



Little Boots: Leeds grad and 'brightest of stars' interviewed
 Live at Leeds: reviews from a jam packed weekend of music
 Skream shouts at us in an exclusive one-on-one

LS2

Friday / May 8 / 2009

Leeds Student

Upset over restaurant closure as conflicting ideas for financial failure voiced

MINE FIELD



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Claire Preston

Leeds University Union's (LUU) Mine restaurant is closing at the end of this year amid fears that the food outlet will suffer another financial loss.

It is estimated that the Union will have £60,000 as a result of the closure.

After this academic year, the food operation at the outlet will be discontinued but Mine will remain open as a night-time venue.

Six full time staff's jobs will be affected by the decision. The current restaurant employees are said to be "gutted" and "absolutely devastated."

Despite the introduction of new menus and promotional material, LUU does not profit from the restaurant and it is expected to make another loss

this year. The reasons for this are disputed.

Steve Jones, an ex-employee of Mine, blames new businesses in the Union. He said: "When I started at Mine, business was great. LUU has really shot itself in the foot by introducing too many competing venues and stores."

The Union rents out space to external companies such as the Sushi Bar, Salads and Stuff, Kabuki, Wrapid,

NO MORE MINE: Despite much popular demand Mine can't break even

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The Big Debate

Are points deductions a good idea?
 Captain interviews: season round-up

Comment & Debate

Swine Flu, Jane Goody and Obama
 Are we living in a media circus?
 Swine Flu: pandemic or panic?

Features

Alcoholics Anonymous
 LS1 explores alcoholism
 Hyde Park community join forces

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 a 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

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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 Chap

And so the last day of teaching comes to pass, and with it the last issue of the Leeds Student for this academic year. Except wait, what's this, there's still one issue left?

Yes, Friday May 15 brings our final issue, ready to pep you up after a week of draining revision.

This week we heard that next year Mine won't serve food. On top of this, Pizza Box and Wrapid are being ousted, to be replaced with something more profitable to the students (no doubt as part of the Union's Five Year Plans for the Union Economy). We can't wait for the demagogues that run the Union to annex the Brotherhood Library for use as Galags and begin sending dissidents to Siberia.

Comrades also finally received the results of the Editor election. In a democratic process that would shame any respectable Kremlinite, voting passed without ballot stuffing or cups of plutonium-laced tea. It is as yet unconfirmed whether the winner, Virginia Newman, will be enshrined in a 15-foot Iron statue, hand raised in appreciation of the 412 people that voted for her.

In other news, the Riley Awards took place, rewarding the Union's favoured children for

their service to the proletariat. Union Chap for one is glad that Leeds Student wasn't nominated for anything. Union Chap doesn't like the feeling of self-worth afforded by words printed on gold paper. Just because our award from last year is forgotten on a shelf, covered in dust, encased behind a smashed glass frame, doesn't mean we don't want another one to keep it company.

Fuckers.

Students bemoan loss of Mine

From front

Jules Bar, the Pastry Company and Pizza Box. These outlets generate rent revenue although it is debated whether their influence affects Mine's takings.

Lesley Dixon, IUU's Chief Executive, insists not. Instead, she says: "I think the key issue with Mine is its location - it's not in the most obvious place. If Mine was in a different place in the Union, it might well have been a different story."

In a frank, exclusive statement to Leeds Student, Dixon admitted that out of the six full-time staff at Mine, two would lose their jobs with the other four being deployed elsewhere in LLU.

Yet there are suspicions that due to the specialised nature of the jobs carried out in Mine's restaurant, redeployment of staff might not be easy.

However, Dixon moved to reassure the affected parties saying: "We're hoping we can work things round so that we can move people into new jobs. Obviously, there are not six new vacancies but it might well be that through people looking at things like voluntary redundancy then we're in a position whereby we can satisfy everybody's needs and that's really what we're working towards."

Mine had already recruited staff for next year but Dixon maintains that the Union could not have foreseen what was going to happen.

However, she says that the effects of the Mine closure on these new staff should be minimal: "It's still there as a

night time venue and the expectation that the other staff will be moved between the other bars so the hope is that there won't be many affected."

Many have reacted negatively to the news of the closure and Dixon sympathises: "I know Mine is popular but there were times when it wasn't getting the use. If we can stop that then it means that we are able to put money into student activities and advice."

She continued: "I really want to stress that the team has worked so, so hard to try to make it work but every angle that we came from, we couldn't make the figures stack up."

Similarly, Jones, a History graduate, said: "The working atmosphere in the place was better than any other bar and the management deserve plenty of credit for treating what everyone agrees was a really friendly vibe in Mine."

He continued: "I always thought that it would be the most successful venue in the Union because of its versatility, so I'm pretty shocked about its closure."

Tasha Dodd, a third year Social Policy student, also expressed regret: "I am disappointed that Mine will not be doing food any more as it was a pleasure to eat there. It was a good place to chat with friends and enjoy a hot meal as part of a break from work. I always found it more comfortable than other hot food providers in the union such as the Refectory."

However, students will still be able to book Mine for society or group events during the day and in the evenings next year.

In addition to the closure of the food outlet in Mine, other changes in catering will take place elsewhere in LLU over the summer.

The Union plan to take over the University-run Pizza Box and Wrapid. The former will have its menu and opening hours extended while the latter will become an extension of the Terrace's seating area. There are plans to convert it into another Union-run food operation in 2010, providing "something between what we do in Pizza Box and what we currently do in Mine," added Dixon.

The Mine closure comes as plans to build a Leeds Arena in the City Centre are underway.

The Arena, which will be located on a five-acre site on Clappin Lane behind the Merlion Centre, which is being excavated currently, will seat 12,500 people and is due to open in 2012.

Although it is correct that the opening of the Leeds City Academy had a large detrimental effect on LLU's finances, Dixon asserts that this new venue will not damage the Union.

She said: "The Academy is pretty much the same size as the Refectory and we always knew that if they opened in Leeds, we would be affected. But the kinds of bands that will play in the arena were never going to play the Refectory."

Healthcare jobs cut

Adam Richardson

Cuts are to be made in the School of Healthcare with 33 staff expected to lose their job.

The announcement comes despite an increase in funding for the department due to a high rating in the Research Assessment Exercise.

Changes in the way the NHS is funding higher education, however, means that the School is facing a £2.5 million shortfall. This has affected other healthcare departments at other Universities.

The School of Healthcare are attempting to cut spending in other areas, but expect to cut around 33 of their 267 staff.

In a statement sent to students, the Head of School of Healthcare, Professor Dawn Freshwater said: "To offset a potential deficit we will be losing a small number of staff some through early retirement and a few through natural wastage."

The statement moves to reassure students about their education: "I must assure you that the student experience here in the School is of paramount importance to me as Head of School and to my colleagues. The delivery of programmes is the School's core business and of the utmost importance."

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Riley red carpet rolled out

Joey Severn

Societies dressed themselves up for the glitz and glamour of this year's annual Riley awards.

A 300 strong crowd, including the Vice Chancellor and Leeds City Councillors, attended the ceremony last Friday evening for the fifth Riley awards. 11 accolades were given in total in a variety of categories celebrating the achievements of Leeds University Union (LUU) societies throughout the academic year.

The Ban Bottled Water campaign, organised by People and Planet, which received national coverage after being reported in *The Guardian*, won the Best Campaign award.

Jess Parker, LUU Activities Officer, said: "I'm really pleased for People and Planet. It was a radical, progressive campaign and already seems to be having a big impact on consumer habits at LUU. It was a campaign that meant real change and they're the best kind!"

The hotly contested Best Show award went to the Opera Society for their production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Emily Carew-Gibbs, Opera Society President, said: "I'm really proud of everyone that's been involved in OperaSoc this year. The committee have been totally dedicated and we've had a fantastic cast who were so committed to making the show amazing!"

"I think we won the award as this is the first time an opera has been put on in the Riley which has been aimed at being really

accessible for anyone, whether they like classical music or not.

"We're aware that we're quite a specialist society, so we tried to make the show as funny and impressive as possible in order for any audience to be entertained, which means that hopefully we've introduced lots more people to this amazing art form!"

Best Collaboration went to Throw Parties, Not Punches, a group including Amnesty International, Students Against War and the Palestinian Solidarity Group.

The Film Society picked up the Most Improved Activity Group award while Cutting Edge, the Surgical Society, won the Best Departmental Society

Best New Activity Group went

to Vegetarian Food, rounding off a great year for the fledgling society after they made an appearance at the LUU Annual General Meeting as a model for creating new societies.

Caroline Brindle, President of the Vegetarian Food society said: "We set up the Society to give people who had a passion for delicious veggie food a chance to talk, eat and together and learn more about how to prepare healthy yummy meals.

"The award showed us that people have recognised how much work we have put into forming a successful society."

The coveted LUU Life Achievement Award went to the LGBT Chair Levent Akbulut.

He said: "I really did not expect

to win the award, especially due to the controversial nature of some of the campaigns that I have been involved in.

"I was incredibly pleased that my hard work had been recognised by LUU, even now I can hardly believe it. It is a tribute to all those that have worked hard on the committees of societies with me and to all activists at LUU."

Guests at the awards were treated to music and comedy from the likes of the LUU Music Society Jazz Band and the Afro-Caribbean Society Choir.

The A Cappella group, who also performed, said: "We all really enjoyed performing. We've never even played the Riley Smith Hall before, so it was an A Cappella first!"



TEALIGHTS: Comedians scoop award for Best Publicity

Photo: courtesy of the A&A

What's your Alibi?

Marcus Chippindale

A new health drink promoted by Leeds students could be the solution to getting through a hard day of revision and feeling fresh for the long summer days.

Alibi, which claims to be the world's first pretox drink, has the potential to keep you active after a big night out. It contains huge amounts of vitamins to keep your brain and nervous system working.

Although the drink is not marketed as preventing hangovers, if drunk the night before, it can make the morning after seem more bearable. Furthermore, if this wasn't enough, people in the Caribbean have found another use for Alibi: as an aphrodisiac.

Students who have tried the drink seem to be reaping the benefits.

"It seems to be a lot healthier than drinking several red bulls in the morning," said Matt Boothroyd, a first year engineering student. "I wouldn't say it totally cured my hangover, but I certainly felt more ready for the day and capable of doing things I wouldn't normally be able to do after a night out"

Ben Bolton, a second year economics and philosophy student, whose brother Oliver is the company's Managing Director, is in charge of promoting the drink in Leeds.

"By making stock available to sports teams, in lectures or house parties, we create an awareness and demand for Alibi, whilst we also sell the drink into cafes, bars and clubs," said Ben.

"We also employ a team who are basically our street sampling team. They are a group of students who we employ part-time to sample and give stock during events."

From personal experience, LS can report that instead of spending the day after Fruity on the sofa, Saturday was spent annoying housemates who hadn't had the benefit of an Alibi.

Alibi has recently been introduced in the Union and can be purchased from Essentials, as well as several other locations around Leeds including Chilli Whites and Harvey Nichols.

She's hot then she's cold

Marcus Chippindale

Katy Perry has changed her mind like she changes clothes and pulled out of the Leeds Universities' Summer Ball. Instead she will appear at an awards show in Russia.

Rather than perform to 10,000 Leeds students on June 5, Perry, 24, will now sing to an audience at the MUZ TV awards show in Moscow.

She will be replaced at Lotherton Hall by a live performance from indie band the Wombats.

The announcement comes just over a month before the event, and has received a mixed reaction from students about Perry being in

then out.

Tom Sidford, a second year History student, said: "I'm truly upset about Katy Perry pulling out of the summer ball. She was a very influential reason as to why I bought my ticket and I was very excited at the prospect of seeing her perform live."

Alex Smuts, a second year Management with Marketing student, said: "My friend Ollic is really disappointed because he was going to propose to her, but I love the Wombats so I'm fine with the change."

"It isn't a deal breaker for me because I don't like either of them in equal measure", said Rebekah Hawthornthwaite, a second year History student. "But as the headliners are used to market the event I guess there will be some disappointed people who

won't think the Wombats are a suitable replacement."

Perry was unfortunately unavailable to comment on the situation. However, a statement from her management about her change of schedule which has resulted in the cancellation stated: "It is with great regret that Katy Perry has had to cancel her appearance at the Leeds Universities' Summer Ball. Katy had been looking forward to this event but finds that she now has to be in Russia on June 5 to perform at the MUZ awards."

Other acts due to perform at the event include Reverend and the Makers and a DJ set from Pendulum.

Tickets for the ball are still available from CATS in Leeds University Union and from the Met Bar at Leeds Met civic quarter campus for 6pm and 11pm bus times.



The house that Zaman can't build

Laurie Whitwell

Rogue landlord Tariq Zaman, former director of Providence Properties, has been refused planning permission to build a new luxury home in Adel due to the grand scale of its design.

Zaman, who currently has 17 County Court Judgements against his name, had applied to Leeds City Council for the go-ahead to demolish an existing four-bedroom dwelling on Dunstam Drive and replace the 70s construct with a five-bedroom detached property complete with triple garage.

Zaman has been attempting to erect a new building on the site since 2006, having five different designs either rejected or withdrawn over the period.

According to Council public records obtained by *Leeds Student*, Zaman's would-be palace was refused planning permission by the Local Planning Authority on the grounds that it "fails to have sufficient regard to the character and appearance of its surroundings". The papers also detail how the proposal's "inappropriate volume, scale, massing and design" would make the finished building "incongruous in its setting" leaving it the "dominant" feature in the area's landscape and therefore "detrimental to the streetscene".

It appears a resident backlash helped guide the Council's decision, with 23 letters of objection from those living nearby being lodged. The complaints aired included suggestions that the proposed house is "out of character" with the area, that the scale and proportions put forward are "too excessive" and that the new build would result in the loss of an "attractive habitat, mature shrubs, hedges and trees".

In an ironic twist, the house next door to Zaman's property had its own planning permission granted a week after his latest bid was rejected, with construction work already underway.

Tariq Zaman's dealings have been under the media spotlight since 2007

when he and Providence Properties - the letting agent he was listed as a director of - were accused of unfairly withholding an estimated £70,000 worth of students' deposits.

17 separate households have taken him to court and won their cases, with judges ordering Zaman to pay the money back. In an episode of *Watchdog* aired in November last year Zaman brazenly dismissed the court's rulings as 'meaningless' and to this date nothing has been returned.

Zaman was also in the headlines in February when he was implicated as being involved in the opening of the Student Property Shop, a new letting agent located in the same premises as Providence Properties, despite the agent denying any knowledge of who he was.

Tariq Zaman was unable to be contacted for comment.

Rob Damiao, Community Officer at LULU and campaigner for the return of deposits, was pleased with the decision, however it came about. "Having his planning refused is great news," Rob said. "Though it was done

for reasons of aesthetics, it does mean that Tariq is not going to be able to live a grand lifestyle, in a five bedroom mansion, whilst many tenants are still owed hundreds of pounds."

Meanwhile, the Student Advice Centre has closed the book on Rory Aitken, the landlord who initially refused to pay back £30,000 worth of deposits to tenants. Aitken, dubbed 'The Ginger Conman' by the *Daily Mirror*, was the target of numerous campaigns and *Leeds Student* articles over the previous academic year.

