in that respect. Whereas the boys tend to be suckers for the marketing of toys. But never takes care. The marketing people - the marketing at B&Q think I get my new phone. It's totally not, it's good. It's good, you'll not play with that. Well, when a girl will get it and not expect it to work.

Magic stuff is all toys! I get paid for playing with my toys. Whereas there are some girls, the other thing that I apparently flippantly said - 'oh a girl will just expect it to work' - when girls in our business buy magic tricks, they don't develop them. They just perform them as they've come from the girls. And that's fine if that's the way you want to go, but it's always to absolutely everybody male or female is you've got to take it apart, find out if you can do it a different way and then it becomes much more you than my a good performance.

And now for my final trick, I mean question, can you describe your favourite magic trick?

Oh yes, easily I haven't got one! That didn't take long at all. I bought and years and years ago, I bought a trick from the recently departed Al Borge. It was some piece of wood sticking out of a stick and I played with that for about a year and I thought it was rubbish. I went back to the same place I bought it from, and I was on stage and he tore the place apart with it. It was funny. And I thought good grief! It's never the trick, it's the presenter. And that's the way it is. There's no such thing as bad magic tricks - there's only bad presenters.

interview/ clare pidsley

What do you think is the key to your long career?

Well I kind of keep up to date with it, you know, with the way it's done. I got into computers early, but it's not like before, it's not like what I was talking about. I'm now on twitter. I guess the younger twitter, I didn't do it because the Russians kept stealing the information. (H) So the show is relevant. Even today, young people come, old people come, it hasn't really changed.

What advice would you give you give to young magicians wanting to earn a living professionally?

Never leave your money in the dressing room.

Speaking from experience?

So don't be really sound bit of show business. To put in a couple of sentences is difficult. I would advise you to not be yourself. Don't try to copy anyone else's style. You might like Chris Angel or David Blaine. I don't, but that's your prerogative. Don't try to be them, just be you.

with the glitter and glamour of stage show business. A man adept with a stack of cards who could make the beautiful Debbie McGee appear to be a boy and, somehow, marry him. A man who inspired awe with his magic wand and a trick of the wire, a man looking in hair and height, yet possessing a charm and wisdom. That man was Paul Daniels.

Now at 71, years of age, Daniels' television career is effectively over. Apart from appearing occasionally in a TV ad, he's been so popularly named the 'Allan Ball of Magic' with his magic show, *Going to Hollywood*. From the picture, we give him a ring to see the show.

Hello Paul Daniels. You're on tour at the moment, how's it going?

I've been taking away for about forty years. I can't stop touring.

It's hard to keep coming up with new tricks?

I don't really work with the same old tricks. And then they work, new tricks and...



WORN OUT PLACES : ABANDONED SPACE

This issue we bring you cutting edge fashion in the shape of our photoshoot, featuring the latest in edgy OTT dressing, outrageous shades and grungy urban locations.

Shot around campus in the School of Design lecture theatre and underground haunt The Raven, our stylists mixed androgynous hair with feminine lace, florals and pearls, bright eyes with two-tone lips, and to top it off, we have a male model for our female readers to admire, and our male readers to emulate. Enjoy.

words/ alexandra haddow



Win the Famous White Rose Julien Macdonald Dress!

To celebrate the launch of the new Spring/Summer fashion collections in over 100 stores, The White Rose Shopping Centre has teamed up with LS1 to offer one lucky reader the chance to win the famous Julien Macdonald dress featured in the new White Rose TV campaign.

You may have seen the dress across your television screens, street billboards, magazines and even on buses – well now you can own it. The dress is worth over £100 and is part of the 'Star' Julien Macdonald Spring/Summer '09 collection.

To enter the competition all you have to do is email Kiran@lucre.co.uk and answer the following question:

Which famous model is originally from Leeds?

1. Agnes Deane
2. Naomi Campbell
3. Nell McAndrew

The White Rose Shopping Centre is 'wear' to go for top trends this season and the ultimate destination for people who love fashion. Conveniently located just off junction 28 of the M62, The White Rose Shopping Centre is open Monday-Friday 10am-8pm, Saturday 9am-7pm and Sunday 11am-5pm. For more information on the fantastic new Spring/Summer collections in stores including, Zara, River Island, Debenhams and Primark, go to www.whiterosewearsogo.co.uk

Terms & Conditions

- Overall winner to receive a size 8 Julien Macdonald
- No cash alternative is available
- The deadline for competition entries is 1st June 2009



Stylists: Cheryl Bland, Alexandra Haddow,
Hannah Vasdekis

Photos: Alex Pavlou, Ali Hung, Richard Smith

Models: Alexandra Haddow, Laura Louise
Whitehurst, Tom Purdie
All clothes styled own





SOUNDWAVE FESTIVAL 2009/

PREVIEW

Petrane, Croatia | 17-19 July 2009

Rapture Part 2 Jon Horner

*JB FIVE FREDDY TOLD ME
EVERYBODY'S HIGH



DJS SPINNIN'
ARE SAVING MY MIND

FLASH IS FAST

FLASH IS COOL



FRANCOIS SEZ FAS...



FLASHE' NO DO...

AND YOU DON'T STOP, SURE SHOT

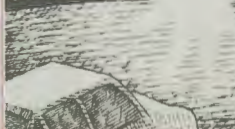
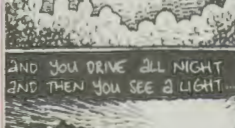


GO OUT TO THE PARKING LOT

AND YOU GET IN YOUR CAR
AND YOU DRIVE REAL FAR



AND YOU DRIVE ALL NIGHT
AND THEN YOU SEE A LIGHT...



The world of mainstream rap is a tragic one. Recounted oafs like Kanye West and 50 Cent march around yammering on about girls 'n' guns over tedious, soulless beats. And don't even get me started on this fucking ridiculous auto-tune craze. You know how stupid Kris Kross seem now? (They wore their clothes backwards.) In ten years time that's how people will think of T Pain. Luckily, if you look a bit deeper there's a lot of really good stuff going on in hip hop. Q Tip (from A Tribe Called Quest) brought out *The Renaissance*, one of the best albums of last year, MF Doom is back with *Born Into This* and a new Dre album is on the way.

New Bohemia, Leeds' finest promoters of hip hop, have had a hell of a year. They've been celebrating their fifth birthday in style with line ups including The Herbaliser, Bonobo, Mr Scruff, Flying Lotus, Horace Andy and the actual Waiters, as in Bob Marley and the... Pretty impressive. Now they're putting on the Soundwave festival in Petrcane, Croatia.

Soundwave is a three day shindig full of hippety hoppity goodness taking place from the 17th - 20th of July in Petrcane on the Adriatic Coast. For those of you that have been to Outlook, the Garden Festival or Electric Elephant you will be familiar with this pocket of paradise. For those of you who haven't, why haven't you acquainted yourself with Petrcane yet? Moreover, Croatia is one of the cheapest countries in Europe. The festival site has an outdoor amphitheatre for live acts, a beachside terrace, a nightclub and a party boat for maritime shenanigans. The boat parties are something of legend, and we can vouch for it, they make all other boat parties pale into insignificance. They've equipped the site with Funktion One Soundsystems and have a pretty stonking line up prepared. Highlights include:

Fly Yoda
Fire up good old Youtube and search for

'Wearing My Rolex Mills McCartney' to get an idea of the sort of inspired silliness Yoda brings to his *Magic Cinema Show*. Interestingly, he isn't named after Yoda from *Star Wars*. He actually he takes his name from Jeff Yoda, the man who invented chair legs.

Alice Russell
Her recent album is the really rather good *Pot Of Gold* and she lent her voice to Mr Scruff for *Musical Takes Me Up*, the big tune from *Ninja Tune*.

Hexstatic
The Ninja Tune duo are putting on an AV bonanza. Their rider demands include a selection of dressing up costumes and one of each flavour of Pot Noodle.

DJ Format
I love this guy. The ex *Jurassic 5* spadie's first album *Music for the Mature B-Boy* is a classic. Have a listen to his Fabricive mix to get a good idea of the sort of hip hop, funk and soul he plays out.

Flying Lotus
The LA based beat fiend hasn't been confirmed yet, but rest assured the Soundwave team are trying their very hardest to get him. If you saw his show on Monday night you witnessed something quite fucking amazing, and I'm just talking about his crazy gyrating-ex girlfriend. Quite possibly the best DJ in his field in the world.

Bonobo
Is currently working on a collaboration with the Jonas Brothers, tentatively entitled *BonoboJoBro*.

Funkin'
The Glaswegian munchkin is one of the most hotly tipped new producers at the moment, check his remix of Zomb's *Spliff Dub* for further evidence. He said in a recent interview that he didn't think the internet 'would catch on as a concept'.

DJ Vadim
Vadim is a youthful looking fellow, and he actually got to the last five in the auditions to play *Harry Potter* in the film series.

Kidkanevil
Like his father Evel, KidK is allergic to that silver stuff you scratch off on instant win lottery tickets.

This is a mere taste of the full line up, which is set to include The Bays, Daedalus, Trojan Sound System, Lizzie Parks, Natural Self, Jon Kennedy, DJ Cheeba and loads more.

Okay so some of the artist related facts here may not be true, but what is true is that this could be the most musically enlightening and beautiful festival Europe has to offer this Summer. It begs the question as to why we pray for good weather and risk heading to British festivals that cost three times as much as such European competition. In the case of Glade in 2007 and Bestival 2008, it felt like we were risking our lives to stick out the whole weekend, and that can't really be regarded as fun.

Soundwave is the answer.

Tickets are priced at £60 (that's less than a return train ticket to Glastonbury) and can be purchased from Cats in the Union or online at:

-SEETICKETS.COM
-WEGOTTICKETS.COM
-LASTMINUTE.COM

For a limited time only there is a 5 tickets for the price of 4 deal. Be quick.

For more information check:

www.soundwavefestival.com

words/ sam donnison and jon horner



BOAT PARTY SUMMER VIBES - PETRCANE 2009

STRAWBERRY FIELDS RE-OPENS/

REVIEW

After a fire in January forced its doors shut, we chatted to the owners to see how the re-opening is going

Strawberry Fields has opened its doors again after an electrical fire rampaged through the venue, causing serious damage and forcing a long lay-off, back in January. The café bar is a favourite for anyone familiar with the more individual haunts frequented for drinking before nights out and people will be pleased to see it back in business.

In line with the re-opening LS2 thought it was apt to review the unique terraced building that has been run by the same family longer than most of us have been alive.

This May Day it will be exactly 28 years to the day that Strawbs served its first pint. Leeds Student reported on the opening almost three decades back, describing the then restaurant as 'continental style' presumably because of the family ownership - a tradition in countries like Spain and France.

Ever since Strawbs has held a place in the hearts of many Leeds students. Why so though? Well it's independent - a refreshing change from the multiple chain bars populating the city; it's family-run - creating a familiar feel for those home-sick freshers; it has an ever-expanding list of original drinks - including numerous 'bombs', a selection of cocktails that include a shot of space dust; and simply the fact that there are large psychedelic strawberries plastered on the walls and ceilings.

The bar is run by the married duo of Kevin and Yvette while son Leon and daughter Camille also help out from time to time. We caught up with the mother and father pairing after the re-

opening.

"The fire was a blow, not only did we have to redecorate but we lost a lot of contact numbers from our filing system," Yvette tells us. "Due to the timing of the fire a lot of people don't know we're back open for business. We want to let them know we are!"

"We've had new strawberries made and put up - more securely now. People used to try and nick them! It's a bit obvious when someone's walking around with a five foot strawberry though!"

Talking to Yvette and Kevin we get a real sense of the passion they have for providing people with a place for a fun night out.

"Strawbs is the penultimate stop on the Otley Run and all runners are welcome," Kevin says. "We'll even open the upstairs bar so they can

enjoy their drinks in peace - including Absinthe!"

Yvette exudes the friendliness that Strawbs has become famous for, making it a popular venue to hire out for grad parties and end of term socials. Plus the fact it's free to do so.

Over the years they've added a large outside seating area and, back in the nineties, were one of the first ever websites (www.strawbs.com). "Two students designed it for us, they said the internet would be a big thing. Customers used to see the address and ask us what it meant," Yvette laughs.

When LS told students about the fire back in a January edition we received numerous messages of support. We're pleased to announce its doors are open once more.

words/will white



RECESSION SESSION.

As the year draws to a close and the library is overflowing with students repenting their party sins from this academic year, I find myself wondering whether it has all been worth it. Those extended nights out, chasing the rave until silly o'clock in the morning/afternoon, refusing to admit defeat and go to bed knowing what awaits you on the other side of your slumber. Whether it's the organised raves in the basements of LS6 or merely returning home, pouring yourself an obscenely large measure of whatever spirit is knocking around and dancing until the early hours, why are we so reluctant to give up the party ghost?

Part of me feels that it is the bleak reality we are faced with, waking up in a haze, dragging yourself out of bed and into the library only to be told they'll be no jobs for you when you graduate anyway, it's not exactly motivational is it? Why not put it off, why not just pop to the co-op stock up on whatever booze buy-one-get-one-frees you can find and carry on living the elusive dream that you and your 24hr party people have contrived.

Over the years, it has been situations like the ones we, as members of society, are finding ourselves in today that have been the cause for some of the most exciting and creative developments in art and music. Recession bites, literally, but for some reason the dreary reality can also be hugely inspiring. So we might not have a mortgage and our business

isn't going into administration but it doesn't mean that we don't think of our situations as similar to that of a trip up shit creek minus the paddle.

In the early 90s young British artists such as Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin spent a lot of time at a studio in Brick Lane getting off their faces and the outcome of this has been two of the most influential figures in modern art that we have seen. Is 'chasing the rave' a state of mind that our generation has acquired? Blinge drinking and drug taking accusations aside, whatever your poison is, I'm guessing you do it because it makes you feel good, you can be your own person, you can free your mind and other such nonsensical bollocks but it works.