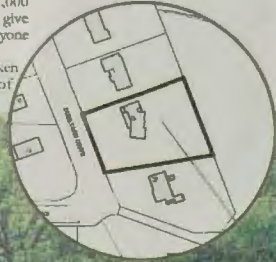
Andrea Kerslake, Housing Specialist at the Advice Centre, was pleased with the figure eventually secured. "I have just closed the final Aitken deposit case and we obtained £37,464.08," said Kerslake. "All but a handful of people got at least something back from their deposit. We would have liked the figure to have been higher but it is some £37,000 more than he was preparing to give back at the start. Thanks to everyone who helped highlight the issue."

The news on Zaman and Aitken comes as The Association of

Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) announces it is introducing a licensing scheme for its UK members and a code of practice for letting agents.

Espe Fuentes, a lawyer for independent advice group Which?, said: "We receive many calls from tenants who have issues with their landlords. Most are about poor living conditions and problems with landlords still not putting deposits into the deposit scheme. ARLA's licensing system is certainly a step in the right direction to offer greater protection for tenants."

"At a minimum, we'd like to see all letting agents and landlords required to join a compulsory complaints scheme. Many people have suffered for too long at the hands of unscrupulous landlords and letting agents - it's time to separate the wheat from the chaff."



DEMOLITION JOB: Zaman's plans to tear down the house have been blocked by residents Photo: Laurie Whitwell

Savage attack leaves victim needing surgery

Matthew Power

A Leeds student is recovering in hospital after being the victim of an unprovoked savage attack in Hyde Park.

The man, 25, had to undergo emergency reconstructive surgery on his eye socket after the ordeal, which took place on Saturday April 25, at the junction of Thorville Street and Harold Street in Hyde Park.

The victim had been walking home from the City Centre but was subjected to a vicious assault by another male.

Witnesses claim that there had been nothing said between the attacker and his victim prior to the incident, and that the assault had been totally unprovoked.

A police spokesperson said: "The victim is recovering from surgery but will be ok. Police are currently following up all leads to trace the suspect."

Leeds University was unable to confirm which institution the man studies at.

Leeds Student reported in November that there had been a number of violent attacks on students in the area. An 18 year old college student was fatally assaulted on Woodhouse Lane last year.

Three other physical attacks around University halls of residence - two on female students were reported soon after.

Police have described the latest attacker as mixed race, aged about 19, medium build and 5ft 10 to 5ft 11 tall, with either shaved or very close cropped dark hair and possibly some facial stubble.

Anyone with any information on this incident is urged to contact Detective Sergeant Karen Milner at Westwood police station on 0845 606060, or contact Crimestoppers, anonymously and in confidence, on 0800 555 111.

News In Brief

Swine Flu

12 Leeds University students working in flu-ridden Mexico have been told that returning home from the country will not affect their studies.

The students, who are in the country as part of their degree programmes, were sent an email this week to update them on the actions they should take. There have been 29 confirmed deaths in Mexico since the Swine flu outbreak in April.

The University have also advised that all staff and students should not visit the country at this time.

A Leeds University statement read: "We are in contact with the dozen students who we know are currently studying in or on work placement in Mexico and we have provided them with advice (based in part on advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office). We have reassured them that, if they wish to return to the UK early, this will not be detrimental to their academic studies."

"In line with FCO guidance, the University is now advising all staff and students not to travel to Mexico until further notice."

One Mexican Leeds student, who didn't want to be named, spent Easter in her home country. She believes that the influenza will soon be forgotten about and admitted she is more concerned about violence in her country rather than the flu outbreak. She said:

"People don't really care about Mexico and as it isn't turning into the pandemic expected, the richer countries will carry on as normal. To be honest, I think a lot of people over here see it as a joke. Every time somebody coughs or sneezes, they joke that they have swine flu. There is only panic now that the world media is covering the story. We in Mexico have known about it for over a month, maybe the first week of April."

"There was panic and the cities where like ghost towns, but now the five day lockdown is over everywhere is slowly getting back to normal."

The Leeds Student Medical Practice has issued advice to patients on its website.

EU voting

Students are being urged to vote in the upcoming European Union (EU) elections.

EU elections are being held across the country on June 4. As a resident of Leeds, you have the right to vote but you must be a registered voter before you can make your mark.

There are a number of ways in which to do this with the easiest being an online form which can be found at: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Follow the links at the top of the page.

See next week's *Leeds Student* for more election news.

Night-time burglars target students

Tansy Fall
Shirin Marker

A Leeds student was held at knife-point in their own bedroom, a court has heard.

The offender, Nicholas Gedge, 21, broke into the house on Stanmore Road, Burley, having taken the weapon from the kitchen.

Leeds Crown Court heard how the terrified student managed to escape by throwing his duvet over the intruder's head and running to a housemate's

room where the police were called.

Judge James Spencer QC branded the experience "terrifying." Gedge has been jailed for two years.

In another incident, a student woke to discover that their house had been burgled while they slept.

Alice Hurst, a second year Philosophy student, was burgled in the early hours of Saturday March 14.

Having come home drunk from Fruity, Alice woke at around 2.30 am to discover her front door open and car keys missing. Still drunk, she returned to bed and woke in the

morning to discover that more of her possessions had gone astray.

Her laptop, iPod, purse, mobile phone and house keys were stolen during the break-in. The burglars entered her bedroom and took the items while she slept. There was no sign of forced entry.

Alice later discovered that her housemate who sleeps in the basement room had been in all night and did not hear a thing.

A neighbour reported hearing Alice's car being reversed at about 2.30-3am.

Later, it was reported that a house in the next street had also been burgled, either on the night in question or the next day.

The police were called the next morning and Alice's car was traced to a nearby garage.

She said: "It was completely smashed. I'm surprised the people got out of it alive. Apparently it had been involved in a police chase."

The vehicle had been involved in two crashes during the night, involving three other cars.

The police informed Alice that a

likely punishment for the thieves would be a short amount of counselling.

She said: "I do understand about 'rehabilitation' and 'two wrongs don't make a right' but it is hard to take when the worth of my stolen stuff is roughly around £1300 if not more, not to mention the inconvenience it causes."

Alice tells of three lessons to learn from this experience: "Don't get too drunk, hide your stuff even if you are in your house and back up all your work."



RECONSTRUCTION: Possessions stolen whilst sleeping

Photo: Jess Edwards

Green day strikes community chord

Jess Elliott

Hyde Park was all about the celebration of green spaces as the festival Parklife got under way on Saturday.

The event, organised by former student Rupert Carlo, had the purpose of raising awareness of how we all enjoy our green spaces such as Hyde Park. As the good weather (albeit briefly) has graced Leeds in the past couple of weeks, Hyde Park has been a haven in which to enjoy the sun.

Parklife, aimed to show how much we enjoy the freedom to go to the park to enjoy a social environment.

The free festival drew specific attention to a piece of land that is currently amidst controversy at the

site of former Leeds Girls High School. The school has recently merged with Leeds Grammar School and has consequently sold the land. Proposals had been put forward for a residential development to be built on the land.

The community around the area of Headingley, where the former school is situated, believe there are not enough public green spaces and children's play areas, and want the land preserved as a green site.

Parklife supported this idea and wants the sports playing fields that once belonged to the school to become what the community wish for and promoted this at the festival through information stewards and leaflets.

Local Councillor Martin Hamilton (Liberal Democrat,

Headingley) said:

"There is already too much residential development in the area with not enough green space to sustain it."

The festival in Hyde Park took place in order to show Leeds City Council how much support there is for keeping green spaces green.

Parklife raised awareness for this community issue by putting on a free festival that included live music, poetry readings, children's and permaculture area and local food from the likes of Moorish and Hyde Park Exotic Food Store.

James Clark, a first Year Environmental Science student who attended the event, said:

"It would be great if events like Parklife happened every year. I think it would really be a benefit to the local community."



PARKLIFE: Support for green spaces

Photo: Ed Burge

LS investigates Union's liquid assets

Tom Knowles

Leeds University Union (LUU) will withdraw bottled water from its shelves by 2010, a *Leeds Student* investigation has learnt.

A motion, which was passed in the November referendum, proposed that the Union replace

bottled water in its outlets with free drinking water facilities. LUU will be the first University Union in Britain to implement a ban of bottled still water in their shops.

The move will see Essentials and Extras phase out the sale of bottled water in an attempt to reduce plastic consumption and reliance on a commercial product readily available at the tap.

Bottles of flavoured or sparkling water will still be sold in Essentials and Extras after the ban is implemented. Retail outlets owned by private companies, including the Pasty Company and the Refectory, will not be included in the ban and will continue to offer bottled water.

The final implementation of the ban has been put back to 2010 to allow the Union time to work out how to replace the £32,000 gap in its income.

Three trial water fountains have been installed in the Union whilst re-usable sports water bottles are now on sale. LUU have described both as having initial success. The original order of 200 sports bottles for Essentials and Extras sold out within two days. Another 2,000 were ordered, with a possible 10,000 more if the large amount sales continue.

The use of the new fountains has increased dramatically over recent weeks. Students drank 65 litres of water from the Union foyer's fountain in its first week of use and this had increased to 517 litres in the second week.

Alan Hill, LUU facilities manager, says that a minimum of five fountains will be installed by September. He believes other shops in the University will stop selling bottled water soon too:

"I think it's only a matter of time before a lot more do so, because they'll see the amount it costs environmentally and for transport and realise it's just water."

Keith Howarth, Retail Manager of Essentials and Extras, says he is not too concerned by the loss of income due to the ban on sale of bottled water:

"Water sales have been dropping these past two years anyway. I see the ban as just one small part of the Union's total sales. The gap in the market can be filled with new things we are targeting, such as more stuff for £1, whilst we will still be stocking sparkling and flavoured water which more people will probably now buy."

LUU expect sales of other

popular soft drinks to increase yet Laura McFarlane-Shopes, LUU Communications and Internal Affairs Officer, argues that the water ban is still a positive move:

"The bottled water campaign makes an example of one of the most extreme cases of pointless, destructive consumerism. Since water is free and safe out of a tap, and is exactly the same as 40 per cent of bottled water, there is no need to spend money on buying it in a bottle. Yes, it is true that we will still sell other products that use plastic packaging but it is a fantastic way to get people to think about where packaging comes from and where it goes after it is used."

There are concerns that withdrawing bottled water from the Union's shelves could have a negative impact on projects run by water companies.

For example, the water company 'One Water,' whose profits go towards clean water projects and other charitable schemes in rural Africa.

Duncan Goose, Managing Director of 'One Water,' spoke at 'The Great Water Bottle Debate' held at LUU. He stated that Leeds University had already paid for two of its clean water projects in Africa by buying bottles of 'One Water.' Mr Goose claimed that stocking One Water products rather than any other in Union shops could give a poverty stricken child an education or stop them dying from diarrhoea.

However Jesse Harris, third year Spanish and Politics student, disagrees:

"The droughts of last century are going to be the norm of the 21st century. Droughts that killed hundreds of thousands of people in West Africa will become a reoccurrence and a lot of it is due to global warming. A product that focuses on helping those in Africa is severely misguided if it looks at the bigger picture of climate change, which plastic consumption is part and parcel of."

Council grilled on BBQ

Joey Severn

Council plans to create barbecue areas on Woodhouse Moor were dealt a blow after a public meeting last Wednesday.

The meeting, organised by various community groups in the Hyde Park area, saw residents come and air their grievances on the proposed plans. Of the 100 residents in attendance the majority were against the proposals.

Richard Hellawell, resident of the Kendals, told the meeting: "The Moor is in danger of being destroyed by those who have barbecues, or by the councillors who will put concrete monstrosities on there. The existing by-laws ban barbecues, the police do not enforce them so it is up to the council to do it."

The current council plan is to sink 40, 60cm x 90cm rectangular concrete blocks into the ground, leaving the top flush to the grass. Included in the proposal are also plans to install 120 litre cinder bins in an attempt to stop the many bin fires which occur as a result of barbecues.

Douglas Louis, Technical Manager at Parks and Countryside, told *Leeds Student*: "The designated barbecue area consultation has reached the stage where the returned questionnaires are being analysed."

"Following analysis of the questionnaire data a report will be written and this will go through to an informed decision making process within council."

Questionnaires were sent out to households within an 800 metre radius of the Moor to gauge the public opinion on the plans.

Louis added: "At present barbecues are prohibited on Woodhouse Moor and all other parks within the Leeds Metropolitan Borough."

However, he continued, "Although Parks and Countryside have consistently maintained a policy of not allowing barbecues on Woodhouse Moor Park there has been difficulty in enforcing what is traditionally looked on as a popular activity."

"Should the decision from the informed decision making process be that barbecues are banned from the park then further measures will be considered to enforce that decision."

Rob Damio, Leeds University Union community officer, commented: "I am in favour of the site. Unfortunately the consultation in the Union was put back a week due to unforeseen circumstances and it had to be held on the last day of term when it was also very sunny. Ironically this meant most of the people who would have had an interest in having a say on the fact that they wanted to barbecue on the park were in fact having a barbecue on the park!"



FILL IT UP FOR FREE: Bottled water makes a splash with students
Photo: Phil Dawson

Campus Watch

Jane Salmon

Manchester Metropolitan University

Late lecturers are the subject of a new campaign at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The student union has set up a hotline where students can text the details of any lecturers who arrive more than ten minutes late to a class or cancelling at the last minute. The hotline receives around 20 texts a week and this information is reported to the

heads of discipline in the respective departments.

Lecturers' unions have denounced the idea as 'snooping' and undermining the bond between students and lecturers by getting students to spy. However, student leaders say its not a witch-hunt and they just want to make sure students are getting the learning experience they are entitled to.

Nicola Lee, President of MMU SU said: "Ten minutes might not sound like a lot of time but it will have an impact on students' education."

The latest National Student Satisfaction Survey rated Manchester Metropolitan University 12 points below the national average for

organisation and management.

Sussex University

A student has been found dead with a container of an unclassified drug found near her.

Hester Stewart, a medical student, was found dead last week with a container of the drug GBL close to her.

GBL - gamma-butyrolactone - is converted in the stomach into GHB. This is known as "liquid ecstasy."

The family of the 21 year old Sussex University student are now campaigning against the drug. GBL was recommended to be made illegal

by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs last year but no action was taken, making this potentially lethal drug freely available.

Hester's family are now hoping to petition the government to ban the drug. The drug has been banned in Canada and America since 2004.

Hester's mother, Maryon Stewart, said: "We want to stop this happening to other people and make them aware. Then we'll feel we have done something at least."

Enquiries are still continuing into Miss Stewart's death as the police await toxicology reports.



Letters to the Editor



-Your job or Mine-

The news that Mine's food outlet will soon cease running is going to have an effect not only on students' stomachs, but also their wallets.

In the most visible sign of the recession hitting LUU, the move will leave students who wish to supplement their income with part-time work without another avenue of employment.

In a Union that made a surplus of £98,445 in the last financial year, another £60,000 earned through the closure of Mine means that more money can be spent in other areas.

Many will understand the move to safeguard the Union in period of economic uncertainty, but similarly many will be gutted at the loss of the facility.

Whilst the full-time staff have to be considered the priority, the long term will see students who want work having to search even harder for jobs. New freshers looking for work will be affected as the Union, a good employer for students, reduces the number of opportunities available.

The Union will also lose some capable and dedicated staff, whilst others will be worried about the Union making cuts in other areas.

The concern over overcrowding in the Union must also be considered. With the food

outlets eventually being relocated to the Terrace and Old Bar, surely the wisdom of expanding these already well-frequented joints needs to be addressed.