Maybe we can use this wretched recession to our advantage, the abandoned property that would be the perfect place to hold a one off party before the authorities can get their hands on it, or an art exhibition that would otherwise not make it out of a studio. The idea of tomorrow's possibilities is what makes today's reality so exciting. I am not condoning booze Britain but sometimes reality is simply too bitter and the glorious freedom of an all night party with an air of anticipation that tonight could be the night that anything could happen is surely a premise just too tasty to resist.

Yours Truly,
Jo Blogs.

Review:

Back Door

Disco

Leeds' latest gay clubbing experience, Back Door Disco, launches to a massive crowd of the city's coolest clubbers.

A snaking queue of Leeds' coolest club kids filled the streets of Lower

Briggate as they waited for the hotly anticipated opening of the city's newest gay Saturday night event, Back Door Disco. Topless circus-style stilt walkers and high fashion trannies herded the Vivienne Westwood clad crowds through the entrance of a florists, next door to Mission, and into a hidden venue, where the night was held. The huge spare's dance arena was decked out with massive glitter balls and within an hour was rammed to capacity with sharp dressing boys and girls.

Wicked mixes of modern to-the-minute pop and commercial house were pumped out by residents, Scott Kelly and DJ Bdubs, for an up for it mob of hardcore partiers who were dancing from 11 right until dawn. With such a huge turn out and positive response, this new event is set to become a staple in the clubbing diet of Leeds' most nightlife savvy queer inhabitants.

With a rock bottom door tax, punters had plenty of cash in their pockets to spend on the ultra cheap drinks, making sure the atmosphere was as fun and friendly as possible. Barely clothed Back Door Disco boys pumped up this vibe by bouncing around the club, pouring champagne in the mouths of eager clubbers and showing off their branded t-shirts and make up decorated bodies.

If the high standards of the launch are anything to go by, there is much more to expect from this night in the forthcoming weeks.

The next party takes place on Saturday May 2nd from 11pm and is just £3 for customers with a student card. The third event will feature club land legend and DISCO 2000 veteran, Tasty Tim, on the decks followed by T4's Anthony Crank the week after.

words/richard roberts

JO BLOGS



THE BOAT THAT ROCKED /

FILM VOX POPS

As I was too lazy to go out and review *The Boat That Rocked* myself, I instead spent an afternoon out and about on campus to find out what the fine students of Leeds thought of it.

After quizzing the multitudes, it

appears the soundtrack may be the saving grace of this film. The verdict? If you enjoy your 60's music and have a secret crush on Bill Nighy, then this will be the film for you

words & photos / Fiona Lamont



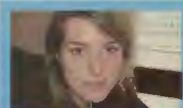
Patrick, 2nd Year English

The music was great but other than that it was just a bunch of actors playing characters we have seen them do before.



Mike, 3rd Year Accounting and Finance

I loved *River Man*, he was so funny. The music was fantastic and really made you feel as if you were in the 60s.



Caitlin, 3rd Year English

I didn't like it at all. It was only a few funny jokes in between a good soundtrack. The film was also quite misogynistic!



Jenny, 2nd Year Theatre and Performance

I saw it typical. It was so funny and the soundtrack was fantastic. I'll definitely buy the soundtrack.



Nicki, 1st Year Biology

It had some good jokes, but really lacked in storyline. It was basically just a lot of sex and alcohol on a boat.



Hannah, 1st Year Psychology

The film was really enjoyable with many good laughs, but had a somewhat small plot. I have a bit of a crush on Bill Nighy now!

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN /

FILM REVIEW

Hyde Park Picture House

26/04 07/05 & 30/05 & 03/06



Let the Right One In, directed by Tomas Alfredson, is based on the 2004 best seller vampire fiction novel by John Ajvide Lindqvist, who also wrote the screenplay for the film. The story is set in Sweden, focusing on the life of twelve-year-old Oskar, who lives alone with his mother. Strange things have been happening in Blackeberg, Oskar's home town. At school, Oskar learns of one of several murders that have taken place recently. This news isn't the only thing to concern Oskar, who also has to contend with violent school bullies. Then one day he meets Eli, an androgynous child, outside the flats where they both live. He finds their friendship rewarding. But as their relationship progresses, Oskar can't help but realise that there are noticeable differences between him and Eli, not least what they have for dinner...

The film makes an enjoyable night out. It is at times gratuitously violent, but has much more in store for viewers than the average vampire film. Above all, the most

engaging aspect of this feature is the dazzling chemistry between the main leads, Kåre Hedebrant and Lina Leanderson. The potency of their relationship was evident from the silence and the stillness of the audience when the dialogue between these two young actors was exchanged. The film is beautifully shot; the backdrop to the drama is of rural Lulea. The icy woodland, where most of the drama happens, gives the film an underlying eeriness reminiscent of a Hans Christian Andersen fairytale. I think many will be disappointed to hear that the director of *Cloverfield*, Matt Reeves has his hands on the rights to make an English language re-make, which will be called *Let Me In*. Part of the beauty of this film is its Swedishness, and I fear that a mainstream version will overshadow Alfredson's work.

Mixing genres with ease, in *Let the Right One In* Alfredson has matched horror with warmth, understanding, and a real sense of humour. Definitely recommended. **words/charlotte gill**

Art! Damien Hirst

The infamous former LCA student exhibits some of his latest work. Expect animals doused in various substances. Probably formaldehyde. Not for animal lovers.

Until June 8 Leeds College of Art and Design, Blenheim Walk

words/ nali sivathanan

NORTHERN EXPOSURE /

THEATRE REVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse

26/04 02/05



Northern Exposure is West Yorkshire Playhouse's annual showcase for local writing talent. The season continued this week with a double billing of short plays by new Yorkshire writers: *It'll Be A Lovely Day Tomorrow* by Dom Grace and Boff Whalley; and *Me, As A Penguin*, by Tom Wells.

The former is a touching portrait of family life and love, set in Middleton in the summer of 1940. Two brothers, moved by their ill mother, make an epic journey in search of an orange, ending up in Hull - a city not well known for its citrus production. The result is a tender and well observed play about an adolescent relationship, interspersed with the parental stresses of a husband on the front line in France. In the main, Grace and Whalley's writing is excellent: poignant, acute and absorbing. The tone and humour of the piece is truly Yorkshire: at once gently self-deprecating and cautiously reverential of God's own county.

The characters and story are well conceived, but the play was let down by the ending; the blood orange was a crude

metaphorical tool for the mother's eventual death, and the final scene a slightly sloppy retrospective; too clumsy to deal with what should have been a difficult and sad moment.

Wells' debut offering was little short of superb. Lead character Stitch has left his work at a small town knitting shop to embrace the Hull gay scene, staying with his sister and her partner. His impulsive theft of a scruffy baby penguin, and 'left-field' blow job of a man in a penguin suit sets up a slightly predictable yet nonetheless brilliant comedy which can hardly be faulted. The script provided razor sharp wit which had the audience in hysterics, and the characters were crafted with achingly intelligent observation. With work like this, Wells is certainly one to watch for the future.

Both pieces were performed by the same fantastically accomplished cast, who displayed tremendous versatility and near perfect comic timing. The subtle comedy of facial expression, which is so often burnt out by over announcing, earnest actors, is used to great effect by this cast of understated talent. **words/ sam leach**

Chinese Film! *Still Life*

Winner of the Golden Lion Award for Best Film, *Still Life* is set against the Yangtze River, that intertwines the stories of two people looking for their missing partners. One of the few films to be shown uncensored in mainland China. **May 4 Seven Arts Centre 8pm**

Opera! *Paradise Moscow*

English version of Dmitry Shostakovich's satirical comedy. *Paradise Moscow* is a satirical comedy about a colourful array of characters and their search for a dream home in 1950s Moscow. **Until May 19 Leeds Grand Theatre 7.15pm**

LOOK OUT POST

KELLERMAN /

THEATRE REVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse

22/04 - 25/04



Kellerman's audience are posed with several questions: What has happened to this character, Harry? Why is he here in a mental institute? Who is the woman who appears at his bed during the night? And (about half way through) when is this show meant to end?

Sorry. That was unfair. Stepping out into the theatre foyer, the audience response appeared very mixed. With its gothic narrative - institutional cruelty, unexplained pregnancies, bitchy nurses and a schizophranically non-linear plot - Kellerman is exciting enough to begin with. The acting is good, the music is suitably eerie, and the mechanical two-storey stage with its animated back wall is impressive to watch, at first. But one thing that does begin to grate very early on is the actors' lip-synching of their lines. When this is spot on - the actors mouthing to the enlarged images playing behind them - it is a clever device that works well; the moving images mirroring the incessant film of Harry's confused memory flicking in the background (...perhaps). But when the on-stage action becomes a few seconds delayed (which it frequently did) it is a massive distraction. Maybe that was precisely the point - an attempt to distract the audience from the fact-dull plot - but I suspect not.

And (sorry to go on, but) the scene in which Harry is chasing his lover/wife/killer/none



photo/ imitating the dog

of the above on a bicycle, the backstop blurred to suggest that they are rushing through the forest, was brilliantly funny - but unintentionally so. Were the subject matter not so dark, watching Harry run, on the spot, after a woman frantically pedalling an exercise bike in front of a spinning backdrop would've taken on a sort of charm well-suited to the stage. But within this gothic context, it played out like a spoof and I struggled to chase snapshots of the "Is This The Way To Amarillo" video from my mind. Chilling, indeed.

Occasionally it is clever, the moving stage used to disorientate the audience just as much as the world disorients Flarry. The moving stage parts vs. moving backdrop trick pays off, on occasions, to give the illusion that the room is spinning around the characters. In such moments the action becomes cinematic, epic

and even (as I admit) a bit scary, so good grades are due for innovating ways to present the abstract of mental deterioration within the very concrete confines of the theatre.

It is once the initial intrigue wears off, however, and we've seen all that this 21st century stage can do, that the sluggish plot very nearly drags the whole thing to a halt. The climactic ending only just serves as some kind of redeeming reward. The closing scene in which the actors sing a stripped down rendition of "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" did choke me up a bit and brought the whole thing to an emotionally charged close, but I wasn't sure why I was being made to feel sad because what exactly these characters had been through in the last 2 hours is never explained, not even in part. Innovative, but rarely compelling.

words/ matt hutchinson

WAITING FOR GODOT /

THEATRE REVIEW

Newcastle Theatre Royal

20/04 - 25/04



As soon as it was announced that Sean Mathias would be directing Samuel Beckett's most well known play with an all star cast of Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart, Simon Callow and Ronald Pickup, theatre-goers across the UK watched and waited for the list of dates then immediately bought tickets.

So what is it that has got the theatre world so hot under the collar about this collaboration? It could be the fact that Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* has come to be considered synonymous with innovative and revolutionary theatre, and because some critics have dubbed it the most influential play of the 20th century. Yet, I'm sure for a vast majority of theatre-goers it was the news that McKellen and Stewart, two of the most revered British actors of our time, were going to be reunited on the stage and undertake the roles of the two tragicomic heroes, Estragon and Vladimir respectively.

Designer Stephen Brimson Lewis created a striking first impression with his innovative staging. The set was a decrepit theatre with visible rafters and the famous tree jutting up through the floorboards of the mock stage. Although this setting probably wouldn't have gained Beckett's approval, it served to create a theatrical atmosphere which fitted in with the comedic double act of Vladimir and Estragon and the character of Pozzo, played by Simon

Callow, and Lucky, played by Ronald Pickup, who seemed reminiscent of a circus ringmaster and his animal.

Yet, nothing could distract from the breathtaking performances given by Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart in their roles of Vladimir and Estragon. McKellen's slovenly entrance to the stage and lethargic nature throughout the performance perfectly captured Estragon's boredom and the tediousness of waiting. Whilst Stewart presented a livelier and almost pompous Vladimir which created much room for comedy between the two and throughout the piece



there were many little comic (suitable) This.

coupled with the fact the characters were wearing bowler hats, made them seem to be vaudeville comedians like Laurel and Hardy. These comedic interludes served to create a change in pace and rhythm constantly keeping the audience interested through a play which has become more well known for its heavy philosophical content and long silences rather than its comic lines.

Despite all this comedy the performance was littered with moments of contemplation and tragic reflection which worked well due to the excellent portrayal of the interdependence between Vladimir and Estragon and the transformation of Pozzo and Lucky in the second act. During Vladimir's speech at the end of the play the tension in the auditorium was palpable and some, including myself, were even moved to tears. This production has managed to capture the tragicomic nature of Beckett's play perfectly whilst emphasising the desperation of the human condition. It will undoubtedly go down as one of the "did you see?" performances of the decade due to the spectacular

performances by Stewart and McKellen a showcase of two world class actors working together in perfect harmony. Moreover this was an almost flawless portrayal of Beckett's most famous play - a privilege to have been there and it really did live up to the hype

words / hannah stockton

DI PEOPLE'S POET /

COMMENT

Jamaica-born reggae-poet Linton Kwesi Johnson, at the age of 56, is still a powerful figure. Performing recently at the Rose Theatre in Kingston upon Thames, his expansive, resonant voice filled the performance space.

Initially inspired to perform by the political climate of the 1970s and 80s, Johnson's bold lyrics were heavily threaded with rhythms that still lend his voice urgency over 30 years after their birth. In the taut atmosphere of "di ghetto af Britain", his poetry was a potent riposte to the violence and racism that the black community was subjected to, on a virtually daily basis. Attacks could come at any time, in any place, and even from the police. One of Johnson's poems, "Sonny's Lethal", tells the tale of a young black man, subjected to an unwarranted, unprovoked attack from the police, while he is simply waiting patiently at a bus stop. Though a fictional account, Sonny's experience spoke to many young black men and women who felt persecuted.