Mine offers a unique choice in the Union as a restaurant. Whilst the option of pizza, salad and fast-food will appeal to students, many will still miss the opportunity to sit down with friends in an comfortable environment tailored for food.

This could lead to students taking their business away from the Union to eateries off-campus, as various pubs near to campus offer meal deals and cheap drinks that appeal to the student purse. This would damage Union finances even further.

Although played down by Union officials, the building of the new Arena in Leeds City Centre is another venue that will affect Union finances. With the Refectory hit hard by the opening of the O2 Academy earlier in the academic year, the Arena will take even more money away from the newly refurbished venue.

The closure of the food outlet of Mine highlights that no industry, including student ones, is safe in the time of a recession. The closure has more meaningful effects than just on students' stomachs.

-Tariq not 'Za-man' -

Tariq Zaman is back in the headlines once again, but this time for attempting to build a new house instead of dealing with the student deposits he owes.

Zaman's dealings are a hot topic with Leeds students, and it comes as no surprise that the building of a new five bedroom, triple garaged house has come into question.

The proposed site of the development, which is currently occupied by a four bed-roomed property, is slightly out of the student neighbourhood in Adel.

However, the Leeds City Council planning board has rejected his plans.

Local residents' response to the plans have been negative on several counts. These included claims that the plans are out of character with the rest of the area, the house being too big for the site and the potential loss of greenery.

Overall, the Council has ruled that the plans do not satisfactorily integrate with the surrounding environment.

Zaman's previous proposal attempts have been equally as extravagant as his latest. In 2006, he applied to build an eight bed detached, whilst a later seven bed-roomed house proposal was also rejected.

That his plans have been persistently rejected shows just how much he is out of touch with local opinion.

Zaman seemingly fails to recognise the concerns of local non-student residents who will remain to live in the area for many years to come.

At a time when he has numerous outstanding CCJs to his name, demanding the return of thousands of pounds in student deposits, it is intensely frustrating to see him attempting to spend lavish amounts on a new property.

Facism claim false

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to 'Fashion Fascism', an article that appeared in last term's 'Leeds Student'.

It is difficult to address such a sensitive topic as body image, and I was interested to read *Leeds Student's* take on the subject. However, I was saddened to see that a disproportionate amount of the article is dedicated to criticising 'skinny' models and is biased against slim women. There is a stigma attached to female body image and weight, and although it is apparently fine to criticise 'gaunt' and 'expressionless' slim models, to voice opinions about obesity and to label someone 'fat' is offensive. Whilst people such as Beth Ditto, who are obviously overweight, are being hailed for their 'curves', an unhealthy grey area between curves and fat rolls is being projected. Having worked at a fashion magazine and also as a fitting model, I would like to offer a more balanced response to this issue.

I think it goes too far to insinuate that the use of slim models and shop mannequins in the fashion world is inextricably linked to the loss of self confidence for many women and also, that the increase in plastic surgery is due to slim younger models being used.

Firstly, there are different types of models for different purposes; a couture catwalk model and a lingerie model have very different measurements; as underwear models are meant to be curvy, it is unlikely a magazine would use a size 6 model for a bikini shoot. Also, the differentiation between fashion advertising and editorial is key; the role of the fashion magazine is to offer an escape and the image a magazine chooses to promote through its editorial pages is often

different from what its sponsors are projecting in their adverts.

Secondly, it's nothing new for fashion models to be skinny and young; Christian Dior's 1947 New Look models had tiny 22 inch waists and Twiggy was just 14 when she started modeling in the 1960s. However, over the last 50 years the average UK dress size has increased from size 12 to 16 and average weight from 8 stone to 11 stone. Most high street brands have responded by extending their sizing range and there exist hundreds of specific larger size underwear brands (such as Figleaves) that may cost more due to the higher costs involved in construction for maximum comfort. Additionally, shop mannequins such as those produced by Roomstein, are in fact modelled on actual women, sculpted from life using the actual measurements of women who capture contemporary popular culture from Twiggy to Joan Collins, Kate Moss and Beyonce.

I doubt people are driven to have plastic surgery by the sight of slim models in magazines or shop windows; I would argue that the celebrity obsessed culture is much more influential in the wish to have a 'perfect body' whilst being too lazy to work for it.

Far from presenting one ideal image for women, the trend for using non-stereotypical women is taking the fashion world by storm. Giles Deacon opened his Autumn/Winter 09 show with 41 year-old basketball star Rachel Williams followed by a show full of 'real women', Vivienne Westwood closed her show with 53 year old, grandmother of 4, Jo Wood. This evident trend is appearing not only on catwalks but also on red carpets, TV and magazines. Designers are turning towards personalities to drive their

collections.

There exists an obvious obesity epidemic, highlighted by reports of the London Fire Brigade spending £300,000 on treating obese people. This is an undeniable problem which should be tackled head on, and should be a more pressing body image issue to discuss than to demonise high fashion's use of skinny models. Fashion is escapism, it isn't supposed to be realistic; we all know about the use of Photoshop. Women's bodies come in all shapes and sizes, including size 6. The promotion of a healthy body weight and lifestyle is much more beneficial than criticising somebody's creative vision.

Yours,
Babette Radclyffe-Thomas
Level 1 Chinese

From the message board...

Comment on 'Lecherous Jester: Jeff Leach Interviewed'

This man is going to be WAY bigger than Russell Brand and he deserves it - he's a talented, hard-working and genuinely lovely bloke.

Posted by Dawn Coxwell on April 30

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

www.leedsstudent.org

Election overshadowed by expenses row

Adam Richardson

Controversy once again surrounded Leeds University Union (LUU) democracy as a candidate's expenses form was mislaid due to an 'administrative error.'

Dae Choi, standing for International Students Assembly Chair was removed from the election after it appeared he had not handed in his campaign expenses form.

This broke Rule 10 of the campaigning students handbook that candidates must submit an expenses form "one hour after the close of polling."

However, after the vote count, it appeared that Choi had submitted the required expenses form in time, and that it had been an "administrative

error."

Despite including Choi in a recount, Janany Kondos won the seat on Union Council.

Another candidate, Nicola Jackson, who stood for Interfaith Assembly Chair, was also expelled from the election after handing her expenses form 18 minutes late. This count had been postponed pending an investigation.

In addition to the Union council elections, the re-run of the Leeds Student Editor election took place. In a campaign process lasting over three months, Virginia Newman was named the new Leeds Student Editor, beating John Pudduphat by 412 votes to 330.

Newman commented: "I am delighted to have won. This is a fantastic opportunity and I am really excited about getting started."

Former Student Executive

candidates Jack Smith and Guy Mitchell both won chairs on Union Council. Smith won the Education Assembly chair in which he stood unopposed whilst Mitchell won the Democracy and Communications Assembly Chair by over 100 votes.

LUU Communications and Internal affairs officer Laura McFarlane-Shopes commented:

"Many of the votes cast in the election will be from candidates taking the time to talk to students, explain the process and why they should vote. This will be a great skill for councilors as they enter their year of office - they just need to keep up the good work!"

"Overall, am pleased with how the elections have gone this year, but we need to work even harder next year to increase turnout further," she added.

the big debate:

Pandemic or Panic?

The Swine Flu virus has already claimed 29 lives in Mexico and 2 in the United States, and taken the world media by storm. A potential pandemic, or unnecessary scaremongering? This week's Big Debate asks:

Should we be worrying about Swine Flu?

Yes

Jess McDonald
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Swine flu is no longer a concern if you are to believe the latest reports. On Monday 4th of May health officials around the world reported that H1N1 was 'mild' and 'self-limiting'. This new position, I am sure you will remember, comes in the wake of previous reports throughout the media displaying headlines such as 'Prepare for Pandemic', 'WHO warns' and 'Pandemic Imminent'. So what explains the sudden change of heart? And more to the point, are we to believe these new reports? You may have already decided on which side of the swine flu debate you fall, dismissing the cries of alert as gross exaggeration that will not affect you as an individual. If we are now being told that the strain of H1N1 is 'mild' it does not imply an impending full scale pandemic like the reports from the previous week, right?

Despite this sudden bout of optimism within our national papers, human human transmission of the virus is on the rise. The World Health Organisation believes there is a significant risk of an imminent pandemic; level five out of a possible six, the highest being a full scale pandemic on their viral infection gauge. Health Minister Alan Johnson also admits that there will be a 'much more serious wave' of the virus in the autumn as studies of previous pandemics shows the increased resilience of viruses in cold, dry air.

'Spanish flu' was a form of avian flu first reported in Spain in 1918. It killed 50 million people worldwide between 1918-1919 and was, like today H1N1 virus, a strain of a virus primarily found in animals that had mutated allowing human transmission. Yes, we are better-equipped today that we were then, with the means and technology to produce a vast number of antiviral drugs which delay the onset of the virus but there is a definite possibility that, as with all viruses, the virus itself will mutate further and build up an immunity to the drugs used against it.

We need to cast our minds back to the headlines of the past month discussing the more pressing and apparent bane of our lives: the recession. Following a declaration in March that we were well placed to overcome it, Chancellor Darling

admitted that he had indeed underestimated the severity of the recession. Innumerable cases throughout our recent history show frequent misinformation by officials who are later quite firmly proven wrong.

There is also clear evidence that in times of crisis government officials often try to quell Joe Public's substantial worries through pandemonium in the media. On the surface this would appear to be an attempt at avoiding panic, but the economic ramifications of 'panic' are no doubt the Government's main concern: a decline in public expenditure caused by social distancing - avoiding public places. During the onset of the March 2003 SARS epidemic, the Chinese Government played down the effects presumably because of the economic implications; the GDP of East and Southeast Asia dropped by an estimated \$18 billion in the later months of the year largely due to a decline in tourism.

With the figures of infection rising daily, in our own country as well as within another twenty around the world, it is near impossible to contain or limit the spread. The airborne virus released in a single sneeze travels at up to 90 mph and ten metres, spreading 100,000 droplets of bacteria. Just imagine the consequences of that single bodily function in a built up area: a shopping centre, restaurant, school or a tube station. All those in the vicinity would likely become infected, spreading the virus further as they continue their daily routines, unaware of the virus in its early stages, symptoms manifesting days later. Denying its prevalence and likelihood of escalating to a pandemic is naive. But maybe for some people denial is the more palatable option.



Results from last week's poll:

Was police action at the G20 protest justified?

Yes: 12%

No: 88%

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



Will you survive the swine flu? The latest application to grace the pages of Facebook calculates your chances of doing just that, on the basis of a series of questions aimed at seeking out the strength of your survival instincts. In order to score enough points to be deemed a 'survivalist', it is necessary to pack up your bags and seek a hermit's life in a remote corner of the world, devoid of all human contact. If that doesn't sound appealing, then perhaps 'escape diem' might be a more fitting principle to adhere to until the impending inevitability of the arrival.

From BSE to bird flu, from SARS to the current warnings, swine flu has become a recurrent and extremely damaging feature of our modern world. The latest global pandemic in the making, swine flu, is just another source of gratuitous fear to add to an already extensive list.

Indeed, many claim that swine flu possesses few of the dangers claimed for it. In Mexico, the first country to report infection, there have been only 26 confirmed deaths, despite the confirmation of 727 cases of infection. This means that only 4% of those who have contracted the virus have succumbed. Yes, those are still precious lives that have been lost, but it must be remembered that flu is always a serious infection that can be potentially life-threatening. If the situation is actually put into perspective, scientific analysis has suggested that swine flu is actually a mild strain. Yet, in spite of these findings, it has been forecast that 40 per cent of the population could become infected, with millions of deaths ensuing.

Beneath all the hype, few people actually know what the disease is. Swine flu is caused by a strain of the influenza virus that usually infects pigs, and is not infectious to humans. The current outbreak of 'swine flu' in

humans is, by contrast, a new strain of influenza; a virus subtype called H1N1 that contains genes closely related to the original strain and causes symptoms similar to those of the regular human seasonal flu. So, what is it that makes swine flu such a worrying phenomenon, to the extent that the World Health Organisation is on the brink of raising its pandemic alert to the highest level? Is it the fact that it is capable of rapid transmission between humans and across regions or continents?

It is a point of fact that during the past century, novel flu viruses have had a stark death toll on a profoundly negative impact on the economy, most notably the Great Flu of 1918, which claimed the lives of 50 million people. Swine flu, we are told, is a threat on the same scale as 1918, due to its highly contagious and virulent nature. Still, are we not passing over some very crucial differentiating factor between the present flu 'pandemic' and that of 1918? In 1918, the world was nearing the end of a conflict like one never known before; the consequences of warfare, people were not in an optimum position to deal with a potent outbreak of flu, nor were there anti-viral medicines or antibiotics, nor an active World Health Organisation. We are unquestionably better equipped to deal with such an outbreak in the current climate. Indeed, one of the more positive aspects of our world leaders perpetuating a state of international frenzy at every health scare, are their consequent precautions and measures. Since the SARS scare, various individuals have been busily formulating a plan of action to be implemented in the incidence of a pandemic. This is certainly not a case of history repeating itself.

Indeed, the more immediate concern is whether an entirely different pandemic will arise out of the current concern, as ongoing speculation takes on a life of its own, giving way to mass panic. Certainly, the media would be even more animated than it already is, seizing upon the wealth of opportunity that such a situation would offer in terms of news coverage. After all, our society is easily manipulated when it comes to a good international scare. In fact, you might be better off resorting to the hermit's lifestyle until the hype dies down. You might just boost your Facebook credibility in the meantime, by securing the much sought after title 'survivalist'.

No

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Illustration by Becki Jones

Royal shame

Since the closure of Hyde Park's Royal Park School in July 2004, this century-old building has laid dormant. But passionate residents are determined not to see it go to waste...

If you live in Hyde Park, then you may well walk past the empty, boarded up Royal Park School building on the daily migration to Uni. Perhaps the more curious of you have wondered why, in an area in which unscrupulous landlords would probably try and get two basement bedrooms out of a cardboard box if they could get the planning permission, such a prime piece of real estate has lain empty for such a long time.

However, the chances are that not all of you will be aware of the building's past and in particular the contentious recent history of the building – and the ongoing battle to save its future.

The school opened on 28 September 1892, as the Queens Road School. Even now, boarded up with broken windows and surrounded by unkempt land, there are still echoes of its past. It is a strong Victorian building, built to last, industrial and proud.

Colourful murals of a creation story illustrate the walls of the playground, symbolic of a vibrant and artistic community. The present, run down state of the building is comparatively recent – although there were attempts to close down the school as far back as 1992, strong local opposition meant that the council were unsuccessful until July 2004. The closure was met with outcries from local residents and community groups, for whom the building provided a space to meet. In order to pacify these groups, the council made a promise that the building would be kept for community use.

However, it is pretty difficult to use a building which is boarded up, and to which you can't legally enter. This beautiful old building, still in active use for over 110 years after it was built, was neglected, allowed to stay forlornly empty, cracking at

the seams – just what concerned residents were emphatically told would not happen when the school closure was proposed in 2003.

And that takes us up to the present time. A few months ago, word spread amongst members of the local area that a bid by a company who had seemed set to take on the building had been credit crunched, and the Royal Park School building was under very real, very imminent threat of demolition. The Royal Park Community Consortium, formed in 2005 as a response to increasing concern about the building by local residents, sprang into action. A meeting held early this year was attended by a cross section of the local community, all concerned about the plan to knock down a building they felt passionate about, and all able to see the potential this building has for future projects.