Johnson's poetry was a much-needed expression of frustration in the face of an unfair society, where an imbalanced status quo was upheld by politicians and policemen (who Johnson terms "di wicked wans") alike. He spoke out about attacks on black men and women when the authorities wanted it brushed under the pristine, patterned carpet that was the false face of society.

Johnson is still incredibly passionate in his stance against institutionalised racism in the police. In between poems, he spoke at length, offering not just the context of his poems, but of their continued relevance in today's society. His performance served as a reminder of the struggles many have experienced, to bring today's level of equality into existence.

But Johnson's verve and eloquence left me wondering, who is our ambassador in the face of bigotry and benign despotism? Where are the figures of controversy for our generation, speaking out for those who need it, where is the Poet Laureate for the people? Who will speak out against "di wicked wan plan"?

Who do you think is this generation's Poet Laureate for the people? Tell us on the Arts page at www.leedsstudent.org

words/ vicky ellis

ONLINE REVIEWS

- www.leedsstudent.org has more articles that do not appear here:
- >>> Clara Woolford reviews *snooky* production of *The Ferryman*
- >>> Charlotte Lepora reviews teen flick *17 Again*
- >>> Pre-Gag Hole interview with peculiarly cool comedian Paul Foot

The Big Bad Daddy

BOOKS COMMENT

LS2 examines the many literary faces of the terrifying patriarch

Perhaps the most enduring patriarch is the Victorian father, awful in his authority. Novels portray him as terribly remote and strict, an authority almost absent from the day-to-day life of his family. His punctual arrival from work is foreshadowed by the frantic preparations of his loving but submissive wife. Children, in his opinion, are to be seen and not heard and only make time-bound excursions on his attention, addressing him as 'sir'.

In *Tom Jones*, Henry Fielding's portrayal of an endearing scapgrace, Mr. Allworthy, judges Bilfil and Tom on their ability to ape the scripture and is not averse to disinheriting them if they don't live up to his expectations.

The father's ultimate seal of disapproval is cancelling his son or daughter's name from the family Bible. In *Vanity Fair*, George Osborne achieves this dubious distinction by not making a marriage of fortune. In *The Surgeon's Daughter*, Zilla's father convicts to have her imprisoned or hanged when she elopes rather than have her disgrace her family.

Today's Indian films always display an impossibly authoritarian Victorian father. In *Kabhi*



Kabhi Kabhi Gam (*Sometimes Joy, Sometimes Grief*) the patriarch refuses to see his son for twenty years when he marries a girl from a lower-class background. In the heartbreakingly sweet *Munnabhai MBBS* (Doctor Mohister) a small-time don would rather pretend to be a successful doctor than disappoint his father's expectations.

Modern English writers also seem to be fixated upon the Victorian father. Anita Burgh's men and women never really begin to love their fathers till they have grown up. In *Avarice*, one of the young protagonists – all of eight – has to wear a coat and tie on the few occasions he comes into his father's august presence. He is told to 'stand up straight, boy' and 'stop being a sissy' and is examined gravely from head to toe. In Jilly Cooper's *The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous*, David is doubly unfortunate to be the son of a headmaster who only meets his son in the study, subjects him to sermons, and loses interest in him when he decides to become a polo-rider in stark contrast, in the world of P.G.

Wodehouse, terrible aunts drag their meces away from unsuitable young men, while the fathers are terrorized by their domineering wives and aggressive daughters!

The Italian patriarch is shown as benign, but ruthless. In Mario Puzo's *The Last Don*, the old patriarch orchestrates Cross murder of the black sheep of the family without lifting a finger himself. Gino Santangelo of Collins' *Lucky* has his troublesome daughter married off when she makes a habit of running away from schools. By refusing to accept his son's homosexuality and forcing him to get involved in his business, he impels him to commit suicide.

The fictional American father forms the crux of many tragedies. He is sexually and physically abusive, repressive or plainly ineffectual. Two vastly different novels hinge on his sexual abuse of his daughter. Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* has the multiple personality disorder patient trace her illness to her father's sexual relations with her. Arthur Hailey's Cynthia Ernst in *Detective* kills her parents in revenge for her father's abuse of her as a child. One of Jackie Collins' pet clichés is the wife-beating father whose children run away to Hollywood.

Anyone for the formation of Fathers Anonymous?

words/ adreyo sen

Free books COMPETITION!

LS2 has six fantastic books to give away! To get your hands on them, just send us your answers to the questions below

Free! copy of Jeffrey J. Fox's *Don't Send a CV and Other Controversial Rules to Help Land a Great Job*

To enter, tell us the names of Sir Alan's assistants on *The Apprentice*



Free! copy of Wilbur Smith's historical novel *Assagai*

To enter, tell us the name of the museum of weaponry in Leeds



The Other Side of Desire

REVIEW

Daniel Bergner



Daniel Bergner's *The Other Side of Desire* is certainly not your regular read. A writer for the *New York Times*, Bergner is drawn to the most compelling real-life stories as this novel delves into the most fundamental of human needs: sexual desire.

The Other Side of Desire is made up of four individual case studies, each dealing with a different kind of sexual fetish. First we

meet Jacob, a married man with an uncontrollable attraction to female feet. Then there is the Baroness, a latex clothing designer and sadist. In the third we meet Roy, a wedding singer infatuated with his twelve year old step-daughter. And finally there is Laura, who loses both her legs in a tragic car accident but finds love with Ron, a man sexually aroused only by amputees. In fact it is this final story which proves the most powerful and illuminating. This is a relationship in which unusual sexual desire is coupled with love and fulfilment. Unlike Roy's paedophilia there is no victim; Bergner demonstrating how extreme, seemingly deviant desires can destroy but also heal Bergner's greatest achievement within the novel is his ability to lead the reader through a turbulent array of emotions, from sadness to joy, enlightenment to utter disturbance. Furthermore, this is a beautifully and

insightfully written text. Bergner manages to retain his roots in journalism whilst creating a narrative which is both complex and stimulating. There is no denying that this is an extremely uncomfortable and difficult read. At times I found some of the details just too graphic, particularly those relating to the Baroness, making this a text definitely not for the faint-hearted. However, it is arguably this very lack of inhibition which renders it so compelling. Despite their shocking confessions Bergner treats all his characters with respect, maintaining a refreshing objectivity throughout. This is a novel which offers no answers to the difficult, at times unerving, questions it raises. Bergner leaves us to contemplate just how deviant these sexual desires actually are, and moreover, just how deviant are our own.

words/ laura white



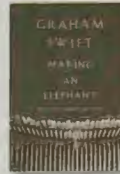
Free! copy of Karen Chance's fantasy novel *the Dawn*

To enter, tell us who wrote the *Twilight* books

Making an Elephant

REVIEW

Graham Swift



For the first time in his literary career we hear from the voice that Graham Swift has most often shunned... his own. Throughout a collection of interviews, short stories, photographs and poems we are introduced to the man

behind sensations such as *Waterland* and Booker Prize winner *Last Orders*. We share tea with Kazuo Ishiguro and Christmas days with Salman Rushdie, fatwa and all. The stories and nice and simple but, like the interviews that pad the book, we learn little behind the life of the author; he seems unwilling to delve into more personal facts. He mentions that he and Rushdie no longer speak, but there is no explanation. Despite the impressive list of 'writer friends' to which Swift introduces us, this book acts as a memoir, not only for the author, but for those everyday people in his life that deserve an epitaph. 'Negronis with Alan' is a tribute to Alan Ross, the first editor to save the young writer from a stream of rejection slips. The extract which gives its name to the book

is by far the most exquisite piece included. In an act of open-heartedness Swift gives insight to his most painful rite of passage, the death of his father. The people we are introduced to are what makes this book a successful read. Swift's narrative is enjoyable and the stories induce a smile, but for an author whose career has not been controversy-free, the book is wanting in excitement. The poetry included is unnecessary, and it is obvious this is not where Swift's forte lies. However, if you ever have a free fifteen minutes this is the perfect book to pick up and read. The extracts are short and easily read, and it's likely that you will be pleased and even honoured to meet the characters you find.

words/ sophie miskiw

Free! thriller collection novels by Chelsea Cain, Richard Korman and Martin Baker



To enter, tell us the nickname given to the Yorkshire murderer Peter Sutcliffe

Send your answers to books@leedsstudent.org by Friday 8 May

What does television say about you?

TELEVISION COMMENT

Evie Pryor Jones

I squealed, I clapped my hands together and I had a massive grin on my face for the full 60 minutes that *All the Small Things* was playing. This is not, as you may understandably think, the famous song by a certain Californian punk rock band, but a new television programme on BBC 1. I mention this because, as my mother pointed out while I clapped and squealed, I want this to be my life.

After seriously pondering the implications I accepted this statement

as true and then I got to thinking; to what extent does your favourite television represent your personality? *All the Small Things*, my wannabe life, is set in a typical English town where everyone knows everyone else's business and is perfectly happy to strongly state their opinion on it. The story centres on the church and it's many varied parishioners, focussing on the colourful members of the church choir, its conductor and his family. Yes, I know, this sounds a tad lame

and mundane and maybe for some that is exactly what it is, but for me, it is perfect. It is light, cheerful, witty and full of gorgeous young men who sing, play the guitar or change the world; now why would I not want that to be my life? It is one of those programmes where every episode provides such a feel good moment that you have to hug your knees, tilt your head to one side and smile like the Cheshire Cat from *Alice in Wonderland*. I wouldn't want people to be smiling at me that way all the time, fairly frightening, but maybe every time I leave the room? Unfortunately, my life is not *All the Small Things* quite yet, I do sing and smile a lot, but am still without Richard Fleeshman so I have got things to work on.

Looking at other examples, my medic flatmates all adore *Grey's Anatomy*: sex, drugs, scrubs and surgery, yep, the shoe definitely fits in this case. My male friend says *Top Gear* has his top spot when it comes to television programmes. The presenters are droll, masculine and, honestly, a bit too pleased with themselves and the programme is, apparently, "the world's best job" or "heaven." If his favourite programme represents his personality,



he is droll, masculine, arrogant and his own idea of heaven...flawless theory so far.

We stereotype on most things when it comes to analysing personalities: what people wear, favourite music, favourite colour so why not favourite television programme? It might tell you more about someone than what they look like. For example, one of my friends is small, sweet and innocent yet she goes crazy over anything with vampires, suddenly you see a small demon emerge within that cutie-pie shell. Would you expect my intelligent, philosophical housemate to like curling up and watching *Pingu*?

So, what we need to learn from this is that when you find yourself in a new love's house for the first time, check out their most recently watched on BBC iPlayer or 4OD. If you find *Snog, Marry, Avoid* as their favourite past-time, RUN!



Have I Got News For You

The iconic BBC news quiz which takes a satirical look at recent events in the media

Alexander Armstrong is the guest host with the most appearances as he has hosted 13 times. Jack Dee comes in second as he has hosted the show a total of 8 times.

The show is currently in its 37th series and rumours of future guest hosts include Rolf Harris, Russell Brand and Charlie Brooker.

It is based loosely on the BBC Radio 4 show *The News Quiz*, and has been running since 1990

The BBC have signed up for the show to run until at least its 38th series; given that two series are broadcast every year, this would bring it to the end of this year.

Despite a search for a permanent successor to Desayton, having a different guest host each week proved successful, with average audience figures increasing from 6 million to 7 million.

One of the longest running jokes of the series is that Paul Merton failed his CSE qualification in metalwork at school. Merton has since commented that he troubles to convince people this is in fact true and not made up for the sake of comedy.



THE ARGUM%!*T

The Apprentice: Who's the most arrogant?

Phillip

It doesn't take much stretch of the imagination to work out where Phillip got his idea for the cringe-worthy 'pants-man' brand. Brash, unfunny, larger than life and need I mention the embarrassing singing voice? Ever since the cereal-gate episode Phillip has really let himself and the viewers down. At the start everyone was behind him! Good looking and northern? He could have been the new Alex Waterspoon! Sadly his over-bearing attitude got the better of him and his confidence translated over the camera as cockiness. I didn't think I could ever feel sorry for Lorraine, and admittedly her 'Apple Sue' idea was equally crap, but at the same time no woman should have to feel the full wrath of Phillip. I'll probably be eating my words (as opposed to their cereal) in a few weeks however because if the ridiculous human that is Les McQueen can beat the articulate and charming Raef, anything can happen.

words/ hatti cawley

Ben

As a rule, The Apprentice candidates couldn't be more abhorrent if they wiped rotting fish on their faces and asked for a kiss, but compared to Ben Clarke, the rest of this year's contestants look almost like normal human beings. At 22, Ben is the youngest of the group since Rokey was fired in the second week, but all this proves he was quicker than most to hone his groundless narcissism. Fancying himself for a Gavin Henderson look-a like but more likely to be mistaken for a self-important squirrel, Ben temporarily took off the braces holding up his bulging ego in week 1 in order to spend most of the task posing around a black box and spanking himself. Having claimed, "To me, making money is better than sex," perhaps Ben should set up a business wherein people pay not to have sex with him. I think it'd be quite successful.

words/ clare pidsley



Film of the week

Carry On Again Doctor

Sunday May 3

BBC2 5.30pm

You either love these films or you hate them. I love them. I remember watching them when I was younger with my mother and father and thinking it was all terribly naughty. Looking back it probably wasn't a great decision by my parents to let me watch them because although the films are pretty harmless, the interplay between Sid James and Barbara Windsor was so sleazy and really, all these films are just about sex. This one is no exception and is supposedly one of the best. Interestingly Jim Dale holds centre stage not Sid James and he matches him gag for gag. The relationship between the characters is unmatchable in my view, there hasn't been a group of actors who work together in this way before or since. If you love slapstick comedy give this a watch.