People were angry and felt let down by the council, who had not fulfilled their promises and failed to adequately represent the views of people in the area. But more importantly, people were also enthusiastic, full of suggestions for the use of the building and willing to do what they could in the fight to save it.

A report recommending demolition of the building went before the council on February 13, and a group of RPCC members, who had submitted their original proposals to bring the building back to life, met two leaders of the council to plead their case. In the week leading up to this, emails were sent to councillors, a Facebook group was created (420 members and counting), and people stood outside the School itself and the Union with petitions which gathered over a thousand signatures. Such a strong response in such a short space of time

showed how passionate people in the area were about preserving this space, and the council took note of this. However, to the surprise of residents who have been campaigning for a chance to use the building since 2005, a last minute bid has been placed by a group who have offered to buy the building for use as a faith school. The Consortium are now racing against time to come up with a workable business plan for use of the building (as well as the cash) by the time the council make a decision between the faith school bid, and the Consortium's proposal for an inclusive community building.

The Consortium has developed a proposal for the refurbishment of the building and are continuing to attract greater involvement from local residents.

Conversing with Sue Buckle, RPCC spokeswoman, it really becomes apparent just how willing people are to dedicate time and effort to this project. People are rallying round and coming up with innovative, grassroots ideas for the future of the building – with a focus on eco-friendliness in methods of heating and powering the building, and emphasising the need to be inclusive in an approach to Hyde Park. She explained how members of the community with necessary skills have offered to do physical work on the building, and some local businesses have offered to donate materials free or at cost price. This is extremely beneficial because, as so often happens in this kind of situation, there is a major stumbling block in terms of funding. The Consortium seem to be trapped between a rock and a hard place in this respect; they can't apply for grants or other funding until they have been given official rights to develop the

building – and the council won't grant them any official rights until they have funding readily available.

However, once the issue of funding is resolved, there is no shortage of people keen to make use of the building. Enthusiasm has come from a number of corners: the big hall would provide an ideal indoor sports space, and interest from Burley Library, for whom the

building – and the council won't grant them any official rights until they have funding readily available. However, the increasing imbalance between different demographics in the area has disturbed the equilibrium.

It is a fragmented area. Students are proud to live here, but how many of us really know much about what goes on in our area outside the sphere of our own close knit groups of friends? There are strong bonds between long term local residents but little interaction with the wider student population. The problems this creates are numerous, serious and difficult to solve. There is no easy answer to the situation.

What is clear is that the Hyde Park community is strong, and has a better chance than most of weathering this storm.

Taking away the Royal Park building would not help a community that is already facing some major problems. The chance for a truly inclusive Community Centre, uniting all residents of the area whatever demographic they may be, into one place, the chance to strengthen ties in a community that is struggling with the issues that arise as groups of residents have less and less in common as the years go by. Tearing this building down would leave a hole in the heart of Hyde Park, literally and physically – and it would be a tragedy to throw away the chance for a space that could be a centrepiece of an area that very badly wants a chance to show what it can do.

For more information join the Facebook group, 'Save the Royal Park Primary School from Demolition'.

Words: Philippa Denton
Photo: John Puddephatt

Hyde Park community is strong, and has a better chance than most of weathering this storm.

building could potentially provide much needed new premises, dates back several years to the closure of the building. There is suggestion of a café, which would help to fund the building and provide a meeting space for people to interact in a social atmosphere, and music practice space, which would be highly valued in an area musically focused as Hyde Park. A number of local organisations have expressed an interest in getting involved – from volunteering groups aiming to improve the area, to creative music projects in need of space to operate.

Hyde Park is a community that has seen massive upheaval over the last decade. There has always been a diverse population, which has

HAPPY HOUR

When is it time to stop?

With Leeds University Union having recently established its first Alcoholics Anonymous, *Leeds Student* thought it was about time we examined how three years of binge drinking have taken their toll...



AA meetings are fully inclusive, fun, and completely anonymous.

Photo: Phil Dawson

Despite the media focus on the rise of a "binge drinking" culture I, like many other young people, have never felt that my drinking habits are too extreme or detrimental to my health and pay little attention to the number of units I consume on a standard night. My self-perception as a "responsible drinker" is based on a recent government report describing binge drinking as the consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol within a limited time period, but what exactly does that mean? My immediate response is to say that, whilst I do enjoy drinking, I rarely drink to a point where I have little control over my actions. Sadly this does not mean that I am drinking responsibly. The recommended limits of alcohol consumption in one week are no more than 21 units for men and no more than 14 units for women. This may sound like a lot but this approximately equates to 12 bottles of beer or 6 glasses of wine respectively. This means that if you were to go out 3 nights in a week you should only be drinking 2 small glasses of wine or four bottles of beer each night when in reality it is less than shocking to see girls drinking entire bottles

of wine on the pre-lash.

As your body becomes more used to alcohol, it takes more and more to achieve the same effects, and therefore it is difficult for some to accept that they are binge drinkers when they have had two bottles of beer every day of the week and have not been drunk once. Having asked a few students how much they would normally drink on a night out, the results would indicate that university is rife with binge drinkers, but few recognise where this heavy drinking could lead.

Statistics from 1998 - 2006 have demonstrated that binge drinking is heaviest amongst 16-24 year olds (heartstats.org), indicating that university students are most likely to be binge drinkers. With so many cheap student offers around this is hardly surprising. You may not feel that you want to cut down on your alcohol intake but it is important to note the internal effects this liquid drug can have.

Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream through the stomach and small intestine and must then be broken down by the liver. Considering your liver is able to break down only

one alcoholic drink an hour, it is worrying to think how much work is expected of it when trying to break down three or four an hour. Contrary to popular belief, there is nothing that can speed up this process, even black coffee or energy drinks. By drinking at a high rate, the alcohol is not able to be broken down and so continues to circulate in the blood stream, affecting all of the body including the brain. The feeling of being drunk is when the alcohol has reached the brain, inhibiting its ability to co-ordinate control of itself and the body. As alcohol is a sedative, it slows down muscle coordination, reflexes, movement and speech. If you drink too much alcohol, your breathing or heart rate can reach dangerously low levels or even stop.

Alice Lee, an undergraduate English student at Leeds University, openly discussed with me her drinking habits, admitting to drinking in excess of 200ml of vodka on a regular basis: "Vodka Redbull is my drink of choice, and on a good night I can easily get four or five down me" she explained. "The Redbull keeps me hyped up so that I don't get too sleepy and can stay on the

Mixing Vodka with Redbull is like mixing cocaine with heroin

dance floor all night". However, this popular drink of choice has been described by the founder of British drug treatment centre Life Works as being a deadly cocktail which is like "mixing cocaine with heroin". This may sound like an extreme comparison, but he explains that

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LSB

eight/may/zero nine

INSIDE

**28 PAGES OF...
BOOTS?**

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LS2

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LOW
DOWN

with Toby and Will

The end of the year is drawing nearer. The Lowdown needs new writers. The only thing is, we can't decide (we're also keen to prove that cliques-aren't-us. Ahem). So, in the second of a three part instalment, here's guest writers number two, Toby and Will.

The permanent writers for next year will be decided based on your comments, so in a typical display of democracy-embriacy character we're calling for your comments on each week's writers. Send them to us at editor@leedsstudent.org, and have your say.

As the beams of sunlight shine through our wardrobes, in go the Christmas cards lovingly knitted by grandma and out come the shades.

However, recently sunglasses don't seem to be the reason defining accessories that they used to be. In fact sunglasses have held a notably steady presence all winter, most hilariously inside of club (i) most of which resemble caves, apart from being rather more crowded and in some cases easier to get lost in. I have never quite got to grips with this phenomenon: perhaps the blurred vision means they can act like beer goggles for the footloose. Maybe some people simply enjoy stepping over things all

The experience of walking around with the world appearing to have half of it TipXed out by a demented primary school teacher must be an intriguing one

sight. Actually, that's generally done regardless of the sunglasses, such behavior can only really be justified if you are Cyclops, or for the Trekkies out there, Geordi L. Forge, both of whom have reasonable excuses, the latter being completely blind without them, and the former otherwise having a tendency to

uncontrollably kill people with laser beams from his eyes

In that sense, if you come across someone with shades on in a club, they are either blind, stupid, or incredibly dangerous. Of course, during the summer, sunglasses are there in the interest of safety, but this could never stop the creation of the infinite and unique fashion identities owned by a pair of fake RayBans or those glasses that Kanye West wore that one and now I have. Guess Urban Outfitters. In fact, those particular sunglasses are so ludicrous they actually represent a reversal in technology that goes so far back that it would actually have to pre-date glass, which I believe was established centuries before people were having racism dictated to them by an angry little rapper. Nevertheless, I must admit that the experience of walking around with the world appearing to have had half of it TipXed out by a demented primary school teacher must be an intriguing one. Adjusting the blinds on a window would become an exercise in futility. Not only that, it would become impossible to tell a job's from a home, or more significantly, a coffee machine from a busy road. Let's be thankful there aren't too many zebras in Britain and hope that this summer the trend isn't simply shamble eye patches.

Will Coldwell

Sunglasses certainly used a tremendous like between the sublime and, well, looking shit. At least the only casualty involved with an ill conceived choice of eye wear is that suffered by your dignity. As the summer sun once again rears its glorious head over the pallid skinned students of Leeds for

those precious few weeks it is another seasonal commodity that brings the real danger. It's not our ambivalence towards using sun cream, causing us to look more red and flaky than a lobster with leprosy, or the insane obligation to have a barbecue as soon as the sun comes out, often resulting in tanning-ella, smoke asphyxiation and bizarre skin burns caused by over-enthusiastic burger flipping.

No, it's flip flops. Flip flops (or thongs as they can be misleadingly called) are actually one of my favourite things about summer. There was many a time whilst traversing the tundra landscape of Hyde Park mid-January that I yearned after the prospect of making the same journey in shorts and flip flops. When the opportunity finally arose this week, I eagerly donned my Havaianas and took to the streets. What happened next can perhaps be best explained in a mathematical equation:

Flip flops + The Rager Steven steps a sweaty feet = me nearly breaking my back in spectacular style.

In spite of this incident I am still happy to be back in flip flops, especially when the only other fashionable alternative (a pair of Crocs, the fair-weather cousin of the glorified novelty slippers that is the Ugg boot, replacing it once again as the swaggiest city-looking shoe. Perhaps I'm being a little harsh on Ugg-lovers. I don't really have a problem with women wearing levers if they are a bit passé) but for the guys who wear them, those things are so emasculating you might as well also accessorise with a little bonnet and parasol. Man up, face the danger, put a pair of flip flops on.

Toby Ginsberg

GOING UP ^

Summer plans

Along with the onset of the summer holidays comes dozens of ideas for escapades around the globe. It's exciting even if they are usually as far fetched as they are far flung.

'Douche'

The spectacular comeback of this word is making us feel like we're in some mid-90's American teen rom-com.

The Economy
Not.

Raindrops

In more ways than one; it's the summer...but they're still falling.

Hayfever

Walking through the long grass in Hyde Park had me crying almost as much as when we watched Ghosts of Girlfriends Past.

Piracy

You wouldn't steal a handbag, you wouldn't steal a car, so why in hell would you steal an oil tanker!

OVERHEARD

QUESTIONS WE'VE FAILED TO ANSWER THIS WEEK

Why is that person in my seminar still talking? What is a Quail? Why did they make the word 'lisp' so difficult to pronounce?

GOING DOWN v



4.

Lectures

How many of you have noticed that in every lecture hall there are vents in the ceiling to let air in? I am not surprised if you hadn't, I'd not noticed until recently either. But why? Since noticing these vents, I have strained to feel the air coming out of them, but to no avail. There is no air coming in through them. To add to this enigma, how many people have entered a lecture theatre fully awake and ready to learn, and then about midway through have found themselves lifting their heads from deep slumber and having a numb arm? Are these two events related? Are the vents in there not for air supply, but to supply instead a seeping gas that deciphers the sleepy heads from the geniuses?

5.

The stairs

Anyone walking in the direction from the sports hall to the union will have come across this pitfall – the stairs. Yellow tipped demons from the pits of student hell – these blighters have you gasping and wheezing from the very first to the very last. No matter how well you dress, after climbing all of these, your face is red, your pits are sweaty, you are puffing like a blowfish ready to blow, and you need to walk at a snail's pace to get your breathing back to normal. Of course, those of you reading who do sports will not find them such a challenge, you might leap up them as if they were no more than a mild hill on your way to some sports stadium.

6.

Brotherton basement

To some people, libraries in general are scary things. These people should perhaps not have come from a library, but a school library studying film making where Blockbuster is their library-equivalent and had nearly so fearful. My first encounter with the BBL left me thinking it smelt of fish and so has left me slightly anti-returning, but one library where there is real fear lurking is the Brotherton. Located in the already intimidating Parkinson building, this is the serious working library, and in this serious working library, there is a stress and silent atmosphere, and in this stress and silent atmosphere, there is a basement. And in the dark, dark basement, who knows what lived... Dun dun der! No, seriously, there are ghats in the Brotherton library basement is one of the most haunted places. For the Light Night 2006, the ending of ghost stories was organised down there. An experience to be repeated I think. Keep a look out for a strong of heart, and prove your stuff.

7.

The battle of the architects

This one is brief. Go around the campus and see how many different types of architecture you can see. Afterwards you can take the number department and see if you are right. If you are, then whoop the biggie. Just look at Parkinson and feel a little bit of pride in such a huge and grand looking building. Or just embrace the



There you have it. Mysteries solved.

FOOD/

BRAIN FOOD

Not that anyone needs reminding, but exams are on their way and even the most prepared of us need all the help we can get. Forget spending hours in the library revising, what you need is brain food - and for that we eat sushi.

Packed with precious Omega3 oils, fish can improve your concentration, motivation and memory capacity. Everywhere sells sushi nowadays, most of the supermarkets offer sushi lunch snacks and even Boots has a good selection to boost the brainpower. The University has caught on to the trend with sushi being sold everywhere from essentials to the tiny café in the Parkinson building.

The independently run Kabuki sushi in the Union building means that freshly prepared quality sushi is available at only a minute's walk from the wonderful library. Selections of ready-made trays are available with a combination of sushi maki and California rolls. The salmon Sashimi and sticky rice salad is also delicious and omits the seaweed for those who are adverse to that particular taste. I would also like to promote Kabuki sushi's packets of wasabi peas, which at £1.50 are my favourite and most addictive revision snack. Although I am aware they do not contain any Omega3 and therefore will probably not help your brainpower at all they've got to be healthier than a packet of crisps!

Yo! Sushi on the fourth floor of Harvey Nichols is an excellent place to stop for a quick burst of Omega3. Customers sit around a conveyor belt that endlessly transports plates and plates of sumptuous sushi right under your nose. If you see one that takes your fancy you can just reach out and grab it! The clear domes that cover

each plate prohibit any fear of having to change your order when you see what it looks like! The real perk of Yo! Sushi is the student offers. On Blue Mondays customers can get any dish on the conveyor belt for the price of the cheapest blue plate (£2.20). And on any weekday between 3-6pm students get 25% off on condition of presenting your student card and a form printed off from their website www.yosushi.com.

For a more expensive but very memorable sushi and fish experience visit Wasabi Teppan-yaki Japanese restaurant at Granary Wharf. Here they create custom made creations of sushi and sashimi where ingredients and presentation is paramount. The restaurant is certainly not restricted just to sushi and their speciality is Teppan yaki cooking where the chef cooks a range of fish, meat and vegetables on a hot plate right in front of you. The whole process is a performance and one that makes for an exceptional night out.