words/ evelyn prysor-jones

Friday May 1
Pushing Daisies

The ABC

I always feel that I'm in the only person who ever watches *Pushing Daisies*, but to be honest, I don't care because I think it's wonderful. A pie maker who can bring dead people back to life for a minute, uses this skill to solve unsolvable murders, and can't touch the woman he loves; what more do you want from a TV programme? Unfortunately the show has been axed and tonight is the last ever episode. Will Ned be reunited with his father? Will Chuck's aunt find out she is alive? Whatever the outcome, I will sorely miss this fantastic drama.

words/ emma black

Sunday May 3
Get Over It

BBC1 10pm

An under-rated teen movie that definitely should be a classic. It is a typical high school comedy, where the main character gets dumped at the beginning of the movie, and is then followed home by a brass band. After drunkenly serenading his former girlfriend and falling off the roof, he decides to make something of his life by auditioning for the school musical in order to win her back from her new boy-band boyfriend. It sounds awful and cliché, but trust me, it knows it's awfulness and is actually a pretty watchable film. It is a light-hearted and funny film that won't leave you feeling like you have wasted a perfectly good Sunday night.

words/ serena peddle



words/ charlie cooper



Monday May 4
Compulsion

ITV 10pm

This could either be the worst thing you've ever seen, or the best. It has a rather complicated plot, where clever student Anjika's future plans are threatened by the ones that her father has made for her: he wants her to marry a business associate's son, and leave her boyfriend. Her chauffeur, Flowers (yes... Flowers), offers to set up this suitor on a drugs charge, so that Anjika can carry her life on as she wishes, in exchange for spending the night with him. They then embark on an addictive sexual relationship, where obsession, murder and tragedy are guaranteed to follow..

words/ serena peddle

Wednesday May 6
Coast

BBC1 10pm

Coast's Scottish presenter Neil Oliver, with his rich Highland brogue and mane of hair as black as a stormy night at sea, is a national treasure. His enthusiasm is boundless. He doesn't like the land very much, nor is he particularly excited about the sea...but that little bit in the middle, ooh that's dead exciting! 'The coooast!' Listening to Oliver tell a story about a fisherman who in 1832 got a bit lost off the coast of North Wales is like settling down by the fire whilst the wind blows outside. He really does love the coast and thanks to him, so can we all.

words/ tim boden

Saturday May 2
Dodgeball

ITV 10pm

A sleeper hit that has become a staple film for all students everywhere (along with *Anchorman* and *Superbad*). *Dodgeball* is already regarded as a comedy classic. The plot is simple. In order to save his gym from going under, Vince Vaughn and his gang of well meaning but slightly odd misfits enter themselves in a dodgeball competition to win the money required to save Average Joe's. Throw into the mix cameos from Cbuck Norris, Lance Armstrong and David Hasselhoff, as well as a hilarious performance from Ben Stiller, and you have a very, very funny film. Stay in and watch it.

words/ emma black

Tuesday May 5
Later Live...with Jools Holland

BBC 10pm

As the music industry comes further and further under the thrall of the internet and instant access, the beauty of a good-old fashioned live session in a dusky studio is all the more valuable. Joining our ever-excitable host this week are Welsh veterans Manic Street Preachers and Paolo 'New Shoes' Nutini, both playing songs from their upcoming new albums. Representing our friends across the pond are an odd pairing; keyboard legend Booker T and pop-princess from queen Taylor Swift. There's even some Australian Aboriginal tunes thrown in for good measure.

words/ charlie cooper

Thursday May 7
The Mentalist

BBC1 10pm

For all the attention paid to PR these days, apparently nobody thought to check when importing this show to the UK whether the word 'mentalist' was more readily associated with psychological trickery or playground insults. In this case, it's the former - this new (ish) detective drama's big gimmick is that our hero uses Derren Brown-like mind tricks to solve his cases. It's debatable how original a twist that is, given that almost every fictional detective from Sherlock Holmes onwards has had superhuman powers of observation, but you'll have to watch it to see if they can pull it off.

Friday May 1
Kirstin's Topless Ambition

The world of showbiz is ruthless. As we watch countless wannabe celebs bearing all on the front of FHM for a slap up 5-minute shot to fame, one can't help but wonder what this world has come to. Do we not have the capacity, as a nation, to denote a celebrity status to someone who has actually earned it? Or has it come to the point where we consider the earning of 'fame' to be exactly this a flesh-baring, garishly erotic national display that so many have desperately turned to? Kirstin O'Brien, a children's TV presenter, considers her next, potentially naked step, up the celebrity career ladder.

words/ hannah perlin

Saturday May 2
Grand Designs

I don't know about you, but if someone plonked me down in the middle of a field and told me to build myself a house, I'd firmly suggest that said person be referred to the local nut house and then I'd most probably start to cry. As Birmingham launches its new innovative scheme allowing people who can't afford to buy a house to build one themselves, I can't help but wonder whether all these unskilled men and women will feasibly be able to construct a property that can actually be deemed habitable. Kevin McCloud investigates as 1) people set out to build their own homes.

words/ hannah perlin

Sunday May 3
Katie and Peter

If you are one of those people who cries, "I love them!" when someone mentions this couple then this show is for you. For everyone else it would be more beneficial to watch paint dry. But, if you wish, follow Katie Price and Peter Andre as they settle into their new lives in Malibu, California. Today Peter works on his album, while Katie meets her new horse, which has just come out of quarantine after being flown over to the States. Then while Katie gets some TLC, Peter takes the kids to a taverna for a taste of his heritage and finds that Junior has impressive pulling skills.

words / amy harker

Monday May 4
Celebrity Come Dine With Me

A fresh group of celebrities compete for the honour of ultimate dinner party host in this cookery-based reality show. Feeding the heat in the kitchen on this occasion are model Caprice, award-winning hairdresser Nicky Clarke, TV presenter Nancy Sorrell and music legend Jimmy Osmond, all of whom can be expected to pull out a few tricks to bolster their cause. I find one is drawn into the chaos of this programme and I genuinely feel as stressed watching these people cook as I do when I attempt it myself. How ever, it does leave you with a small sense of smugness; you didn't convince you could have done a better job.

words/ amy harker



Tuesday May 5
Claire Richards: My Big Fat Wedding

This is a documentary following ex-pop star Claire Richards' efforts to go from overweight couch potato to her dream size 12 in time for her wedding. She tries to shed the pounds whilst battling her insatiable love of food, look after her baby and kick start her pop career. Along the way she attends a brutal bridal boot camp, faces the dreaded paparazzi on the red carpet and meets fellow brides that have lost weight before their big day. Finally, days before her wedding she gets to try on her dream dress.

words/ emma chetwode

Wednesday May 6
The Brady Bunch Movie

The Brady Bunch were a cute-as-pie 1970s American family who suffered crazy domestic happenings about once a week. However as much as they want to carry on living in the 1970s, the rest of the world is living in the 1990s. The result is a hilariously cheesy film which, no matter how cynical you are, you will not help but smile at as the family gets itself into more crazy situations, all because they have not moved out of the 70s and into modern day. It is essential viewing for fans of flares and giant hair!

words/ emma chetwode

Thursday March 19
My Life As An Animal

Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached the point at which television is officially beyond parody. The idea of a TV show in which people of doubtful celebrity pretend to be animals sounds like a throwaway gag from I'm Alan Partridge, but in a truly transcendental act of barrel scrapping, the channel that brought you Snog, Marry, Avoid and Me And My Man Boobs has done it. Tonight, a farmer's daughter and an extreme sportsman live as a seal and a penguin respectively, and I curl into the foetal position and weep bitter tears for the death of culture.

words/ tim boden

Film of the week

Batman and Robin

Friday May 1

Film at 10pm

Move over, Heath Ledger, this third instalment of the DC's George Clooney star as the Caped Crusader, in an attempt to pep up what appeared to be a flagging franchise. Two dimensional characters such as Arnold Schwarzenegger's heavily accented Mr Freeze are offset by staggering special effects for the period (it was 1997 people, give them a break!) The cast is certainly star-studded, counting Clooney, Arnie, Uma Thurman and Elle Macpherson amongst its ranks. The action is fast-paced and highly cartoon like. If this is your thing however, check out the even older Batman films, my favourite aspect is the words that fly across the screen during a fight: Kappow! Boof! Wahoodie! Ok so I may have made those noises up, but you get the idea. This film may be formulaic and weaker than its predecessors, but perhaps what better way to offset the stress of the exam period than with a bit of mindless, enter taining action fluff?

words/ lauren fordham



ASK JOHN

Can print technology journalism unable to save itself?

Science and technology are surely one of their hardest areas for print publications to succeed in. Technology, in particular, seems to be an area where knowledge doesn't necessarily wane with age. Age may bring different interests (DAB radios rather than social networking), but the diversity of understanding in every age range makes target audiences hard to identify.

Too often the result of this is that mainstream science and technology journalism ends up watered down and contrived. Not deep enough to satisfy those with any real interest in the subject, but too confused to engage with the mildly curious, publications like TechnologyGuardian offer a varied quality, but hit the mark about as consistently as the Windows of Microsoft.

At a time when would-be journalists are assured that the media industry

resembles a sinking ship, flicking through broadsheet technology supplements seems to suggest that if readers are bailing out, it's not without reason.

When reviews of Ubuntu release 9.04 make up blog postings in their hundreds, the Guardian needs to offer more than mediocre wordplay if it expects people to actually pay to see their opinion.

Opening lines like "Canonical has unleashed the Jackalope, or Ubuntu 9.04, code-named the Jaunty Jackalope" just aren't going to cut it. A pun over we come to

I feel instant remorse for suggesting Jack, given his old spectacles and pipe-in-mouth appearance (an interesting look that would be more at home in a pub landlord's magazine than a technology newspaper), but sometimes feelings must be ignored in pursuit of the truth.

Advising people that you can buy 'fantastic PCs [...] for very little money'

doesn't really inform me in the way I expect a question and answer section to but then again nor does referring in your answer to information you appear to have incised from the question, unless Jack has hidden abilities at determining a computer's USB speed just from its RAM and hard disk size (512MB and 80GB respectively, in no way providing a conclusive answer, and in fact suggesting USB 2.0 as far more likely).

The Guardian is far from alone in its weakness in this area, and when viewed in terms of its aims and scope compared to some of its competitors positively shines.

But when the quality falls so short of the bar, why do we continue to be fed information by established writers that have proven again and again they can produce nothing more than lacklustre pieces of writing?

The young writers of today have grown up immersed in technology, and many have the understanding to write about the subjects that matter in a way that avoids overwhelming people with science but still broadcasts the facts.

words/ john puddephatt



BLOGGERS WANTED

Here at Leeds Student, we're looking to reverse the decline in high quality science and technology journalism.

We're starting early to get a team of science and technology bloggers ready for next year. Blogs are to be published on the leedsstudent.org website, and will cover as many areas as possible. The best of the blogs will then appear in the Leeds Student, rotated week by week. With blogs hosted online, readers will easily be able to comment on the stories they care about most.

If you're studying a degree in a discipline related to science or technology, and you're still studying next year (either in the UK or abroad, it doesn't matter), get in touch now.

contact tech@leedsstudent.org

RATE YOUR UNION & WIN!

YOU & A MATE COULD TRAVEL AROUND EUROPE 150 WITH EUROS TO SPEND!!

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

SO COMPLETE THE FINAL SURVEY OF THE YEAR AT WWW.LUONLINE.COM

THE FIRST 50 TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY WILL WIN A FIVER TO SPEND IN THE UNION! HURRY!

Leeds University Union



Will the last one out, turn off the light?

Despite how dodgy your parents' haircuts and shoulder pads may have seemed, it turns out they didn't live in the dark ages. Last Friday it appeared as if we had stepped into a tardis, being sent back in time to the pits of darkness in a university electric-epidemic. Even now, if we listen carefully, we can still hear the howls of swearing students when the computer clusters suddenly cut out. Looking back on this uproar it has to be asked, what was all the fuss about? Indeed, what is the attraction that draws us to electricity? After all, we didn't always have it on Demand so there must be ways we can survive without it.

For the smug couples blossoming this spring, a power cut poses the opportunity for candle-lit meals, of which the benefits are endless. Not only will you be praised as a domestic god/dess but in case your lasagne screams more road-kill than romance your other half will not be able to see it in the darkness.

Certainly the Romans had no dependency on electricity; instead they would entertain themselves training gladiators to fight each other and wild animals in amphitheatres. Although this was truly barbaric, surely there are other milder ways to recreate this entertainment? Simply steal your housemate's last drop of milk and blame it on some poor sod, then sit back and watch the battle commence. If this seems too bloodthirsty for your tastes, instead we can look towards the ancient Egyptians for inspiration. Amongst the pyramids, the Egyptians enjoyed hunting which nowadays translates into fighting through Primark on a Saturday, or charging down the streets of Headingly scavenging cheap drinks on the Orley run.

Enjoying the natural joys of Leeds is also another option in a power-cut. Popular activities include sunbathing in Hyde Park (hopefully avoiding third degree burns), and bird-watching. Though just make sure (boys) that your birds aren't long legged, and wearing skirts, thus avoiding seeing stars instead of swallows. Equally the fresh open air allows the perfect opportunity for ultimate frisbee (the chance to decapitate some unfortunate soul), or alternatively, to recreate an 'Are You Afraid of the Dark' campfire scenario, telling horrifying tales of devils, demons and student debt.

When the lights go out it may be time to go and grab a book. However this proved difficult last Friday as all the libraries closed. In the fear of hundreds of students stuffing their shit bags with encyclopaedias once the security gates were down. Nonetheless it seems this panic was in vain, mainly as there was more of a riot to participate in the sale of cheap groceries (50p sandwiches!), than to go on a pick and mix rampage for books with no return date.