And for those of you who don't eat fish or just find the idea of sushi too much, you can always cheat and just buy the Omega3 tablets available at most chemists!

words/ antonia lyne



HEALTH/

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

You're lying wide awake in bed, regularly checking the clock, feeling like you're probably the only person in the world not asleep - regardless of the fact that you're well aware of the existence of different time-zones.

If you've never spent a restless night counting down the hours, panicking about all the things you're going to have to do tomorrow, then you're obviously not amongst the 33% of people or so who, according to the NHS, suffer from some form of insomnia.

As students it seems like we might have the odds stacked against us when it comes to getting a good night's sleep. First of all, most of us probably don't have particularly regular sleep patterns; with frequent nights out meaning bedtimes vary drastically throughout the week. Similarly, those with a less-than-full timetable will have to be up at the crack of 9 'o'clock some mornings, whereas others will be free to rise at the far more civilised hours of 11 or 12.

Not forgetting, of course, that alongside alcohol's other much publicised and unpleasant side-effects, it can have a seriously disrupting effect on sleep. Although it might sometimes feel like it helps you drift off quicker it's more than likely that for the rest of the night you'll be waking up more frequently (probably with a mouth that feels like a small furry animal's been hibernating in there for a few months, but that's an issue for another

health column) and feeling less alert the following day.

Of course, it's not all self-inflicted. Add to the above the stress that a lot of us will feel around exam periods and deadlines, alongside normal day-to-day worries, and it's not difficult to see why so many of us might have problems.

The issues don't stop there for us, either. Even if we're well behaved and do everything possible to minimise disrupting effects on our sleep by staying in as much as we can, there's the possibility of noisy housemates to contend with; getting woken up by pounding music in the early hours is hardly conducive to a restful night. Oh and one more thing, experts say that it'll be seriously detrimental to your sleep if you work, play and sleep in the same room.

So students, don't go out, wake up at 8 every morning (just to be on the safe side), definitely give up alcohol, live alone and only work in the library. It's as simple as that.

words/ emillie ruston



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BURSTING THE BUBBLE/

Diary of a Leeds Student
abroad:
Barefoot in Brisbane

I live 2 minutes from Uni in St. Lucia it's supposedly affluent but frankly who in their right mind picks a nice house in a studenty area? Brisny gets a bad rep among backpackers, but as a place to live it's awesome, centred on a river where I go wakeboarding every Sunday through the Uni. I'm at the University of Queensland there are 3 Unis here but this is definitely the best! The playing fields are right on campus, it's really pretty with a lake area and loads of wildlife, and the facilities are awesome too. Best and worst points of Uni? The best is that they love sushi and I love sushi perfect Worst is that when

it rains, it RAINS. We're talking obliterated in 30 seconds. Worst and best nights so far? There's less choice than Leeds and it's very 'chart music', but there are other places for alternative music. The best nights are theme nights, but everyone prefers to look stunning! I've been the hulk, 80s person, and a castle. Colleges each do their own night and they're awesome. My worst night was due to a drunk friend screaming all the way home. Someone called the police because they thought she was getting raped...

What's really different from England universities? Being sprung upon by

possums whilst drunk at night; drinking "Goon" the box wine that comes in a tin foil packet and tastes horrible. No wonder considering its 10\$ (£5) for 4l, and the box says 'may contain traces of egg and fish'. 8am lectures are very different, and people are allowed to ask questions in lectures over here. Some Australians decided wearing 'thongs' (their word for flip flops) isn't close enough to nature so they walk everywhere barefooted! Doubt you'd see that in England. Or Brush

Turkeys-
birds
that shriek
and look like
prehistoric

monsters. Ugly, but they do provide serious amusement when chasing each other down the street.

words/ gemma
wilson

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SINGLES

Lily Allen
'Not Fair'
100%
(8)

Whilst innuendo isn't exactly uncommon in the pop realm, parents everywhere may be left reeling when they eventually decode Lily's 'cryptic' lyrics. Hiding obviously lewd themes beneath a blanket of wholesome country and western twang, 'Not Fair' has done surprisingly well for a song that is basically about a blowjob

Grizzly Bear
'Two Weeks'
100%
(7)

Animal Collective's revival of Beach Boys-esque melodies seems to have inspired Grizzly Bear's new transcendental-pop single. The melody flows effortlessly into a floating chorus which is accompanied by layers of harmonies. The energetic staccato piano and irregular drum pattern hold the harmonies in a rhythmical, structured framework

words/ edward dodson

Banjo or Breakout
'Upside Down'
100%
(5)

Five opaque, fuzzy slices of shoegaze pop, in which droning noise battles it out with chiming acoustic guitars. A la The Microphones. Unfortunately, though heavy on the reverb, it's also light on actual tunes. A fantastic (though obviously tacked-on) minimal techno remix of last single 'Mr. No' still leaves this EP falling somewhat flat

words/ alex wisgard

The Fray
'Never Say Never'
100%
(0)

The Fray prove that it is possible for a band to sound more boring than a hypothetical collaboration between David Gray and Coldplay by releasing a single that sounds like a hypothetical collaboration between David Gray and Coldplay. Though they might have become interesting? I'm a Fray'd you're mistaken.

words/ simon rowbotham

Spectors
'There She Goes'
100%
(6)

Clearly influenced by The Charlatans and the Stone Roses, 'There She Goes' is a catchy, bass/organ-driven single that wouldn't sound out of place alongside other early-mid 90s guitar bands. Not bad, but nothing we've never heard before...

words/ richard bienkinsop

RECORDS

PJ Harvey and
John Parish
*A Woman a Man
Walked By*100%
(4)

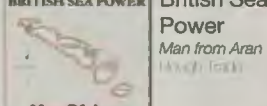
The title of this record is inspired by a piece of artwork by the American musician and painter Don Van Vliet, 'A Woman a Dog Walked By'. The oil painting itself shows no signs of a dog, depicting instead a concerned nude woman who lacks control of her environment of instinctive, moving neighbours and colour.

The record commits to the essence of its initial inspiration: it is dynamic, surreal, and unravelled through the perceptions of a jittery narrator. If the dog is missing in the painting and title, it may be retraced to barking vocalisations in the perhaps inappropriately named 'Pig Will Not'. Harvey's voice is admirable

in adapting to the lyrics and instrumentation of each individual track.

Despite encompassing blues, rock, country and even samba, the tracks here co-exist very naturally. Parish claims that the album has no running theme, but it seems that consistent concepts might be fundamentally responsible. Rather than characters being introduced, ghostly figures inhabit the listening experience throughout

BRITISH SEA POWER



British Sea Power's latest album - a re-scoring of the 1934 film of the same name - is certainly a peculiar one. *Man from Aran* is a broody docu-fiction which details the power of the British sea. With this in mind, what better band to accompany it than brooding rockers British Sea Power? Still, this is no easy task for any band, and BSP achieve mixed results.

As this is a film soundtrack, it is only natural for most of the tracks to be instrumental; unfortunately, this what makes the album difficult to listen to in its entirety. Many tracks last upwards of ten minutes, developing at an incredibly slow pace; for fans who are more used to the insta-rock explosions of their earlier works, the morbid tone of these lengthy tracks may be a turn-off.

When placed alongside the film, the new score obviously begins to make more sense. The film is tenebrous, dark and gritty and this tone generally resonates through British Sea Power's use of decadent piano melodies and overdriven guitar tones. Unfortunately there are times when film and soundtrack are at discord and the music fails to follow the action on screen.

Whilst *Man from Aran* is a convincing attempt at re-scoring an old film, one must question what exactly the point of the exercise is. The film is now essentially stripped of all its prior diegetic sound; its villagers and ocean are silenced and something of the film's original charm seems to have been lost. British Sea Power try to fill this gaping void with soaring post-punk melodies, but it doesn't seem to work the way it should; instead, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth, a bit like trying to fill a sandwich with Polyfilla. (5)

words/ simon rowbotham

PJ Harvey & John Parish



A Woman a Man Walked By

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Does *You Inspire You* can only be described as mystical, with a couple of mainstream songs thrown in for good measure. Chairlift don't seem to take themselves too seriously, and have the musical ability to pull off an charming, interesting album with experimental, electropop influences. Opener 'Garbage' sparks intrigue from the outset and many of the song topics are strange (see 'Ceiling Wax' and 'Le Flying Saucer Hat'), but it works. 'Planet Health' is extremely 80s and has an oriental feel, but bursts out into a funky bass solo towards the end. An LP highlight, 'Evident Utensil' is cheeky and strange (with the utensil in question being a pencil).

A more 'arty' approach is taken to round off the album, and the final two songs belong on a horror movie soundtrack. Nonetheless, *Does You Inspire You* is well produced, with intricate and intriguing details rendering it unlike anything else out at the moment. If quirky isn't your cup of tea, Chairlift could just change your mind. Caroline Polachek's unpolished vocals don't sound too try-hard and are addictive, giving the band even more character without bordering on Norah Jones dullness. (6)

From Bowie to Kate Bush, the UK seems to revel in celebrating the peculiar, yet, despite her androgynous appearance and haphazard mixing of styles, there seems to be nothing intentionally odd about Levi. Still, *Jewellery* barely resembles anything else you may have heard in 2009, and it's difficult to call it a pop album. Styles collide and disappear as quickly as they came, an acoustic guitar here, a pulsating disco rhythm there, all underpinned by Levi's cockney drawl. Early single 'Golden Phone' is perhaps the album's most straightforward moment, but not necessarily its brightest. 'Calculator' bounces along merrily, while 'Curly Teeth' twists delightfully into life with a squeaking synth break.

Jewellery is an album that reveals hidden depths after repeated listens. There is simply so much going on that it is impossible to fully appreciate in one go. While there will undoubtedly be more well-rounded records released this year, for sheer inventiveness and intrigue, I would highly recommend you investigate. (8)

words/ juliette bains

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

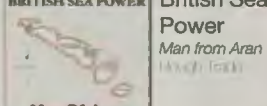
For example, in 'Sixteen, Fifteen, Fourteen', Erica watches and counts, while Danielle hides both in 'a garden' of rain and discomfort where nobody laughs. The uncomplicated banjo riff complements the simplicity of the lyrics, a contrast with the dizzy waltz-time of 'Leaving California', which increases the eerie ambience with soaring, high-pitched vocals. Here, the 'other' figure is present through mourning; California killed her and me.

It is not just space with which the singer tries to communicate: in 'April', Harvey interrogates the month, to no avail. It is raining again, too - perhaps we have returned to the garden. The awareness of death is pursued on the final, most poignant track of the album, 'Cracks In The Canvas'. Vocals are stripped back to soft talking over long chords resembling a church organ. Despite stating with an emphasised conviction that she is a 'disbeliever', there seems to be an anxiety that characterises this track, and, indeed the album, towards unanswered questions. The raconteur of *A Woman...is abandoned, unable to communicate and unsatisfied. PJ Harvey fans will feel the reverse. (9)*

words/ amy powell-yeates

MORE ALBUMS

BRITISH SEA POWER



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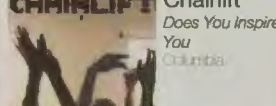
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words/ simon rowbotham

CHAIRLIFT



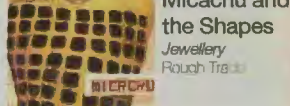
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words/ juliette bains

MICACHU & THE SHAPES



The notion of the 'eccentric British songwriter' has certainly garnered plenty of column inches over the last few decades. In an introduction to this album, however, the tag seems impossible to escape. Mica Levi, the frontwoman of Micachu & The Shapes, is only 21, but has already composed classical pieces for the London Philharmonic Orchestra and garnered widespread praise for her grime mixtapes. She has also found time to release *Jewellery*, her band's debut album on Rough Trade, with friends Rainsa Khan on keyboard and Marc Pell on drums.

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words/ malcolm mathieson



NOFX Academy

09/04/09

Tonight's support, The Flatliners, are nothing memorable. One can't deny their energy, or their effort in trying to interact with the crowd between songs, but it just reeks of that predictable contrived North American punk humour that has been done again and again AND again. Tonight, it's not helped by the size of the Academy. In a basement show with 100 of their hardcore fans, where there would be no such effort to reach the back of the venue, the set might have come across very differently.

NOFX, on the other hand, still seem to be everyone's favourite punk band, having been around almost since the dinosaurs. In their own words, 'dinosaurs must die' but, tonight, they seem too resilient to die quite yet. While not as bouncy as they

once were, even a fraction of that old dynamism stirs the crowd into one sweaty mess. Melvin's wry corpse-like



appearance suggests he could barely lift a guitar, but he leaps with excitement as the first drum beat sounds. El Hefe alternates between pounding palm muted power chords and spoof jazz musings - and Fat Mike doesn't seem to be that fat

any more. It must be hard to stay true to youthful punk sensibilities (or lack of) in one's forties, but for NOFX this doesn't seem to be an issue (take note, insurance salesman Iggy Pop). 25 years in a band have been good to them. Newer songs are received well by the audience but it's the 'classics' that receive the most rapturous response. 'Radio' with its stoned out ska rhythm is effortless, 'Perfect Government' gets the sing-a-long it deserves, and 'Don't Call Me White' creates a cirde pit that even the beer sippers at the back can't avoid.

Near the end of their set, NOFX ask if anyone is 'a dominatrix or owns a dungeon in Leeds' as they want to have a 'dungeon type party in Leeds tonight'. It's juvenile humour, but one can't help but detect a hint of truth in the request. NOFX keep it fun. While being 'over forty and not looking so purrrty', NOFX don't seem to care - after all, they still get paid to tour round the world in a band to sell-out audiences, and, really, what job gets better than that? (7)

words/ sam donnison

MORE GIGS

Art Brut Cockpit

09/03/09



In the five years since releasing their first single, Art Brut have developed from a gang of lovably clumsy punks into one of the tightest ROCK bands in the country. Frontman Eddie Argos stalks the stage like a true star, pontificating on his love of milkshakes, mixtapes and modern art, while the band throw as many guitar hero shapes as they can within each song.

Opening with feisty new single 'Alcoholics Unanimous', tonight's set is a decent mix of cuts from the Frank Black-produced *Art Brut vs Satan and Tits*. Ever the DIV-figurehead, Argos screams with a conviction worthy of Jonathan Richman 'Go home and form a band, or I'll punch your fucking face in' during 'Bad Weekend'. Meanwhile, he dedicates 'Slap Dash for No Cash' to his lo-fi heroes Jeff Lewis and The Mountain Goats. Ramming the message home during the song's breakdown, he stands stock still at the front of the stage and repeats the choruses of two of last year's most odious songs in an excruciatingly deadpan style that would make Stewart Lee proud: 'My sex is on fire. Am I human? Or am I dancer?' Just before the song kicks back into chaotic gear, the withering punchline is unveiled for those who didn't quite get the joke: 'You all like it. Ouch.'

The set all but ignores *It's a Bit Complicated*, but one of its tracks does make an appearance in the encore; a bouncy paean to the perils of drunk texting, 'Post Soothing Out' was always somewhat clunky on record, but takes on a new lease of life in concert. As the final solo crashes to an end, Eddie tells the crowd 'You've been amazing!' He probably says it every night but, coming from the most sincere man in pop, the Cockpit crowd believe every word. (8)

words/ alex wisgard

White Lies Leeds Met

03/03/09



Harry McVeigh, White Lies singer and guitarist, begins tonight's show with the mixture of humility and arrogant gloom that we have come to expect of the Ealing rockers. He thanks the crowd, and calmly leads his bandmates, in their identical outfits, with their identical solemn countenances, into a set that is proficiently executed, if a little wooden.

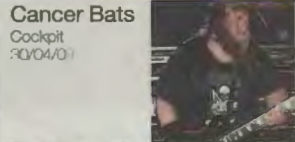
Singles 'Farewell to the Fairground' and 'Lose My Life' appear early in the performance, and are greeted with the energetic lungs of the sold-out audience, but that fervent energy is missing from the stage. It's perfectly possible, I suppose, that White Lies are about as sick as I am of the incessant Radio One coverage 'Farewell to the Fairground' gets; then again, perhaps it's our fault for listening to Jo Whalley. Although the group claim not to have listened much to Tears for Fears, Talking Heads, or Talk Talk, they will find it hard to escape the accusation that their milkshake brings all the boys to the 80s avant-garde. Whilst the comparison may be offensive to some, McVeigh does try very hard - and, to some extent, succeeds - at his rapid impersonation of Ian Curtis and, in 'Unfinished Business', 'The Price of Love', and 'From the Stars', he manages to convey the grand narratives of fear, beauty and death without too much wincing insincerity. Show-closer 'Death' borrows just heavily enough from the likes of Arcade Fire to make the arrival of the chorus understatedly euphoric - a moment it would be pleasant to remember, but everyone goes home humming 'Farewell to the Fairground' anyway. (6)

words/ marty mcfly

Cancer Bats

Cockpit

03/04/09



The Cockpit's middle rooms is comfortably full tonight, suggesting the Kerrang! front covers and insensitive name have done Cancer Bats some favours. Before them, though, come Leeds' The Plight, who manage to impress a once-indifferent crowd with their own heavy brand of stoner metal. Rather than revealing his band's name, vocalist Ali Skull reacts to naffly tell the crowd how beautiful they look. To their credit, the music itself avoids melodrama, stiding to the kind of macho grooves that would make Orange Goblin proud.

Cancer Bats follow a similarly antiquated path where banter is concerned, as vocalist Liam Cormac reiterates that 'Leeds is our favourite place to play in the world'. Refreshingly, he has the knowledge to back up his West Yorkshire fascination, namechecking Lucky's Pizza as their regular hangout.

A confrontational attitude fuels the band's performance and they charge through 50 minutes of breakneck hardcore, diving off amplifier stacks and thrashing at guitars. The audience lap it up with glee and the cheer for newer material like 'Hell Destroyer' is overwhelming. When the band announce a cover of The Paint's 'Agenda Suicide' - an audacious move for such a heavy band - there are few cheers from the crowd. Four minutes later, the audience are won over, though an increase in sales of The Paint's discography from metalheads seems doubtful.

The gig's climax comes when the band allow an audience member onstage to let out a guttural roar of 'WILL YOU MARRY ME?!' at his girlfriend. Equally moronic and touching, it's a fitting conclusion to the night. (8)

words/ luke fear

COLUMN/ ALEX WISGARD



'The choice I have made may seem strange to you...' Morrissey, 'Alma Matters'

After the recent success of *Years of Refusal*, Morrissey is reclaiming his past. Smiths tracks, untouched for decades, have made live appearances - though anyone who saw his charmless bludgeoning of 'This Charming Man' on Jonathan Ross may wish they hadn't - and, last month, he reissued two of his more 'difficult', 'underappreciated' efforts for reappraisal.

Following 1994's perfect *Vauxhall & I*, *Southpaw Grammar* and *Maladjusted* marked his generally accepted solo nadir, respectively spurning and embracing the then-booming Britpop scene. Both have their champions, but these reissues (or, as Morrissey describes them, 're-presentations') are allegedly less a money-grabbing venture than an effort to rewrite history, with artwork and tracklists drastically redesigned. *Southpaw*, which originally opened with a chorusless, Shostakovich sampling dirge, now starts with one of its punchiest tracks; *Maladjusted*, meanwhile, has its lead single, the glorious 'Roy's Keen', cruelly excised. Both feature bonus tracks, though Morrissey himself has already dismissed the lovably goofy 'Fantastic Bird' as 'throwaway'.

In its original guise, *Southpaw Grammar* was a scant eight tracks, including two ten-minute bookends; the redux clusters these in the middle, certainly a blessing for the impatient listener. Indeed, for all accusations of tampering with history, everything on *Southpaw 2.0* arguably works better than the original, highlighting instead its goldmine of three-minute gems, including the spy 'Reader Meet Author'. Even the glam-rocking 'The Operation', frequently maligned for its two-minute drum intro, sounds positively effervescent here, and, although the spiralling 'Southpaw' remains one of his best album closers, the decision to end this reissue with one of Morrissey's greatest songs, b-side 'Nobody Loves Us', is inspired.

Maladjusted has always been a dark horse; often derided as Morrissey on autopilot, it's still home to some of his most affecting ballads (especially the stately 'Trouble Loves Me') and, in 'Satan Rejected My Soul' and 'Ammunition', two of his most likeable pop songs. Still, while 'Sorrow Will Come in the End', his unintentionally hilarious riposte to losing a royalties lawsuit to ex-Smiths drummer Mike Joyce may have curiosity value, the new tracks add nothing to the experience.

Morrissey's obsessive fanbase will relish the chance to argue over these revisions, but the changes will be of little interest to recent converts. Likewise, the man's own newly-written sleeve notes are insightful and amusing, but are hardly going to have casual fans reeling for their wallets. So when should an artist relinquish control over his back catalogue?

'...but who asked you anyway? It's my life to ruin my own way.' Morrissey, 'Alma Matters'

LIVE AT LEEDS/

FESTIVAL ROUND-UP



Fight Like Apes
lead singer
Maykay
photo/richard
smith

Lady and the Lost Boys

They're already forming all over Leeds (and not just for the Topshop sale) as Lady and the Lost Boys take to the stage at Holy Trinity. The gentle percussion and tinkling piano beautifully complement Annabel's breath-taking voice which seems fittingly ethereal in the setting. It is hard not to watch on as the band reel out song after song about heartbreak and lost love demonstrating both an endearing naivety and a remarkable maturity to their sound. This is a band who surely deserve to be going on to bigger but just as beautiful things very soon indeed. (8)

General Fiasco

Fiasco are a young band with a special place in my heart. I first saw them 18 months ago when they bravely gave all they had to a room of 30 disinterested people. Today, whilst they have an equally unappealing slot early on, the room is packed to the rafters and justifiably so. The Irish trio have a distinctly familiar look and sound, they are not a band who are going to change the shape of music as we know it, but they have more bounce than a Duracell bunny on acid and certainly bring the sunshine to Leeds on a somewhat dreary Saturday afternoon. Highlights include 'Little bit strange' which the band self-deprecatingly dedicate to their fans and the set closer 'Rebel get by' which reverberates



Lady and The Lost Boys
photo/richard smith

around the tin-drum which is the highlight leaving the packed room suitably impressed. While their energetic live sound has yet to be captured effectively on record, there is no doubt that General Fiasco keep on getting better and anyone who disagrees will have a mass of teenage girls to answer to! (7)

White Light Parade

Bradford's White Light Parade move things along with a short sharp injection of punk rock and while songs about riots and drugs may seem a little generic it is always nice to see a band completely wasted in the middle of the afternoon. While their performance is far from flawless the band show a great deal of promise as their political call to arms gets fists pumping and insight the first real pit of the day. The new single Rebellion Call, which features Ich of The King Blues (on record at least) is a real diamond in the rough and could potentially do big things when released in June. On the whole White Light Parade deliver a very promising set and if you are of a punk persuasion I would highly recommend that you catch their album launch party in Leeds in a few weeks time. (8)

Fight Like Apes

There has been a great deal of excitement surrounding Fight Like Apes recently and it seems that the vast majority of the band's cult following are in Leeds today. Their forty-minute set is both characteristically hairy and wonderfully weird. They are truly a band who have to be seen to be believed as they alternate between flailing wildly

and belting out massive songs like 'Lend me your face' and the delightfully named 'Digifucker'. The crowd need very little encouragement to get involved as raucous Guitar licks clash fabulously with the raw but uncontrived vocal dexterity of front woman Maykay and virtually everyone in the place looks impressed. Despite all of the musical talent on show the biggest cheer of the day is reserved for the moment Mackay gives a particularly obnoxious audience member a firm telling off (unfortunately she later revokes this, but I suppose they are a band still at the stage when every record sale counts). We are left with an epic rendition of 'Battlestations' and as the crowd head for the bar the mixture of bemusement and delight on their faces probably best sums up the experience this band in the flesh. (9)

words/ rebecca atkinson

frYars @Brudenell Social.

"Good Afternoon. I'm going to play you some music," politely croons London based frYars lead man Sara Khan. Bassy electro ensues, with Morrissey-esque vocals whipping the crowd into a dark electro groove. A decent sound check wouldn't have gone amiss: the bass was far too high and so most of the songs were lost behind an irritating thumping and consequently songs such as 'Olive Eyes' and 'Visitors' worked best when broken down, so the melodies could escape from the over-powering bass. frYars didn't give the most electric performance either, their initial politeness was short lived, taking the Morrissey cool to a new level: it felt as though he

may fall asleep halfway through set, due to utter boredom. Actually, it felt as though playing to the disappointingly sparse Brudenell was a chore. Overall though, frYars with a little less attitude and a decent producer behind them to sort out their bass problems, and lift them to electro melodic magic, certainly have potential and would certainly slot nicely onto the covers of NME. (5)

Polly Scattergood @The Faversham.

It would seem that the main problem with a gruelling all day line-up is that music technicians seem to go into meltdown: Que Faversham techies frantically fixing, performing the headless chicken. Consequently, the first three songs of the enigmatic Scattergood are a horrible mess of 'I have no drums/mic/bass'. Regardless though, Scattergood pulls some serious shapes on stage bringing back the electric performances of the likes of Kate Bush. She is exciting to watch: a nice change from some of the more subdued acts across the line-up. She also, importantly, has a bubble machine, which goes down brilliantly to a slightly bazy, drinking-from midday crowd, re-kindling the kid in everyone present. Once the sound problems have been solved and focus from the bubbles re-centered, the set takes shape and song after song are received brilliantly: whiniking through spacey melodies and minimalist beats. Songs such as 'Please Don't Touch' belt out the sound of summer, combining her unusual, squeaky voice with a token pop beat. Others such as 'I hate the way' give Bjork's early material a run for her money. Interesting to watch and beautiful to listen to, Scattergood is one to watch out for, joining the

long list of talented female performers gracing the British music scene at the moment. (8)

Alan Powell @ The Brudenell Social

London based, Powell mixes up tempo, beats that would make The Coral look like they were a 80s ballad band with interesting minimalist beats that power through the slowly increasing crowd. "Love Lock Down" is a messy jazz amalgamation of everything that makes this man talented: screaming guitars, cool funky vocals and heavy slap bass. Best songs include "Caught up Easy" and "Clara" which features Jack Johnson and Lily Allen. Expect to hear him blasting from student speakers in the Hyde Park region this summer. (6)

Mumford and Sons @ The Brudenell Social

Mumford and Sons, having been elevated to the spectacularly talented Laura Marling as her backing band for a majority of their professional careers, prove that they are more than worth a stage of their own, starting their set with a captivating vocal instrumental, instantly making the crammed social club sit up and take note. Having toured with the Macabees for the past few months, their following has grown immensely, and duly they are easily one of the most original bands on stage today. Easily comparable to the likes of Noah and the Whale, and Marling herself, Mumford and Sons play beautiful folk and bluegrass that oozes happiness. Their set never falters, playing songs such as "Roll away your sons" that dip from intense vocals to the heights of blissful toe-tapping beats and violin melodies bought along by the old-school double bass. Having had a day of new bands armed with apple macs and computerized synth influenced songs, it is very refreshing to see a band doing something quite different, and doing it so well. (9)

words/ lizzie edmonds

The Dharma @ Leeds Met Union

Beginning this soon-to-be merry afternoon at the Leeds Met Union, The Dharma kick off proceedings to a somewhat unenthusiastic crowd. Be it because the punters, ranging in age from 16 to 60 (or more likely siblings and parents), have not yet had their day's fill of bank holiday alcohol or the fact that The Dharma's set lacked showmanship and spirit, the crowd simply lulled along to the unremarkable Blur-meets-Bowie playlist.

International Trust @ Leeds Met Union

Up next was International Trust, a punk-rock outfit in dire need of a new singer. What the songs lacked in quality they made up for in presence with the vocalist screaming about on stage. Surprisingly, quite a few people left.

The Blackisters @ The Packhorse

Moving on to The Packhorse further up the road, the Blackisters were opening with an unexpected (yet strangely welcoming) dirty

sound. Sending me back to the good ol' days listening to Soundgarden, Smashing Pumpkins and the like, this dark-and-grimy grunge band put a smile on my face for about forty minutes.

Soft Toy Emergency @ The Faversham

Following at 6pm came Soft Toy Emergency, a Liverpool-based 5-piece, with their upbeat electronic. Having been a fan for a short while, I must admit disappointment when it came to the vocals, dipping in and out of volume and tune. Other punters didn't seem to care, though, with a fair few people abandoning the waning sun outside and filling the dark dancefloor.

The Eskimo Twins @ The Faversham

After a bite to eat, the Eskimo Twins, a pair of bright young things, took the stage to much applause about a minute in to their first track I could see why apart from the Richter beats pumping out of the larger than life sound system, it was amazing to see just how much effort they were putting into 'twiddling knobs' (no pun intended), constantly shifting from computers to mixing desks to DJ decks and back again, even working up a sweat. Thoroughly enjoyable.

Last but not least (especially given the sound check delays, kick-started by Ms. Scattering earlier on) was Dan Black, former front-man of The Servant turned truly magnificent soloist. Performing hit singles Alone and Yours to great reception, it's clear the organisers saved the best for last. In fact it's remarkable that all five of them (Black and his band) managed to fit on the minuscule stage, let alone with all their equipment. Despite being at the front, it is safe to say that Black had pretty much the whole venue moving, even if many of them were just tapping their foot or rocking their head. Infectious.

An Interview with Dan Black

Finding Dan and the band after the show wasn't difficult; seeing as most of them smoked it didn't take a detective to work out where they'd be.

JM: So how and when did you guys get together?

DB: Well, I was first introduced to Nick and Fred

Eskimo Twins
photo/sarah greenie



through my girlfriend just over a year ago, and we hit it off. I introduced them to Chaz who I had been playing with in Paris (following the break up of The Servants) for several years. The first songs we did were Yours, You and No and Alone, and we were from there.

JM: Three of you live in Paris and the other two in London. How does that work?

DB: Very easily to be honest. We take it in turns (mostly) to hop across the channel. The guys in London have a rehearsal space with us, and we go over to rehearse once every couple of weeks.

JM: Who are your biggest influences?

DB: HA! That's impossible! I have so many it's difficult to list!

JM: Ok, then just say three.

DB: Er... well, I guess if I had to choose... I can't have more? JM: Haha, no that's true! It would have to be Bjork, The Smiths (not Morrissey) and Missy Elliot.

JM: The video for Yours was banned because it had you dancing about with a gun in your hand. Did that annoy you?