It seems the lesson to be learned if the lights go out is not to scream, panic or set your hairspray can alight as a torch. Stay calm, embrace the darkness and the opportunity to try something different, just as long as it isn't your mum's eighties bowl-cut.

words/ eleanor brown



Ghost town

Easter was a strange one for me this year there can be no doubt. Not for the reason that the town of Reading manages to remain to be the middle of nowhere and the centre of everywhere for students and residents alike. Or the fact it's both a travelling stepping stone for commuters to London and a vibrant living city for Reading RFC supporters. Nor is it because my hometown always manages to leave me dazed, confused and with the echoes of 'WERE READING, WERE READING, WE'LL KICK YOUR FUCKING HEAD IN!' ringing in my ears.

It wasn't even that I would be here for a month and was being forced to adjust to living with my family again and give reasons where I was going, what I was doing and why I was sick all over the front lawn at three in the morning last night. It was something else that was bothering me this time. I couldn't quite put my finger on the bizarre pins and needles sensation I was experiencing this time around.



I was one seriously lonely haemoglobin

But then I took a trip through Saturday afternoon's Mexca for Berkshire that is The Oracle Shopping Centre and it all started to become clear. The familiarity of Reading that I used to dread when I returned wasn't there anymore. Where was it? And where were all the shops for that matter? Where was that shop that seemed to only sell Steven Segal DVDs? Or the one that had decided to dedicate itself to Christmas all year round? Even all the fast food places and clothing stores seemed to have played a horrific midnight game of musical chairs. Walking through my shopping centre, the playground of my teenage years, last year's déjà vu had moved on and been replaced with the feeling of being lost. I pulled out my phone and tried to find a friend to call but they had moved on, still at university or living in the Capital and been replaced with people living for the weekend and drinking away their wages.

Panic set in as I analysed the situation further and realised that I had no car to escape in, let alone a person to escape with or even relate to. I had become isolated and cut off from the town of the city. I was one seriously lonely haemoglobin. The town I had lived in for the first 18 years of my life had suddenly become a strange and unknown place to me and I didn't like it. Not one bit. So when it comes to that fateful day at graduation when I get handed a little scroll of paper and get to throw my hat in the hair, don't confuse the look of dread on my face for fear of my future. It's simply the knowledge that I am moving to a new city to get a new job and make new friends. It just so happens to be the city I grew up in.

words/ matt allinson



A warning about warnings

I started with a pack of Berocca. Chatting over lunch, I examined a packet a friend bought, noting an eye over the list of ingredients and noting the ominous warning against overdose. Overdose? On Berocca? Did that bright packaging and 'Bevery OK' (a) plagiarising about conceal unknown danger?

I wondered what would happen if I tried to eat an entire pack's worth. Maybe the sheer concentration of vitamins and additives would transform me into some kind of superhuman, fuelled by orangey rage and capable of surviving hangovers with a single touch. And then I went on Wikipedia and found out that the reality was that too much Vitamin B can cause nerve damage, which put a dampener on my fantasy of becoming a citrus powered Hulk.

Berocca isn't the only unlikely item to carry a warning. For a long time I've found myself a little perturbed by the line on chewing gum packets stating that overconsumption may cause laxative effects. I briefly considered buying a large quantity and, in the spirit of journalistic endeavour, seeing how much I'd have to chew before my intestines violently rebelled. However, while Christopher Hitchens might have got himself waterboarded, I decided a month on the bog was a high price to pay for 500 words of whimsical nonsense, and wasn't for more online digging.

It was the right choice. Turns out that a bitol, a sweetener used in sugar-free gum and mints, has put people in hospital. Admittedly, you've got to regularly chew two packets of gum a day, but it was enough to make me glad I'd not risked it.

On the other hand, I'd have never even thought of it were it not for the warning labels taunting me with the vagueness. It could even become a credit crunch extreme sport, seeing how far you could push consumption without risking unpleasant consequences. It's clearly overdoing it that's the primary danger, but surely that applies to lots of things. You don't get away with orange on oranges (or, indeed, on fake tan). Shoeboxes aren't labelled with excessive running lead to bilaters. ITV aren't required to broadcast a warning that watching Britain's Got Talent may lead to permanent numbing of the brain.

Hyperbole aside, I'm actually surprised that we haven't yet reached the point where fast food comes with a governmental health warning. In such an overly cautious society, it's hard to know whether to be reassured or unimpressed by the apparent oversights. In the long run though, maybe the healthiest attitude to take is that being able to worry about this sort of thing is a luxury. If war, poverty and disease aren't causes for fear then being uncertain if chewing gum might give you the runs is all that's left. Anxiety expands to fill all available space like a foam party gone horribly wrong (or right, depending on one's views on foam parties). When in doubt, all things in moderation. Including moderation.

words/ tim boden

Bus Travel for Leeds Students... Travel anytime AND it costs less and is safe!

To help you really save money we offer a fantastic deal with our Student Term, Monthly and All Term passes. Our term passes are valid from the day you arrive until the end of term in December. They allow unlimited travel anywhere in West Yorkshire at anytime, including the late night services 56 and 56L.

Travel to the University campus or have a night out with friends, return home safely and you've saved money!

**Save money with an All Term ticket at £312 (valid for 39 weeks),
a £129 Full Term, £96 Greenzone Term or £48 First Month.**

If you were to buy 39 weekly passes for £17 each, that would cost you £663.

THE STUDENT ALL TERM PASS IS HALF THAT!

If you want to buy a termly, monthly or All Term ticket you can online at www.firstgroup.com/leeds or by telephone on **0113 381 5550**.

By Post - send an application form, with a cheque made payable to First, Marketing Department, Donisthorpe Street, Leeds, LS10 1PL.

In Person at Bodington Hall or Oxley Hall, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September 2008. For first time buyers a passport size photo is required.

Freshers Fair at University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University

FirstTravel Shop - New Market Street, Leeds.

Leeds Visitor Centre - Rail Station

Protection against loss or theft is available, just add £5 to the monthly and termly prices. Add £15 for All Term tickets, conditions apply.

www.studentbustravel.co.uk

expensive clothes.' When asked about the worst part of the job, she admits that 'there are some weirdos, but I mean after a while in this business you kind of learn to deal with every situation and get the best out of it that you can.' Luckily enough she hasn't encountered the odd 'psycho' that other escorts have had the misfortune to come across, explaining that her agency has a client database that blacklists any 'problem' punters.

Daniela reaffirms the claims of student popularity within the industry, asserting that 'I actually got into the job while I was in my final year at uni.' With flexible hours and ready cash, the job is well-suited to the empty pockets and timetables of students. I asked her about applications, and she explained that after you've set up a personal account with the company online, clients will browse through your pictures and make a selection. Despite the fact that the most high-demand category is that of young blondes, Daniela argues that 'there's a big variety when it comes to the girls. You'll get some people asking for mature girls or girls with foreign accents or things like that.' Generally however, emphasis is placed on physique.

'I've got two blokes who I'll see at least once a month because they know me and they like my style,' adds Daniela. 'It's nice having regulars as you can get to know each other and it's less strained.' Many people imagine that becoming a successful escort is simply a matter of good looks and confidence. 'The problem is, you need to be the right kind of person, who will enjoy it otherwise you won't be doing it for long.' A huge proportion of the clients request a proper GF, desiring their women to be nurturing, loving, and genuinely interested in what they've got to say. Although some clients, she went on to note, 'like it hot and dirty'.

I asked her finally if anything unusual had ever happened on the job. 'I had this one bloke who asked me to do this complete step-by-step roleplay of a date he had planned for the next day! He didn't want to mess anything up - so he decided to practice. It was quite sweet really.' A far cry from the nightmares of sexual violence and morbid fetishes that I had been expecting, but there remains a flip-side to the argument that Daniela fails to address. When asked for a response to the feminist activists who criticise her profession, she shrugged off the question by simply stating that 'the chances are [these people] make half the money I do at a boring admin job.' But the ethical qualms are hard to ignore, with many charities and organisations working tirelessly to publicize not only the immediate dangers to women, but the processes of objectification that lead to rape, domestic violence and trafficking. And yet, collectives of sex workers insist that being an

escort is a valid and respectful vocation, allowing women to work independently and provide for their children. These workers maintain that 'where there's a demand there's a supply', and the English Collective of Prostitutes hold great contempt for government 'feminists' who want to make prostitution illegal. One blogger writes that 'if these feminists spent as much time looking at what we have in common as women as they now spend distancing themselves from us, feminism would be less arrogant, repressive and out of touch.'

Veronica Monet, author of the novel *Sex Secrets of Escorts*, sees escorting as a feminist act, writing that 'You can only have a penis up there "if" you're married, if you're monogamous, if you're a serial monogamist, if you're in love, if you have been on three dates.' On the other hand, these standards are not applied to men - who are free to do what they want sexually in the eyes of society. Monet insists that we should have the same rights 'to have sex any way you choose, whenever you choose, for whatever reason you choose.' Is escorting, then, simply a form of employment that has been stigmatized for women? Certainly from reading the blogs and statements written by numerous male escorts there is a decided lack of 'shame' attached to their view of the profession.

But the P-Word, a leading website for contemporary UK feminism, voices a radically different opinion. They argue that while some women may be fortunate enough to have a measure of control over the men they sexually service, this is not the case for the majority of those who take to being prostituted. Calling for an end to the separation of 'high-end' escort services from prostitution, they urge us to observe the power of universal acceptance of a predominantly male market to buy women for sex. Never just a job - escorting dehumanises women by reducing them to sexual commodities. Moreover, the stories surrounding the media which call attention to high-earning 'elite' escorts who live glamorous and liberated lifestyles must be viewed in context: the prostitute is hired by someone richer, and the paying consumer is infinitely more powerful. The woman earns a small percentage of what the man gleans from industries that she is excluded from, such as finance, law or business.

Andrea Dworkin famously quoted that 'as long as any woman, anywhere in the world is being bought or sold - none of us are free', and the Feminist Coalition Against Prostitution (FCAP) and Women's National Commission insist that is the most vulnerable women who see prostitution as a 'choice' - but there is no

“ Clients are requesting the full Girlfriend Experience, demanding women to be nurturing, loving, and genuinely interested in what they've got to say

real choice unless there is a range of acceptable life options. As a society, we have decided that we won't allow the sale and purchase of kidneys, because we know that it would be the poor who would 'choose' to sell their kidneys for cash and that those who are more fortunate would 'choose' to live a healthier and longer life. The idea of agency, then, is more complicated than a simple matter of 'free will'.

With worrying talk of further rises in tuition fees still to come, the 'temptation' of escorting is a reality that many students can no longer ignore. But although the cash may be easy and fast, the potential dangers are endless; look, for example at the Steve Wright attacks on prostitutes in 2006. Even within a relatively 'safe' agency, you never know who you could meet. Moreover, you don't know who else your actions could be harming - whether it be your friends and family, or trafficked women in other parts of the country. But it's important not to demonize escorts; the real culprits here are surely the pimps, traffickers and sex offenders themselves.

While your mountainous debts may have left you feeling hysterical, rest assured that the sex industry is not your only answer. There is still help available for students in the forms of maintenance loans and grants, and of course there's always shelf-stacking to fall back on.



words and interview/ catlin vandertop
photos/ sarah greene

War of error

Respect and understanding will undermine violent extremism in a way the "War on Terror" never can



Sam Leach
Third-year Geological Sciences
samjleach@googlemail.com

Walking along the road is a small group of young children from the local primary school. They are smartly dressed, and the girls are all wearing head scarves. They are walking along the road to the Hyde Park Mosque, and just before they enter, their teacher issues a reminder of how to behave inside: a reminder of instructions evidently taught previously to a wide eye, cross legged class back at school.

I shouldn't think Gordon Brown knew this was happening, but what I had just walked past was the very front-line of the "war on terror". It's not the story that gets the coverage in the

media, you won't find billions of pounds being poured into this group of children, but I bet that school trip will have done more for the long term eradication of Islamist terrorists than was achieved in Afghanistan the same morning.

The "war on terror" is a strange fight, more metaphysical than military. You cannot kill terrorism, nor make it surrender. It's not a country that can be invaded and conquered, and there is no leader to overthrow. Terrorism is a technique, and terror an emotion: you can't fight this with guns and bombs. The very notion of a "war on terror" is as irrational as the people it is trying to fight. The phrase may have departed with Tony Blair and George Bush, but in essence the same fight is on-going: military tactics against dispersed extremism, anger and violence.

If this sort of terrorism is to be stopped, and it must, then it is the underlying causes which must be addressed as a priority. Until recently, the illogical rhetoric and aggressive attitudes of the government have done little to avoid the threat of attack: the security services have not reported a reduction in plotted attacks. That plots have not been successful is testament to the experience and hard work of MI5 and other organisations, not central government's policies on the matter. Stopping

attacks is all very well, until one slips under the radar; if long term peace and safety is to be achieved, tackling the root cause of the matter is crucial.

And that is where the primary school comes in. Lessons in mutual respect between

At the most basal level, these terrorists are fuelled by hate. Irrational hate. A hate engendered and fostered by insular communities, where a lack of communication and understanding can result in observant religion becoming extremism and violence. It is easy to hate someone you don't know or understand.

Instead of aggression towards countries and communities which have produced terrorists, the reaction must be compassion and understanding: anything more opens up the risk of radicalising a new generation of bombers. The government must work with respected Muslim leaders around the world; they must be overly unified in the full glare of the media. People across the world must see co-operation and understanding between communities at all levels.

The current fear of terrorism has been used to justify military action abroad as well as infringements on liberties at home, but these tactics are not the logical solution. Contempt, as they say, breeds contempt, and these military actions, not to mention the dubious detainment and treatment of prisoners, is undoubtedly fuelling the very hatred which it is trying to fight. If you want to stop a vicious circle, you need to stop joining the circles.