DB: Well, yes and no really. It was annoying because we worked hard on the video and it was great fun to shoot (no pun intended) so that respect, yes it was annoying. But on the other hand we were flaunting a pistol, so its not that surprising. At least I'm not shooting my mouth off about it (wince)

words/ jack mcgregor

The Bacchae @ Leeds Met Union

In preparation for bigger bands, Leeds Met only open up their side-room for the first half of the day. You may know it as the room with the giant view-obscuring pillar in the centre of the crowd. Even so, The Bacchae come off fairly well. With a Rhys Ifans look-alike providing keyboards reminiscent of The Doors and a guitarist perfectly capable of some inspired solos, the band are a tight unit. Harriet Hyde is perhaps not the most outstanding of vocalists though and despite some exciting risk of no numbers, the overall impression is one of a post-man's Duke Spirit. (6)

Fran Rodgers @ Holy Trinity Church

The Holy Trinity Church, with its celestial acoustics, is the perfect setting for a Fran Rodgers gig. The celestial harmonies are indigenous to this early morning setting and her seamless manoeuvre from a sublime Anthony and the Johnsons cover into her own work suits the mood ideally. It would be interesting to see if she would be as captivating in another venue or

if, say, Napalm Death would fare as well in the same circumstances but either way there is evidently a time and a place for Fran Rodgers and this is clearly it. (7)



Fran Rodgers
photo/richard smith

Pulled Apart by Horses @ Joseph's Well

A hot front quiver for a beer at the Joseph's Well bar has left the audience with pent up aggression that only tracks like 'M.C Hammer' can help release. Bodies flail, faces get punched, instruments get throw. Will the madness ever end? The answer is no. The madness will never end, because Puled Apart by Horses happen to be the bees knees. Vocalist, Tom Hudson takes his microphone into to the crowd for 'Meat Balloon', still managing to both sing and play in the eye of the hurricane, as chaos resumes around him. Meanwhile guitarist James Brown hops from amplifier to amplifier, nonchalant of the fact that he broke his leg only two days ago doing similar things. After an impromptu stage invasion causes closing number 'I Punched a Lion in the Throat' to fall apart at the seams, the band start where they left off. A huge crescendo to the song's final monster riff falls in the finale of another bigger stage invasion, complete with stage dives, trashed equipment and repeated unanimous screams of 'Ultimate Power!' (it's impossible to wipe the shit eating grin off your face as the crowd descends crowd surf) (8). The bro scope well aware that they're seen well will rapidly become the most talked about and viral video clip of the day. See this band in a pub, above a pub or, in this case, beside a pub, but for God's sake do it before the NME throws them to the masses. (10)

Future of the Left @ The Cockpit

With a hard gig for anyone to have to follow but an eventual arrival at the Cockpit is worth the walk. On paper a 9pm closing slot may seem like the most coveted position on the bill. However, anyone who attended last year's somnambulant Meteoromy performance can testify, the Leeds Leants crowd are usually far more keen by all the walking to expend any energy at the end of the day. It's impressive then, that Special Guests Future of the Left can cause such excitement with a mix of old and new material. Vocals lead singer Andy Falso Falkous bullies the crowd into a state of enthusiasm and it's hard not to supply. Scuzzy bass riffs and jabby synths form the backbone for misanthropic ruminations and songs howls essentially, the band get a stage invasion of their own and the final song dies down to the sound of punters beating drum skins. (8)

words/ luke fear

Your bunk or mine?

Hostelworld.com is the leading provider of online reservations to the budget, independent and youth travel market. In the run up to St Patrick's Day, *Leeds Student* jetted off to Dublin to check out the recommendations of Hostelworld.com in one of the most popular backpacker destinations in Europe - we even had time for a cheeky Guinness or two along the way.



EMERALD ISLE:
Clockwise from
left: Ireland's
most famous
export; a street
shot of Dublin;
Hostelworld's
offices



From the second you touch down in Dublin, it is clear to see why it attracts such a large number of visitors from Europe and around the world. Dublin is particularly famous for its dynamic nightlife, with many large clubs, fashionable bars, and more traditional pubs where live music will often be played by a folk band in exchange for free drinks for the evening. The City retains the grandeur and buzz of any other major European capital, but with a population of about 500,000 it does so in a more unassuming way, and the town centre has an atmosphere of good natured humour that is difficult not to love - Dublin was even voted the friendliest city in Europe in 2007. Furthermore, it is estimated that about half of Dublin's inhabitants are younger than 25, meaning

there has never been a better time for young travellers and backpackers to set off and experience all this exciting city has to offer.

The only potential drawback of Dublin is expense. With prices comparable to London before the Sterling took a floor dive, the effect of the current 1:1 exchange on your wallet may not be a good one. Fortunately for us, Hostelworld.com provide info on the best deals to be had in hostels, bars and restaurants as well as what to do for free around Dublin, making getting the most out of the weekend without breaking the bank a lot easier. The Hostelworld.com '10 things you didn't know about Dublin' video guide tells us that all national museums and galleries are free; shame the same can't be said for the pubs. The site has grown from conception

in 1999, and now has more beds than anyone else worldwide.

Although its headquarters are in Dublin, Hostelworld.com now offers confirmed online reservations for over 20,000 budget digs in more than 170 countries, and the review system, where reviews generated by guests at the hostel provides the most reliable evaluation of the hostel that you are going to be staying in. These days, the company offers far more than simply a booking service: you can also find downloadable travel guides, blogs, podcasts and videos, so there is a vast amount of info provided by travellers for travellers. Perhaps best of all, especially if you often travel alone, is the social networking facility of

Hostelworld.com, MyWorld, which allows you to hook up with other

backpackers, upload photos and videos and check up on your hostel bookings.

For many of us, particularly in the UK, the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about hostels is a drafty, wet and cold building in the middle of the countryside populated by middle age ramblers. As city breaks become ever more popular and more and more young people are choosing to travel both in Europe and beyond, the face of this longstanding institution is changing. Most hostels tend to be of a fairly good standard, at least in terms of cleanliness, but Hostelworld.com also lists luxury locations, such as the Iguazu Falls in Argentina, which boasts a swimming pool, and sun-beds, as well as a complementary buffet breakfast. There are also somewhat more quirky abodes - just in case you're

ever fancied sleeping in a boat floating in the Serbian Danube, a Canadian prison or a Turkish treehouse.

Ashfield House, our hostel in Dublin, was not this exciting or luxurious, but it was clean, friendly, and just a two minute walk away from the famous Temple Bar area, where we soon found a head-spinning choice of pubs to have a pint or two of Dublin's most famous export (and there are no prizes for guessing what that is)

A couple of Guinnesses later and we were ready to make the pilgrimage to Dublin's Guinness Storehouse to learn how the drink is made (as well as sample a few more for ourselves). The Storehouse is pretty central in Dublin, about a 20 minute walk from Temple Bar, and is located in the St James's Gate Brewery. On the tour our guide, whose love of the drink only began after beginning work at the Storehouse (but who is now a fully fledged penchant),



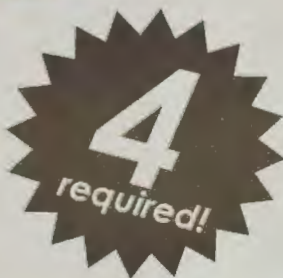
explained the processes of making Guinness, the history of the Brewery, and taught us how to pull our very own perfect pint. Since the tour includes a free pint of the black stuff, which you can take in the 'Gravity Bar' at the top of the Storehouse with a panoramic view across the whole of Dublin, it's best to go with friends who don't like Guinness so that you have the opportunity to make your way through your own pint and a few others.

After all that walking (and drinking) we had worked up something of an appetite, so we headed off to the Elephant & Castle restaurant in Temple Bar, which I recommended on the Hostelworld.com website. Like anywhere in Temple Bar, the main reason for going in Dublin, the food was not the cheapest, but what the meal lacked in frugality it more than made up for in quality. The chicken wings, apparently of some repute amongst the

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Our guide explained the processes of making Guinness, the history of the Brewery, and taught us how to pull our very own perfect pint.

local population of Dublin, were incredible. Temple Bar is also a good place to try more traditional Irish food, such as Boxty, and get a taste of traditional Irish music. Many of Temple Bar's pubs host live music, which can range from bands playing on stage, to a fiddle player and guitarist sitting in the corner of a lively bar; either way, the melodic folk music is the perfect accompaniment to a couple of pints, and is not to be missed. Having said that, there are plenty of great pubs and bars outside of the Temple Bar area, so there is no need to stay within its boundaries to get a feel for Dublin.

Getting the most out of a city break and experiencing all a place has to offer can be tricky when you only have a couple of days. The Hostelworld.com website helped us at Leeds Student to sort out where to go and what to see, giving us the chance to enjoy a chilled out weekend of frivolity in the Capital of the Emerald Isle.

If you have an idea for a feature we want to hear about it.

Email leedsstudent@leedsstudent.org to find out more.

words/ andrew rogers
photos/ oillie millington

Little Boots. Big talent.

Since coming top of BBC's Sound of 2009 list back in January, Victoria Hesketh, who graduated from Leeds with a first in Cultural Studies, has been a woman in demand. We caught up with the electropop star to talk tale, Pop Idol and self-indulgence.



Has your time at Leeds affected your musical direction?

I really believe in fate and that everything happens for a reason. Leeds was actually my last choice because it was the furthest from home (both from Blackpool) and I wanted to get away so I really wanted to go to London or Edinburgh, but for various reasons it didn't work out and I was gutted but I believe everything happens for a reason. When I came to Leeds, it was about the time the indie scene was taking off so it felt like the easier choice than going to The Radio. It felt like really exciting times, felt like it was challenging London and was an exciting time to get involved in it. That's when I started getting back into bands because I'd been on a very good phone for a few years. I got into my band I had I went with the Leeds Music scene without realising that led to this. I believe in journey, lead to one another.

Do you think being in Dead Disco was a good learning curve? Did you learn a lot from it? Are you proud of what you achieved?

I learnt so much about the music industry. It's actually quite an evil machine but there are some wonderful people in it. There are some horrible people in it. And I learned so so much. I remember being horrified and couldn't believe how many backbiters and how many favouritists there are. But it's what happens and it's just about learning about the music industry and how to get your own way. Dead Disco are actually very nice people and they have certain goals that we want to achieve, because they'll do it for us. There are a few very good people there that you can learn from. That's the best and it's the only way of learning the whole system and being in a band that you should then sell out. You learn how to get power and get what you want. Take now I'm in control that someone backbiting will realise that minute I stop being behind everything in London it will become the headline and fall apart.

Is that why you went solo?

One of the reasons I didn't at the time go solo I was more content in anything, but I love the freedom and the opportunity with the music thing that comes into my head. I don't have to check with anybody else and get passed by anyone else like a democracy. It's a lot easier at that point. I also haven't had a commercial success project in my own and learning through all that has made it possible to do.

You've become a bit of a darling in the NME. And you came top in the BBC Sound of 2009. Do you feel any pressure from this or excitement that spurs you on?

It's not something that directly affects your everyday life. I've just got to keep focused and remember what I'm doing and why I'm doing it and stay true to my intuitions. There are definitely moments where I get overwhelmed

and go through periods where I have a lot of nightmares and sleeplessness. I've developed a really bad fear of flying and I think they are connected subconsciously to pressure. Maybe I just push it back and it comes out in other ways. I've done cover features and not even released a single, it's kind of pressure. So there is pressure but it's just as exciting. It's so full on but the sweet thing is the fact it would be to not be there. It is so good that so many people are excited and everything I get leads to something else and more opportunities.

Would you rather sell loads of records and for everybody to listen to it once or would you rather sell a handful and for it to be someone's favourite record?

That's a really good question. Obviously I'd rather have both (laughs) but I think I'd rather go for a handful of records because I love the idea of being able to reach as many people and connect with so many people and if you've got a great song it should break the barriers of age and things. It should be able to break across boundaries. I think I'd rather have something that is more universal.

You entered Pop Idol. Did you have a dream of being a standard pop star and be in that area of music?

No, I was quite young when I did it. I'm from Blackpool and there are not that many musical opportunities and besides so many different things. I think because there aren't that many opportunities, and in London there are a lot of great things, and you can go anywhere you can and everything that is available to you. I think it's quite hard to get going and that's why it's quite hard to get going and that's why it's quite hard to get going and that's why it's quite hard to get going. I was young and thought it would be some way in. When you go down to a smaller town there aren't that many opportunities. Getting there just seems so far away and it's like how do you get there? It's the best thing that never happened to me it would be a nightmare for me to do that. It's also very overwhelming on the vocal it emphasises the voice, that's the whole thing in that environment and it's so easy to get there. To me the voice is such a small part of what I do. It's about the song, the performance and the playing and the writing. The singing is just one part. I'm extremely grateful to Simon Cowell for not letting me through (laughs).

What sort of music do you enjoy listening to in your own free time? Do you ever listen to yourself?

I only listen to myself if I have to analyse. Listen to what's right and wrong with the mix and

whatever. I'd never think of putting 'Struck on Repeat' on. That would be horrifically self-indulgent. (Laughs) I like a real mix. I have a real soft side for Jodie Mitchell, like Bush and great female artists. I love Elton John, The Bee Gees, and The Beach Boys and I love writing and I go for it. If I'm going to do something fun I've really got into the whole disco revival thing. Not too much, but it's a really fun thing.

Do you have any tips for 2009? Any underground artists that you've come across?

I really hope it's the end for some of my favourite bands called Middlesbrough. Their album was actually out last year on Neon Neon (laughs) but I don't think it was pushed right. They're a great band with some great songs. They're a real gem and it's very nice why I like it. I'm of very camp and love the trap. I think that puts a lot of people off and they think it's a joke but a girl, it's serious and it's brilliant. I really hope they have a good year. I really like Telepaty. They are doing well anyway but they are great. Rever Ray, which is the girl from The Knife's new project it's really weird but it's good. Another band which are really new but a band called The XX from London. They haven't really done anything yet but it's brilliant and that comes out on 11 June this year.

What festivals are you doing this year?

(Essentially lists every festival in Britain. If you get bored, that's OK.)

words/ nick todd
photos/ ali tung

How's the tour going? You played Middlesbrough last night how did that go?

It's going a long time but it's very enjoyable. While most of the night the place was barely played before. Most of the Middlesbrough and Inverness, were packed places. It's really good to go to the music scene. It's very enjoyable in a way. It's very pleasant to get to a new place and see a new place.

Where does the name Little Boots come from? Is it because you have small feet?

It's not a nickname that they probably didn't start. It's also taken from a Russian Empress called Catherine.

From your time in Leeds is there anywhere you would recommend for students?

An obvious one is Brudenell Social Club. That's a well-known place so had some such special go there. I love this place. I love Milos. I think it's a really nice place. I don't really miss it but just walking round town today. I really got the vibe again. I've really missed it. There are loads of little places to go to.



Gig Review

Little Boots at The Faversham March 14



Supporting the most successful Leeds University graduate in 2009's music scene are all girl group Ipsy Facto who are spookily all sporting the exact same haircut. The drummer has rebelled slightly by not having jet black hair but they are a band who has taken great care in their look. Their sound is reminiscent of the now defunct Long Blondes. 'Six and Three Quarters' sound so much like their counterparts it could have been a cover. Their more gothic twist however makes tunes such as 'Eyes of the Blind' more distinctive.