It is easy to hate someone you don't know or understand

cultures and communities will go a significant way towards the eradication of Islamic extremism, and that applies as much at home as in foreign policy: the enemy in this curious war is not just hiding out in caves in the Middle East, it is also being created and moulded right here in Britain.

Don't stop the presses!

A free press can save lives, end wars and see justice done. Time to stand up and defend it



Lawrence Carter
English Masters Graduate
lacarter1@gmail.com

How many untold atrocities have been perpetrated behind the veil of silence that has enveloped Sri Lanka's no-fire zone? Reports filtering out of the thin strip of coastline that is the last stronghold of the Tamil Tigers can only hint at the suffering of the civilians trapped between rebel and government forces, because the presence of journalism is forbidden.

While the Sri Lankan government argue that there have only been "a couple of civilians killed" and that they are "only using small arms, not artillery or even machine guns", doctors within the no-fire zone insist that heavy shelling and cluster bombs have killed hundreds of people. These accounts are clearly irreconcilable and thus contribute to the air of mystery that surrounds this conflict.

Without concrete evidence of the human rights abuses that are unquestionably being committed by both sides, it is extremely difficult for the international community to intervene. The information we do have has come from aid agencies such as the International Red Cross and from the UN, but such accounts lack the immediacy and emotional impact of high quality war reporting. We have thus seen the conflict relegated from the front page of newspapers and, astonishingly, from mainstream political debate.

This is a coup for both the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers, who are thus free to promulgate their own version of the truth. Deprived of the journalists who could offer them a voice, the civilians trapped within the no-fire zone must suffer in silence.

One has only to look at the role of journalism in the withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam, to understand its vital role in the protection of human rights and government accountability. The decisive change in public opinion towards the Vietnam war has been attributed by many analysts to the shocking reports of journalists such as Seymour Hersh, who exposed the truth about the Mai Lai massacre.

More recently, the role of journalism to affect change has been evident in media coverage of the death of Ian Tomlinson at the G20 protests. Despite the lies fed to the press by police, newspapers such as The Guardian have endeavoured to uncover the truth about the incident. Indeed, following the discovery of footage depicting the attack on Mr Tomlinson

Recently the power of journalism to affect change has been evident

provided by the police and ignored allegations of brutality. It was only through the citizen journalism of many of the protestors that newspapers were forced to backtrack on their initial reports and actually tell the truth.

This raises the important question of what would have happened had none of the people present possessed cameras? Worryingly, legislation introduced by the government earlier this year threatens to do just that. Under new anti-terror laws, photographing police is deemed a criminal offence. This means that the footage shot of Ian Tomlinson's final minutes could quite feasibly have been seized by police and destroyed.

The implications of this for press freedom are grave. Without firm evidence to the contrary, corrupt governments and institutions are free to disseminate whichever version of the truth they see fit. As we have seen, the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tigers clearly understand the vital role a free press can play in the defence of human rights. Prohibiting journalists from the no-fire zone has permitted both to completely disregard the lives of innocent civilians in a blinkered pursuit of their own aims. As the freedom of the British press becomes increasingly impinged upon it is time to take a stand and demand protection of this fundamental human right.

there has been a concerted media campaign for police reform and open debate on the role that this public service should play in society.

It would be dangerous though, to take a simplistic view of the British media as existing solely to protect public interest. The fact that titles such as The Times, The Evening Standard and The Sun are owned by a rich elite who might manipulate coverage to further their own interests means that the press cannot be seen as entirely free.

Following the G20 protests, for instance, many newspapers accepted the version of events

It is World Press Freedom Day on Sunday May 3.

The dangers of 'churnalism'

The PR press culture is undermining good, old-fashioned investigative journalism



Paul Hayden
Second-year International Relations
p07prh@leeds.ac.uk

A few years ago an interesting story was floated about in various British newspapers and was subsequently refuted by media outlets worldwide. Avid football fan Paul Hacker, it was claimed, had insured himself against England going out of the World Cup and was to receive a £1m payout if this occurred, due to the resultant "psychological trauma" he would experience. There was one slight problem with this story: it was completely false. The whole story turned out to be a PR stunt for the insurance company in question, BritishInsurance.com, and it was later discovered that Paul Hacker was in fact a marketing manager who had close links with the web based insurance

group. In fact, Hacker had appeared in a string of similarly ludicrous reports, including a nearly identical story during the previous World Cup as well as articles describing insurance policies to protect against being kidnapped by aliens or against becoming ugly. Yet what is worrying is not the cynical and profiteering nature of those behind such stunts; we all know that greed and commercial interest lie at the heart of our consumerist society. No, what is of far more concern is that such a story was even printed and accepted as plausible, and not only by the tabloids but by reputable news outlets including the Guardian and the BBC (which interestingly still features the story on its website). This demonstrates the fact that the root of the problem lies not in the corporate based, Murdoch dominated nature of the media industry, which is easily susceptible to external political manipulation. There was no over-arching media demagogue pulling all the strings and manipulating the news. The problem was far simpler. Essentially, it was that nobody even bothered to check.

In his book *Flea Earth News*, Nick Davies gives a fascinating account of these recent trends in journalism, and how truth is being steadily sacrificed to the gods of profit. There was a time when journalists would race up and down the country covering stories, stopping at nothing in their quest for precision. Of course, the trade was

not perfect; newspapers were often sources of propaganda and racial bigotry, as a brief study of the Daily Mail's history will reveal. However, on the whole, journalists could be relied upon to tell the truth. Now, with the stripping down of many newspapers' staff by their corporate owners and the steady growth of twenty-four-hour news services it is harder and harder for reporters to do their jobs properly. Increasingly, they must rely on PR firms to provide them with information as they have less and less time to investigate stories independently. The pressure to deliver stories, sometimes up to ten a day, and the need to deliver them before competitors, inevitably has a significant impact on accuracy. This sort of reporting, where statements from PR companies are rapidly bundled into palatable stories, has been coined "churnalism." Yet this practice is not restricted to the tabloids, whose claim to objectivity is often laughable, but has permeated the majority of media outlets. Even the more respectable newspapers have succumbed to "churnalism". In his book Davies mentions a study which found that forty percent of material in British broadsheets was derived from PR material.

Unfortunately, the stories which are promoted in this way are not always trivial marketing exercises and sometimes they can have major, if unintended, consequences. Recent examples of media propaganda and distortion

include the massive fear in the run up to the millennium bug, which caused the government to waste millions of pounds of taxpayers' money, as well as the notorious case of WMDs in Iraq for which the media must accept a considerable

Truth is
being
steadily
sacrificed to
the gods of
profit

proportion of blame. It is for this reason that it is imperative for responsible news outlets to check their stories rather than simply propagating unconfirmed myths, even if this means a slight drop in profits. In this aspect of our lives, truth and integrity must surely come before the rules of the market. Meanwhile, as we approach the run up to the next World Cup, watch out for Paul Hacker as he makes his next inevitable appearance in the obliging national media.

Terrorism is amongst us

It is not the 'Muslim with an AK' that we should view as a threat to our liberty, but our own government



Rob Heath
Third-year Physics
py06r2mh@leeds.ac.uk

The 18th Century offered much to civilisation: in Britain, the steam engine was invented and refined, paving the way for the Industrial revolution. In Italy the first ever piano, a staple of the contemporary musician's diet, was built. In France, Lavoisier introduced the world to modern Chemistry. And, towards the end of the era, an insidious word crept into English: terrorism.

Coming from the French word *terrorisme*, used by the media to describe the massacre of political opponents in the French Revolution's 'Reign of Terror' (including Lavoisier), 'terrorism' was first used in the modern sense after World War II. I'd like to suggest that in today's society, the word itself strikes fear in the

heart of the citizenry, and is itself an act of terror.

It is almost impossible to untwine terrorism and the clamp-down on civil liberties by government and the police. Anyone that's paid attention since 9/11 will have noted the myriad ways their freedom has been reined in and legislated against. I'm not going to pursue the conspiracy theorist's line that Whitehall is actively revolting liberty in a *Nineteen Eighty Four*

Terrorism
itself is a
tool to
control the
population

or I' for I' *emulene-style* to assure its continued power, because that belongs in the realm of wild speculation.

Let's begin, then, with the state of play in Britain. We live in a country where the police can execute citizens, tamper with the evidence, and when the case gets to court have the judge

block an unlawful killing verdict. This is a land in which the government has banned protests near parliament, removing direct pressure on MPs to actually represent the people of the country, in a vain effort to try and shift a protester unhappy about the invasion of Iraq. Since February, it has been illegal to take photos of the police or armed forces by virtue of Section 76 of the Counter Terrorism Act. Hot on this legislation's heels has been a raft of police abuse, from the serious, such as the now infamous Ian Tomlinson murder, to the petty, like the tourists who were forced by police officers to delete their photos of an interestingly shaped bus station. The wonderful Mr. Brown has attempted to give the Police the power to detain anyone they suspect of terrorism for 90 days, and though this was thankfully denied by the Lords, he did succeed in securing 42 days' detention without charge (a concept that was banned by the Magna Carta in the 13th Century). The reason given for all of this has been the same: they're protecting Britain from terrorism.

Terrorism is the new Communism: the word itself is a tool to control the population and justify almost anything. It's bandied about by Britain's politicians so much that it's inescapable. The press voraciously leap on any related story and run it on their front page, sowing the seeds of fear, xenophobia, and racial hate within the readership's mind. It is this, not alienated young Muslims, that is the real terrorism: the government is waging a

systematic campaign to scare everyone in the country.

So, in what direction are we headed? The government has outlined its plans for spying on every single phone call made, website visited, and text message or email sent by the people of

Every call,
website,
text and
email will be
recorded

the UK. It assures us that the only information to be kept will be who is contacted and when, not the content of the communication, but it's quite conceivable that in a few months' time a new piece of legislation will be slipped through changing that, as has happened with numerous other anti-terror laws.

When it comes to controlling the people of a nation, it's all in the numbers. Number one: that's terror.

ESSAYS FOR SALE

What's the price of a first class degree?

A controversial advertisement nestles between the 'Win free Ugg Boots' competition and the 'Become a Cartoon' profile application on the Facebook advertising space. Oxbridge Essays has been a student rumour until now, when a link to the company website can be found framing a Leeds University student's Facebook profile page.

The website reveals that Oxbridge Essays is a company that recruits current and past Oxford and Cambridge students

Essays range from an upper 1st class grade to a lower 2:1, in line with the client's price range.

who either have or are predicted a 2:1 or above. Oxbridge Essays receives requests from clients for essays and dissertations, and the recruits provide these essays to a standard ranging from an upper first class grade to a lower second class grade in line with the client's

price range.

The client, of course, is an average student, willing to pay almost £1100 for the 8am Next Day Delivery of a 1st class standard undergraduate essay. Prices for essays vary depending on the length of the essay, the desired standard of writing, and how soon the essay is required to be delivered. Oxbridge Essays can provide clients with a wide range of academic writing including undergraduate essays, A-Level and GCSE coursework, full Dissertations, PhD theses and UCAS personal statements, with prices ranging from a 2:1 standard undergraduate essay of 3000 words for £200 (to be delivered in 6 days) to a 1st class standard, 12000 word dissertation for £2700. As one student pointed out upon hearing these prices: "If you think that you can make over £1000 just for writing an essay, surely that should motivate you to learn how to write essays properly yourself."

Rising university fees as well as the increasing number of students emerging from university with at least a 2:2 degree has led to the suggestion that one is simply "buying" their degree, with little intelligence and effort needed in order to graduate. Quoting Nick Hornby, it appears that, "at British universities it is as easy to graduate as it is to have a birthday: just hang around for a while and it will happen." Thus, the emergence of companies such as Oxbridge Essays, which sell essays and coursework to students, takes this disgrace of the

British University System to another level: not only are people able to graduate without effort, but with the right cash distribution they can now graduate with first class honours as well.

If the amount of resources available on the Internet has already threatened to discredit the originality and legitimacy of students' essays (copy and paste being a popular alternative to gathering academic resources and formulating an answer of one's own), the Oxbridge essay goes a step further, guaranteeing students the grade of their choice without the risk of being caught committing plagiarism, as the company boasts writing essays exclusively for the client with a

A shocking twist is that Oxbridge Essays is a completely legal company.

promise that it is original work and will never be published or resold.

A shocking twist is that

Oxbridge Essays is a completely legal company. The essays that are sold to students are legitimately written with adequate referencing and bibliographies. Plagiarism is absent as the essays do not copy other academic publications and all resources are properly cited. To avoid being accused of advocating cheating or plagiarism to clients (as would be the case if a student presented an Oxbridge essay as his own work), the website's terms and

conditions page presents the essays as 'model' or 'ideal' examples of how the essay COULD be written. By asserting that the essays are only to be used as sources of inspiration (much like other academic resources), Oxbridge Essays ensures that there is little opportunity for the company to be declared illegal, unethical or a promoter of academic cheating.

Oxford student, Christian Toennesen, condemns the company in the Facebook group 'Oxbridge Students Against Oxbridge Essays' which boasts over 700 members. Created by Toennesen as a result of the company's attempts to recruit him, the group displays the recruitment emails sent by Oxbridge Essays to Toennesen. The contents of the recruitment emails offer essay writers up to £600 per essay written or £50 000 a year for working frequently, whilst portraying the company as a producer of 'model academic research' not intended to be passed off as the student's own work.

Toennesen rejected the recruitment offer and denounces the company as undermining the values upon which higher education is built. He also questions the extent to which Oxbridge Essays can pretend to believe that students will pay hundreds of pounds for a custom written essay only to use it as inspiration. He notes that if the company was truly supplying essays with the intent that they be used as model examples only,

there would be no need to specify that the essay will not be resold and that the purchase will remain confidential. It is clear that the essays are being provided in such a way that should a student wish to present the work as his own, he will be able to with little risk of detection.

The existence of such companies and practices can be seen to further expand the cleavage between those who can afford good education and those who cannot. Not only is it difficult to attend university without funding (either in the form of parental support or crippling student loans), but once at university, a wealthy (though admittedly immoral) elite can emerge from their degrees with top grades in exchange for parting with £200 plus per essay.

Meanwhile, the less advantaged students are forced to tread the old-fashioned route and rely on their own intelligence and hard work in order to excel in higher education. Of course, there will be many voices claiming that even if they do fail to achieve the same grades as clients of Oxbridge Essays, these people win in the end as they have actually been educated at university and carry the necessary skills for success in later life. But for now, when this cohort graduates with a mixture of students who cheated and students who worked, the CVs that are sent out in their masses will not distinguish the honest workers from the clients of companies like Oxbridge Essays; they will simply read 'graduated with a 1st class degree' or 'graduated with a 2:2'. Who would you employ?



LS Sport

COMMENT

Nicknames: Snooker's identity crisis

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

1

the number of Formula One drivers to know

Jake hmmm Humphrey's name (it was David Coulthard, and he's retired)

0.1

% of possession Chelsea 'enjoyed' at the Camp Nou on this week.

PUNDIT WATCH



"He threw his head and he threw his eyes at the ball and almost scored."

Jay Bothroyd's versatile anatomy confuses a BBC Radio Wales commentator

As cricket's 'sexed-up' alternaive the Indian Premier League, begins in its temporary home of South Africa, another quintessentially British sport has faced calls to reinvent itself.

Thousands of miles away from Twenty20's pyrotechnics, the World Snooker Championships have been progressing to the calmer sounds of rustling sweet wrappers and coughing pensioners.

The Crucible's gentle atmosphere, however, belies the tumult of the sport's identity crisis. Those in charge at World Snooker have announced plans to trial a shorter format of the game, using six red balls instead of the conventional ten.

The decision is perhaps a reaction to Ronnie O'Sullivan's request in January for the "entrepreneurial skills of Simon Cowell" to help inject some life into what the world number one claims to be a "dying" sport.

After all, the closest snooker has ever come to sexy is Kirk Stevens' Saturday Night Fever inspired white tuxedo.

O'Sullivan may have had a



Kirk Stevens proves snooker is cool.

darts-styled introduction of a pub venue and bikini-clad women in mind but it seems that he had overlooked the unique glamour which snooker offers.

Tournament emcee Rob Walker is the man given the dubious responsibility of stirring excitement in the arena. If his cry of getting "the boys on the baize" fails to stir, however, he can turn to a rich source of nicknames

Quarter finalist Mark Selby has been dubbed the 'Jester from Leicester', a moniker which suggests a maverick cue-man with a penchant for practical tricks at the table. In reality, though, Selby is a pale, wiry Midlander whose expression seldom changes from a look of deep gloom.

One of the sport's newcomers, meanwhile, is the proud owner of a feistier pseudonym. Mark 'The Pistol' Allen has been referred to as a 'street fighter' by commentators but his contrived fist pumps make 'Tiger' Tim Henman's self-motivational

exercises look like the growls of an irate Romanian weightlifter.

There is one player who seems above the frolics of novelty alter-egos. According to the BBC, Ronnie O'Sullivan is a man so enigmatic that his profile pieces are required to be shot exclusively in slow motion with the accompaniment of incongruously serious classical music.

O'Sullivan's routine threats of retirement at the end of defeats are predictable but, without indulging in his melodramatic reflections, the BBC would have no icon on which to focus their coverage.

While snooker may have a dearth of brooding enigmas, we can be content with the plethora of wilfully naïf nicknames; such as Stephen 'The Wonder of Wiltshire' Lee, Ali 'Captain' Carter and the, er, unforgettable Alan 'Angles' McManus.

Dafydd Pritchard

Media turning a blind eye?

Wilson Palacios is a very lucky man. Or rather Cristiano Ronaldo is. Each player's good fortune centres around a two-footed tackle the Honduran midfielder launched in the direction of the Portuguese's knee-caps in the recent blockbuster at Old Trafford. The latter because he skillfully avoided contact; the former because he less skillfully avoided any punishment from Howard Webb. A stern tiding-off for what can only be seen as a deliberate attempt to injure an opponent was all Webb deemed necessary.

That the man in charge thought it a minor offence is outrageous. That the player in question has avoided further condemnation in the mass media is even worse. Heaven knows headlines gave enough focus to another refereeing decision. The brilliant, title-defining comeback by United was to an extent overshadowed by a debatable penalty which provided the spring-board for the memorable turnaround. Webb was even forced to come out in the press and own up to

his mistake, saying it "wasn't the best" decision of his career.

Why, if the media are intent on analysing every move a ref makes were they blind in Palacios' potential career-ender? Just as Redknapp claimed the penalty changed the game irreconcilably, the lack of a red to Spurs' most effective midfielder played produced the same effect.

Ronaldo was rightly sent off for a similar tackle on Andy Cole in 2006's derby match at Eastlands. Journalists churred out a massive amount of column inches of condemnation in the immediate aftermath. The reaction is notably muted on this occasion. We are left to wonder why that is.

In an interesting footnote, Paul Scholes wasn't so blind. Within minutes of coming on as a sub he'd introduced himself to Wilson with the only way he knows how, multiple times. If the ref wasn't going to enforce the rules, the Ginger Assassin was.

Laurie Whitwell



Wilson Palacios was not penalised for this lunge on Cristiano Ronaldo.

'The New Maradona!' Or just an infant?

On the 19th of February this year Giannina Maradona gave birth to Diego Maradona's first grandchild. This may seem a pretty non-descript event for many, but what is intriguing is that this child is also the son of Atletico Madrid and Argentina star Sergio "Kun" Aguero. Benjamin Diego Lionel Maradona, aka Benja, is too young to overburden with the over-used label of 'The New Maradona', a label Benja's own father has been shackled with.

However, when a child with the descent of this calibre is born, no one can be blamed for fantasising about the creation of a sporting dynasty.

One dynasty that looks in a healthy state is the Maldini family. In 1963 Gianni won the European Cup as Captain of AC Milan. Paolo repeated the feat forty years later in 2003, the fourth of his five Champions league winning medals. Christian, Paolo's son, is set to carry on the family tradition already playing in the Milan youth set up.

Outside of football the

marriage between two of tennis's greats, Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi, who have two children, have drawn a lot of interest from bookies, seeing a price for one of their children winning a grand slam.

What we can learn, however, from the studding in horse and dog racing is that the best breeding formulas are not necessarily derived from two champions, but rather from animals with complimentary attributes.

Here we venture close to the Nature vs Nurture debate. If in twenty years time Benja is scoring goals for Argentina and Christian Maldini is leading AC Milan to another Champions League title then the debate may well be answered. Sports stars will be assured of employment after retirement studding themselves out for former clubs.

Ifor Duncan

Krav Maga-nificent

LUU Kickboxing and Krav Maga Club

Leeds University Kickboxing and Krav Maga club is an often unsung part of the Leeds' diverse collection of martial arts, but with over 170 members we are one of the biggest sports teams going at LU.

Working in association with local club 'Beyond Fighting', headed by lead instructor Ben Hockman, the club provides sports and self-defence based training to students as well as members from outside the union.

Half of the training we do is sports based Kickboxing. Using padwork and sparring, some of us train for fun and fitness whilst others train to compete in national competitions across the country.

The other half of our training focuses on the illustrious Krav Maga. Made famous in films such as 'The Bourne Identity' Krav Maga is an Israeli self-defence system that is quickly becoming the staple of many European and US armed forces.

Dealing with muggings, knives,

gun and rape attacks, plus many other areas of violent crime that dominate the UK today, Krav shows the real practical side to learning a martial art.

The other half of our training focuses on the illustrious Krav Maga. Made famous in films such as 'The Bourne Identity' it is an Israeli self-defence system used by many European and US armed forces

So, now you know who we are, let's bring you up to speed with our recent events.

The first of this year's national competitions, the University Kickboxing Championships 2009, was held at the University of Kent on the 1st of March and LUU Kickboxing and Krav

Maga took eighteen fighters down to show some northern spirit.

With a competition that is growing in prestige every year, an intense day was in store for everyone and LUU Kickboxing came home with semi-finalists from fighters in their first ever competitions and a national champion in Jen Forrest.

Not content on letting the south decide on national champions, this year we decided to host the first Northern Universities Kickboxing

Championships.

Open to universities across the country, over one hundred fighters came to Leeds Uni on March 14th for a full day of competition level sparring.

Not backing down on home turf, Leeds walked away with six golds across the board, but were closely followed by

over the Easter break to come back with two gold medals in the hands of Earle Jamieson and Emma Young.

In addition to this, Loughborough Uni has challenged us to a Leeds vs Loughborough Fight Night which is guaranteed to be a brutal battle between the two teams.

It has truly been a fight filled year for us, and with the new committee coming in this semester, it looks set to continue.



Loughborough Uni.

Visitors from Newcastle, Leeds Met and a lone fighter from Sheffield also all put up a great fight.

Competitions this year didn't even finish during term time, with six fighters taking the trip up to Edinburgh University

We'll be keeping you updated next year but in the meantime if you'd like to join in the ramble, we train in the Sports Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.00 until 10.00, and Sundays 1.30 till 3.30, and are always looking for new members.

Alternatively, you can check us out at www.beyondfighting.com and on our Facebook group.

GO GREEN

DRINK BELU

The UK's most **eco-friendly** bottled water

- The UK's first Compostable bottled water
- PVC free lined bottle caps to reduce unwanted chemicals
- Fully carbon neutral
- Clean water projects funded both at home and abroad

www.belu.org

Who is the king of the ring?

Ricky Hatton could arguably become the world's best pound-for-pound boxer if he beats Manny Pacquiao tomorrow. Carl Froch, meanwhile, was recently victorious in the US, and David Haye could soon be a world heavyweight champion. With British boxing in such rude health, LS Sport asks; *Who is the UK's best fighter?*

the big debate:

All but the *Hayemaker*
Ifor Duncan

When Joe Calzaghe retired in February he opened up a three-way competition to see who could become British boxing's leading light. Carl Froch, Ricky Hatton and David Haye have, or are billed to have, a high-profile fight this year.

Last Saturday night, Froch knocked out former champion Jermaine Taylor in a first defence of his WBC super middleweight title. This Saturday, Hatton fights Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas for the IBO light welterweight and the Ring Magazine's junior welterweight titles. In June, David Haye fights Vladimir Klitschko for the IBF and WBO heavyweight title.

Froch's late victory over Taylor deep into the 12th round on Saturday proves his ability to find victory from a seemingly impossible situation. While Froch had fought well for periods during the fight it seemed like he was struggling with nerves from the outset. At no point did the Nottingham born Froch dominate the fight against a now ageing Taylor, relying, too heavily on a late knockout. Froch is thirty-one, his potential is hindered by his late entrance into professional boxing at 25.

Thirty-year-old Hatton cannot have many fights left in him at this level. Despite the work of Floyd Mayweather Senior's coaching, it is unlikely he can change Hatton into a fighter that can live with boxers of Pacquiao's ability.

David Haye, by contrast to both adversaries, is still only 28, and has dispensed with the cruiserweight division, showing the ambition to move up a weight to heavyweight.

Haye's ambition reflects his impetuous ability. Few have been able to live with him in the ring, and he has rarely fought in a fight that has gone the distance. In his fight against Enzo Macchinelli (perhaps the biggest fight of his career), Haye dispatched the highly ranked Welshman before he was able to find his rhythm. Haye needs no rhythm; rather, he lets his sheer physical presence dominate.

Where Haye is superior to Froch and Hatton

is the way he prowls around the ring waiting to unleash his characteristic "Hayemaker". Hatton, however, has no patience and, as we saw against Mayweather Junior, walks onto a more intelligent boxer's counter-punching.

Whether Haye will be able to impose himself so much upon 6'6 Klitschko or his older brother is still to be seen. This may be a gamble too far for the Bermondsey boxer who, if unable to knockout the larger Klitschko, could find himself drawn into a longer bout in which it would take an incredible effort to out-box the more orthodox heavyweights.

By the end of the summer Calzaghe's succession may well have been decided. If Haye can win in Germany and draw Klitschko senior into a unification fight, then both Hatton and Froch will be overshadowed by the ambition of the "Hayemaker".



There is a *Swamp Dragon*
Craig Wood

On Saturday, Ricky Hatton steps into the ring with the boxer dubbed the greatest on the planet, the Filipino, Manny Pacquiao. The bout is typical of "The Hitman", who has made a career of never shirking a challenge offered to him.

As a boxer, Hatton is not yet considered a veteran, and many would even argue that he has his best years ahead of him. The Englishman's determination, charisma and charm mean that Ricky Hatton has all the potential to fill the very much contested and very much uncertain title of the greatest British boxer of all time.

The biggest contender to the throne for the greatest British boxer is undoubtedly and justifiably Joe Calzaghe.

Calzaghe retired in February after an illustrious career that saw him hold the super-middleweight title for over ten years and remain undefeated. Yet, it appears difficult to argue that Calzaghe has completely swept clean the division.

There remains a wealth of boxers that could pose a threat to Calzaghe's record if he were to return from retirement, including Kelly Pavlik and Paul Williams. Calzaghe did beat ring legends in the shape of Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones Jr., but had he fought them five years previously, it would have made for a much more interesting fight. Even the former undisputed heavyweight world champion, Lennox Lewis, may take pride in defeating Holyfield and Tyson, but a loss against the distinctly average Hasim Rahman is hardly characteristic of a boxing great.

Upcoming fighters such as Carl Froch and David Haye, meanwhile, still have a lot to

prove, as does Amir Khan, who still looks far from the finished article.

In the absence of any suitable contenders, therefore, Hatton has emerged as a true modern great. Hatton has avoided no contender, recently demolishing rival light-welterweight Paulie Malignaggi, and has brought British boxing into the spotlight like no other. Never before have the media become so infatuated with a British boxer. Never before have our friends over the Atlantic taken a non-American so closely into their hearts. In terms of a legacy, Ricky Hatton has left a sensational record, paved the way for lucrative cross-Atlantic contracts, and at thirty years of age, it seems he still has lot more to offer.

There does remain a blemish on Hatton's career, however, in the form of the infamous bout against the now-retired Floyd Mayweather Junior,

who inflicted Hatton's first defeat in 2007. Departing from long term trainer Billy Graham, Hatton has since joined with Mayweather's father, Floyd Mayweather Senior, and certainly looks a more confident and all round fighter. That defeat came at welterweight - a division that Hatton has looked far from comfortable in - and it must be questioned whether Hatton's ambition overruled the logic of fighting a bigger man.

All eyes will be on Saturday's fight, which will see Hatton return to his preferred light-welterweight division. It undoubtedly provides Ricky with an invaluable opportunity to seize the title of the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world, and fill the void of the greatest British boxer we have ever seen.



15% off when you spend over £5

Pec Catering Group
Food is the hands of professionals

ESTABLISHED 1999

Pizza, Cans

Pizzas • Burgers • Buns

THE FIRST AND STILL THE BEST PIZZA SHOP IN MYDE PARK!

0800 926 276

elfaro pizzeria

0113 278 5479

CAFE CALDO

0113 245 2257

15% off when you spend over £5

No regrets for the wild child winger

Lee Sharpe may often be regarded as an unfulfilled talent but the former England winger tells LS Sport that he is proud of his career, and that he is revelling in the freedom of life after football.

Lee Sharpe

Interview

David Pritchard

Lee Sharpe may have been billed as being 'of Celebrity Love Island fame' during a recent advertisement but, to those unacquainted with ITV's tropical romance, Sharpe is best known for his footballing exploits with Manchester United.

Sharpe is sporting a shock of wavy brown hair, an encouraging sight for any user of the hair loss product he is currently endorsing. "It's a bit long at the moment - a bit of an eighties throwback!"

The former England winger is in good spirits, a result of what appears to have been a liberating period after retiring as a player. Sharpe chose not to pursue a coaching career. Instead, he has relished the freedom of life after

football.

"Football's so restrictive - it's just 'football, football, football' for eleven months a year. When I wasn't playing football, I just found myself talking about it, so I've really

Sharpe's career in brief

1988: League debut for Torquay
1988: Signs for Man Utd for £200,000
1991: Makes England debut
1991: Named PFA Young Player of the Year
1994: Scores backheel against Barcelona
1996: Moves to Leeds for £4.5m
1999: Joins Bradford after loan at Sampdoria
2004: Retires after short spells at Exeter, Grindavik and Garforth.

enjoyed the diversity of doing other things.

"I had a couple of weeks in Fiji on a 'love island', I did a little bit of ice skating - the reality TV's been good fun. I also have a charity in South Africa, helping underprivileged children by using football to keep them out of trouble. I've started to do some after dinner speaking too - anything to keep me off the streets."

Sharpe retired at the relatively young age of 32. Having left United, the winger's career was interrupted by injuries and hampered by an inability to settle at a series of different clubs.

One of Sharpe's former teammates, however, has enjoyed a lengthier spell at Old Trafford. Recently named the PFA Player of the Year, Ryan Giggs has produced

some vintage displays and recently made his 800th appearance for the club.

A former rival of Giggs' for a place on the left flank in United's first team, Sharpe is effusive in his praise for the 35 year old.

"He's had a great season, and I'd say that he deserves a place on the shortlist for player of the season. His longevity isn't a surprise in the sense that he's kept himself fit, played consistently well and showed loyalty to United. I think he's going to play until he's fifty!"

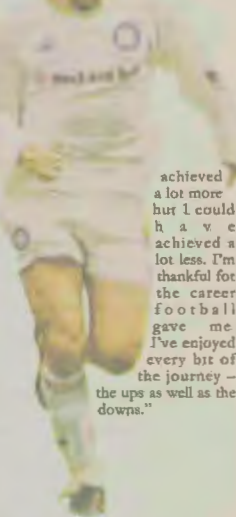
"Consistent on the pitch and a family man off it, he's the ideal role model for young players at United. [Sir Alex] Ferguson protects young players and ensures that they're disciplined, and in Giggs, Paul Scholes and

Gary Neville, he has role models in abundance."

While the aforementioned players are continually celebrated for their durability, there remains the suggestion that Sharpe's potential was never fulfilled. The

player himself, however, is philosophical as he reflects on his career.

"I could have



achieved a lot more but I could have achieved a lot less. I'm thankful for the career football gave me. I've enjoyed every bit of the journey - the ups as well as the downs."

"Football's so restrictive - it's just 'football, football, football' for eleven months a year. I've enjoyed the diversity of doing other things."



Sharpe is enjoying life without football

Photo: Phil Dawson

Final fatigue costs Uni as Met clinch Ruby League Trophy

Men's Rugby League

Leeds Uni 1sts 26-42 Leeds Met 2nds

Duncan Mowbray

As the sun shone down brightly and twenty-six players reared themselves for kick-off, a vigorous cheer resonated from the sidelines. The Leeds University rugby league side were just about to face the Leeds Met rugby league 2nd team, widely reputed to be the second best uni team in the country. That fact, however, was almost meaningless, considering the outstanding performances from Leeds University this season, which have seen them finish top of

their league, and record convincing cup wins against Gloucestershire and Nottingham. With the prestigious BUCS Rugby League Trophy as the prize, this encounter is to be a fantastic encounter.

The game began with Leeds University smashing a fantastic kick deep into opposition territory, thus setting the benchmark for their first half performance. The power and creativity of the Leeds Met players was immediately obvious, but fantastic defensive displays from both Tommy Gaughan and Jonny Sloan saw each attack repelled.

On the turnover of the ball, Leeds University had the opportunity to display their own attacking prowess, and with competent, dextrous handling,

"After 70 minutes of intense rugby, the wearied bodies couldn't keep up and Leeds Met secured two late tries"

they added to an earlier Michael Beeken penalty with a try from Marc Galustian.

Mounting a short period of sustained pressure, Leeds Met began to expose weaknesses in the right hand side of Leeds University's defence, who faced a tough task to maintain their lead. They proved equal to this shortly before half-time though, when Tom Ralph utilised his pace and skipped past a wayward tackle to add to Leeds' points.

As the half-time whistle blew, the score stood at 14-10 in favour of Leeds University. Injuries and tired legs, however, took their toll early in the second half, allowing Leeds Met to enjoy a period of sustained possession, which saw them gain a seemingly unsurpassable lead.

However, some impact substitutions from the Leeds University coach created some extra depth, and this was apparent immediately as Ben Slater crashed through the line, putting Leeds Met on the back foot, and allowing Ashley Johnson, and later Robert Plumbridge, to close the gap.

With the score at 26-32 leading into the final ten minutes, the game was within the grasp of Leeds University, but after 70 minutes of intense rugby, the wearied bodies couldn't keep up, and Leeds Met secured two late tries. The notable performance of Ben Parker, who won Man of the Match, combined with Leeds Met's greater squad depth and superior fitness saw them lift the BUCS Rugby League Trophy.

Grayson vows to do things his own way

Leeds United's manager discusses promotion hopes and why his players won't be singing any time soon.

Simon Grayson

Interview
by David Fitzgibbon

Brian Clough's 44 days at Leeds United may have been dramatic enough to inspire a novel and a recent cinematic adaptation, but although the man currently in charge at Elland Road might be enjoying a more amicable tenure, there was an element of controversy to Simon Grayson's appointment.

Grayson, formerly a Premier League player with teams such as Leicester and Blackburn, was appointed in acrimonious circumstances. Having been refused permission to speak with Leeds and then having his resignation rejected at Blackpool, Grayson was eventually named Leeds boss in December.

Although leaving Championship club Blackpool meant dropping down a division, Grayson, who was born in Yorkshire, fulfilled a dream by becoming Leeds manager. "It's a massive football club, and an honour and a privilege to be the manager."

At the helm of what was a Champions League club only eight years ago, Grayson is fully aware of the task that faces him and his side.

"There have been some strong teams in this division. With this club's size, our main target is to get out of this division."

Having missed out on automatic promotion, Leeds will have to successfully navigate the challenge of the play-offs if they are to gain Championship status. The club may have lost to Doncaster in last season's play-off final, but they will feel that they are in capable hands as they bid to make amends this year.

It was courtesy of a 2-0 victory over Yeovil at Wembley that Grayson led Blackpool to League One promotion in 2007, and he feels that this team is equipped to emulate that success.

"We've done well recently, and it's up to us now to make sure we continue that form beyond the end of the season. If we maintain a level of consistency, then we have a great opportunity."

Grayson has already guided Leeds to an eight-match winning streak, the club's best run of results in over twenty years. Crucial to this surge has been the

form of the club's two prized assets, top scorer Jermaine Beckford and the young midfielder, Fabian Delph.

"When I joined, I was told this was not a selling club and that proved the case in the January transfer window. The two players enjoy playing for Leeds and, if we get promoted, we're likely to keep all our best players. It would take a ridiculous offer for us to consider selling them."

Beckford has already scored 32 goals this season, an impressive addition to the 20 he scored the previous term. Delph, meanwhile, has been the subject of much interest

"I've sorted the good points from the bad from my former managers, while still maintaining my own ideas and beliefs."



Grayson is chasing promotion in his first season as Leeds manager

Photo: Phil Parsons

recently, having been named the Football League Young Player of the Year.

"Fabian Delph and Jermaine Beckford both have the ability to play at a higher level. Jermaine's scoring record has been outstanding—

but he is determined to do things his own way.

"I've sorted the good points from the bad points from my former managers, while still maintaining my own ideas and beliefs. You have to be yourself, learn from mistakes and take positives from other managers."

If a play-off campaign was

to lead to a trip to Wembley, the squad could be required to exhibit their vocal skills and continue Leeds United's rich singing tradition. Asked whether the team prefers singing 'Leeds United Callypsos' or 'Marching on Together', Grayson laughs.

"We don't do much singing in the dressing room. You wouldn't want to hear our lads singing. I think it's best if they concentrate on their playing and let the fans concentrate on the singing."



he just needs to add consistency to his game, something on which he's been working hard.

"Fab's becoming a bit of a marked man. For a 19 year old, he's got great energy and technique, and is already in the England U21s squad. I'm sure they'll go a long way and, hopefully, that will be with Leeds."

As a player, Grayson worked under some esteemed managers such as Howard Wilkinson and Martin O'Neill,



Lee Carr and Simon were speaking at the official opening of Nationwide Building Society's new office at 36-38 Albion Street, Leeds. Nationwide's Chris Hull said "We're thrilled that Simon and Lee came to help perform the opening of our new branch. It's a great show of football talent, and not only are they supporting football in the area but local community too."

LS Sport



Leeds storm to surprise gold



Leeds cycle their way to an unexpected cross-country victory

Photo: Mary Schellman

Cross Country Cycling

Leeds' cross-country cycling team exceeded even their own expectations at a recent competition at UK Bikepark, as they claimed a shock gold medal.

Centred on the 'easy descent of the hill and followed by a long climb up the uplift track, the course included a small loop around the top of the hill with some freshly cut singletrack and a short climb back up the 4X track.

It was bound to be a rough race with both technical and physical challenges. Added into the mix were some of the UK's top riders.

David Lee Williams (Glamorgan) was the favourite, but our elite racer, Calum Chamberlain, was a definite

threat.

From the start gate, the downhill course looked like a flat-out sprint into the first drop, then a road gap to rock-garden with the course steepening into switchbacks down to the finish jumps and beams which were being taken flat out.

In the downhill event, two runs were taken and the best time from these counted towards the position. Bath's Richard Thomas won the event in a time of 1:23.70. With competition fierce, the top 10 all finished within 7.5 seconds of him.

Leeds boys didn't do as well as they might have liked, with our highest placing of Sam Hounsell at 96th, 19.65 seconds down.

Other Leeds riders came in 109th, Ben Thompson, 115th, Josh Allen and 151st, Henry Stam. This put us 32nd in the team competition.

Chamberlain relished the opportunity to put into practice the overtaking skills learnt riding for GB last year

The following day brought the cross country. There were two classes, the sport and the champs events. The male sport race constituted three laps of the course and was won by Matthew Trevisi in a time of 1:21:57.

Chris Dyson rode strongly to gain 18th place, 12mins 24secs down on the leader. Henry Stam, having raced downhill the previous day, got the Veer out, donned his lycras to claim 47th place.

Finally, the champs event. This was littered with technical problems for the Leeds riders, with Calum Chamberlain rolling his tyre off the rim coming out of the first descent, Mike Jones puncturing and having to change a wheel, and Tom Bell puncturing on the little rock garden.

Chamberlain's issue resulted in him dropping from a threatening fifth position to the top 40. He

relished the opportunity to put into practice the overtaking skills learnt riding for GB last year however, and set about the task of getting back into a position he deserved.

Both Tom and Mike's punctures occurred later in the race when the gaps were larger and overtaking was a difficult task.

In the end we rolled in with Calum Chamberlain in 5th, Mike Jones 16th, Tom Bell 35th and Matthew Richardson 67th.

Sensing an outside chance of a medal the boys looked set for disappointment when bronze was awarded to Cambridge and silver to Loughborough.

Unexpectedly though, Leeds were stunned to be announced as winners of the gold - a brilliant end to a fantastically run event.