Coming to the stage shortly after midnight, Victoria Hesketh aka Little Boots is greeted with a huge ovation from the packed Faversham. She starts her set as she needs to go on with huge confidence playing possibly her second most well known invention 'Mathematics'. The electronic and 80's throwback sound that Little Boots creates is one that is proving very popular in 2009. She is the only recognisable artist however who uses a 'tenori-on', a square Japanese instrument that creates the most distinctive sounds that accompany Little Boots vocals. Take the 'tenori-on' away and the music would sound hugely deficient. The set is full of tunes to be featured on her debut album which is due out in June. Battery trouble to her sound gear means a brief break to proceedings but she returns and plays 'Meddle', 'Magical' and 'Love Kills' then discards the pack completely meaning how much of her own singing she could actually hear is minimal. It's not obvious though and she spends the whole gig looking like she is hugely enjoying every moment and appears genuinely over-whelmed by the response the assembled crowd gives her.

Thanking everybody several times. After

thanking everybody for attending (and giving a special mention to anyone from Leeds Uni) she plays her breakthrough hit 'Stuck on Repeat' and the crowd just seems to boil over and a mosh pit is created for the first time this evening. The sound man has to sit on the stage at

the front to stop people falling onto it. This type of behaviour had been just a push away for some time and the venue - bouncing for the three and half minute duration of the song Little Boots can only get bigger after a performance like this. Watch out, this is only the start. (9)



CLASS OF 2009

As the academic year draws to a close we have decided this week to 'triumph' our very own talent here on campus! We present to you four final year students' final graduate fashion collections. When photographing and interviewing these guys we realised how much hard work and commitment they have put into it. For some, most of them for four years. The dedication and enthusiasm we saw was amazing, so don't let anyone ever tell you that studying fashion design is easy!

MADELEINE MOXHAM

Where did you get your inspiration from for this collection?

Artists like Cy Twombly for his expressive brush strokes and Fra Angelico for his subtle colour palette and ethereal paintings. I also used the editor of French Vogue, Carine Roitfeld, as a muse and all this mixed together has resulted in a Carine Roitfeld meets Woodstock aesthetic! I'm really interested in textiles and surface detail which is why I used a largely white colour palette so that you can really see the detail and how the running theme of using wool at first is quite loose and then begins to be integrated into the actual garments through embroidery and lastly a knitted body.

Who are your favourite designers and why?

I love the relaxed aesthetic Stella McCartney and her grey/nude/pink colour palettes - although I'm not sure she would feel the same about my use of leather! Her clothes often feel very sophisticated but then occasionally she has a slight hippy/funky feel which I like. In terms of innovation and creativity I think Christopher Kane is fantastic and I would happily wear any of his clothes if I could get my hands on them! I also like Richard Nicoll, Felder Felder (who I worked for during my year in industry) and Marni.

What are your plans after finishing this year?

To go away for a little while and then hopefully find a job! I would like to try a bit of everything over the next year making accessories, looking at print and perhaps doing a placement at a fashion magazine or online fashion resource such as SHOWstudio.com - but who knows, fingers crossed.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved with fashion or fashion design?

Organisation is just as important as creativity, both at university and in the industry. You can have the most amazing ideas but unless you have the time and tools to execute it well then no-one will ever see it!

Where did you get your inspiration from for this collection?

My knitwear collection is inspired by the linear patterns that are incorporated in armour and architecture. I have chosen a subtle colour palette to emphasise the contrasting yarn textures and bold components. The main focus is on the contoured elements of the garments which are created by various knit techniques.

Who are your favourite designers and why?

I think Sandra Backlund and Louise Goldin are very inspirational knitwear designers because of their ability to manipulate knitted fabrics and create really innovative pieces. From the Autumn/Winter 09' collections, I particularly like Gareth Pugh's because of the unique shapes and silhouettes.

What do you think of the fashion scene in Leeds?

Leeds has got a really good fashion scene because it is so diverse that anything goes. Particularly around university everyone has their own personal style which is what fashion is all about.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved with fashion or fashion design?

Definitely go for it, like most courses a lot of the work has to be self initiated but it's worth it. I would recommend doing a placement year or getting some experience in the industry as well, because this really helped me to put things into perspective and translate my skills from university into an actual design role.

CHLOE McDONALD

above/ chloe mcdonald's knitwear collection 09
photos/ richard smith

above/ madeleine moxham's womenswear collection 09
photos/ alexandra haddow

What was the inspiration behind your collection? Why did you choose to produce snowboarding apparel?

My collection is based on wearable electronics and the cool factor of snowboarding apparel on the slopes. The theme is about the essence of snowboarding and using that as my theme. I chose to produce snowboarding apparel because I designed and produced it during my industry placement and fell in love with it. I really enjoy the technical and the fun that you can have with it, whilst also having to consider function and technical factors as well.

What were the challenges in putting together the collection?

Obviously producing a snowboarding apparel collection involves all of the garments being technically sound as well as aesthetically appealing. All the materials have technical coatings, they have technical features such as snow skirts, hand gaitors, padding and iPod controls, other than making sure they are all completely function-able for the slopes they have to be appealing to the customer, so prints, embroideries and funky little gadgets like having speakers in the hood also have to be taken into consideration. I had to source all the fabrics and electronics myself and I did have to seek outside help of my placement who kindly helped to make my collection.

KATH GRIMMITT

Do you see yourself going into fashion design as a profession?

Yeah definitely, I can't wait to become a designer again. My year out was probably the best thing I did, it made me realise just how much I love being a designer and I got my passion for snowboarding and ski apparel. It's hard work, but once you see your designs as real things, it's the best feeling ever. I am job hunting at the moment, but I haven't graduated yet, so I would like some time off to enjoy not having any work, I have a few possibilities but I would LOVE to work for a snowboarding apparel brand like O'Neill. Fingers crossed!

KATE ROBERTS

Where did you get your inspiration from for this collection?

The collection is based around the theme Synthetic Metamorphosis, drawing inspiration from the way man manipulates nature. The range concerns itself with shapes inspired by natural forms including the human body and the way it can be manipulated through plastic surgery. Garments are developed using this idea of 'nip tuck', the idea of using fashion and fabrics to enhance areas of the body in much the same way surgery does.

What do you think of the fashion scene in Leeds?

Leeds is a really interesting place to do fashion research as it has a lot of exciting shops and boutiques. A lot of people in Leeds have their own style which is always good to see. I think there are a lot of creative people around. Just look at all the people in fancy dress walking through Headingley!

What are your plans after finishing this year?

I am going to apply for women's wear and children's wear design jobs. I really enjoyed working in London during my year in industry so I will definitely be looking at jobs down South. One day I hope to have my own company but that will be a long way into the future I suspect.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to get involved with fashion or fashion design?

Get some work experience! The Industrial Placement year is a great opportunity to learn new things and meet new people who will be valuable contacts in the future. It also gives you a feel of a real working environment which is completely different from university projects. I can't recommend doing it enough.

P.S.

If you've been impressed by what you've seen on these pages and want to see more, the students are staging a graduate catwalk show featuring all the collections later this month. Held at Victoria Works on the 21st of May and featuring student and professional models, plus what's sure to be an amazing after party, any fashion fans out there cannot afford to miss it. Tickets for both the show (choice of showings include an evening show and earlier 5pm time) and the after party are £10 with proceeds going to charity. So get yours now at www.leedstickets.com or CATS upstairs in the union.

interviews/ alexandra haddow and anna ternby



above/ kath grimmitt's menswear collection 09
photos/ alexandra haddow



above/ kate roberts' womenswear collection 09
photos/ richard smith

mixes for the single, and I did them for a few hours. And he always the way! One of the things was a single I played in Chicago and I took me back to the only DMTD I have. I had a small dark room, with a big front-line sound system and a crowd of people for it. They probably only knew a few tracks but they went for it.

How does the response vary?

A lot of people know me because of my jams. In the last three years I have probably played two hundred gigs. One of the things is between two heavy kick up drum and bass DJs in a drum and bass club in Amsterdam and the other was between Techno DJ. It's quite amusing really. I'm still quite a good musician in that respect.

I just wanna tear out in there. I just wanna send people fucking mental. It's the system, you just wanna unleash everything.

People still see you around Croydon. Do you think you've kept the ego in check?

The stupid ego thing won't happen to me. I can't see it happening. I have seen it happen with a few people in the scene but not from Croydon. It's a family in Croydon. Everyone will ever be rude to each other, it's always been on the string—that everyone went down first. I can only speak about where I'm from. At first we helped each other out and we'd swap tunes. Mala would book us for gigs and sometimes it would be so busy that I didn't expect really to get paid much. It didn't matter and it still doesn't. It came from hard work and I have to big Mala up all the time because he put the work in and remained very spiritual.

I dream has played a couple of UK top five records (we're not joking). Here are five of the top five records:

Disco: "Superman"
 The Police: "Whoa... Leave Us Alone"
 The Clash: "Work That Body"
 The Police: "Synchronicite"
 The Clash: "The Man Put Us Under"

words/ sam donnison
 photos/ john puddephatt

Cartoon

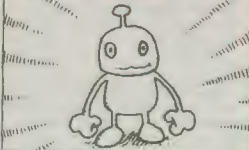
Rapture Part 3 JON HORNER

AND IT COMES RIGHT DOWN

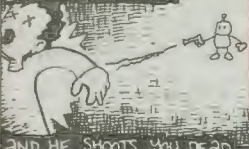


AND LANDS ON THE GROUND

AND OUT COMES
 A MAN FROM MARS

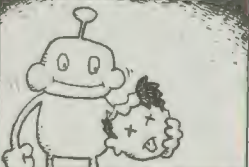


AND YOU TRY TO RUN
 BUT HE'S GOT A GUN



AND HE SHOOTS YOU DEAD

AND HE EATS YOUR HEAD

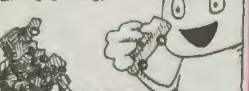


AND THEN YOU'RE IN THE MAN
 FROM MARS



YOU GO OUT
 AT NIGHT, EATIN' CARS

YOU EAT CADILLACS, LINCOLNS
 TOO, MERCURYS
 AND SUBARUS...



AND YOU DON'T STOP
 YOU KEEP ON EATIN' CARS...

IN THE LOOP /

FILM REVIEW



In The Loop is a political satire that unveils the back-stage offices of Downing Street during a period of impending war. The setting speaks loudly to those moments in 2003 when the Iraqi war dilemma plagued British Government. It follows Malcolm Tucker (Peter Capaldi) who as Downing Street's spin-doctor, indulges in excessive swearing, crudeness and anger to highly comic effect. The junior minister, Simon Foster (Tom Hollander) is presented as an antithetically bland and unremarkable character compared to Tucker. Paradoxically, it is Foster who ignites the plot when he inadvertently utters a provocative comment to the press, concerning the potential imminence of war in the current political climate. Drama ensues when the press run with it and he is held accountable for remarks that are taken to represent the position of 'The Government' at large.

This is a film for political aficionados and entertainment-seekers alike. Considering the subject matter of comedies today, politics seems an odd choice. Do not be deterred by this, as you do not need any great knowledge of political matters in order to understand its plot, or to appreciate its humour.

Highlights of the film include: copious

amounts of swearing; an intelligently constructed and intensely amusing contrast between the glamour of politics on an international stage, as set against the mundane trivialities of constituency work. And above all, an unexpected cameo by King-of-Comedy, Steve Coogan. At this moment it is to be remembered that Iannucci produced *I'm Alan Partridge* - and this surely serves as all the persuasion you require to go and see it.

In The Loop is perhaps a little too lengthy, and the extended scene in Washington serves, rather transparently, to satisfy an American audience. This is ironic, considering how critical the film is of Britain's 'special relationship' with the United States, but is simultaneously very telling of our ties with America in both politics and the film industry.

Watching *In The Loop* in the 'crunch climate' is all too appropriate; the British are inefficient and rude, the Americans are over exuberant and dominating. In the end, it is the very-British trait of self-deprecation that causes this film to be so entertaining and enjoyable.

words / jesse ford

GAG HOLE /
COMEDY NIGHT

Pulse, LUU

30/04



Compere, curator and undergraduate heartthrob Winston Smith kick-starts his now notoriously popular night Gag Hole by comparing himself to the TV gladiator Rhino. He then divides the audience into two halves and orchestrates a ritualistic, expetive group condemnation of tonight's absentee - Joe Thomas.

The first act is Sean McGloughlin. Looking lanky and lacklustre - the Leeds scene hadn't seen him before. He turns out to be amazing. His apologetic self-branding as grim and sexless (offering a potential-date his duty free Toblerone) operates gently against a peaceful and pleasant stage demeanour. A detailed description of penile problems moved the audience into hysterics, perhaps climaxing with "this is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you" McGloughlin's parallelisms between intelligence and idiocy were brilliant. Alarm bells of future stardom rang in my ears.

Chris Quaille, a familiar face now on the Leeds circuit, rivets the audience with his well-targeted jokes about Leeds Tech. In his dashing white jeans and with animated expressions Quaille, as ever, has packs of girls howling at his date rape simulation - a remarkable feat. Quaille's comedy is at his best when flicking between characterisations - of his mother, his friends and his internal monologue.

Max Dickens, winner of this year's Ticked Pig, offers new material with a darker edge than his usual set. While Dickens was in a leg cast, the audience were in stitches, very quickly warming to his gentler approach, much drier than the first two acts. His image of a purpose-built semen stencil, to put on a woman's face spelling out 'DEATH OF FEMINISM' probably received the biggest laugh of the night.

Fourth act, the adorable Patrick Turpin, wins the crowd with his homemade Ian Huntley t-shirt, cleverly mastering some Leeds-based material too, namely on the vintage store Blue Rinse. A nod to *The Apprentice* (which the crowd were missing) was well received too.

Paul Foot (headline act) was so brilliant, and so surreal, that we're writing a full feature interview on him next week. His half-hour concept routine on avenging a B+B landlady was something else.

Across the last three years Gag Hole is one of the best evenings I've spent in Leeds. I might just have to make a trip up from London in September. Five stars, undoubtedly.

words / jack cullen

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW /

THEATRE REVIEW

The Faversham

28/04 - 01/05



Forget Jagerbomb - tonight! The Faversham conservatory plays host to Joe Orton's controversial farce, depicting the absurd events that take place during one day in the consulting room of Dr Prentice, a struggling psychiatrist.

The opening action sees the scheming doctor interrupted by his wife as he attempts to seduce his potential secretary, the wide-eyed Geraldine Barclay. Barclay's naivety is portrayed perfectly by Naomi Stafford, who thrives as the helpless victim throughout.

Nick Pearce reaps the best out of a talented cast. Rory Greenfield's Dr Prentice is thoroughly convincing. The audience are drawn to a man who works so hard to escape from the mess he's constantly creating that there seems to be no end. Greenfield's exasperated attempts to resolve the continual confusion, and subsequent relief at the resolution of the play, offers genuinely funny moments throughout. Greenfield excels particularly alongside Ed Atrill's Dr Rance, the medical inspector sent by the government to assess Prentice's clinic.

Ed Atrill is brilliantly casted in this role and certainly impresses. His controlled expression and skilled timing hold the cast together during what is at all times a busy script. His sharp deliveries provide the funniest moments of the play.

What The Butler Saw has great fun attacking social conventions, authority figures and definitions of gender, right down to the existence of the family itself. Psychiatry in particular is relentlessly ridiculed. The pace of the show is fast throughout, and the few moments at which it does stutter, particularly in the latter scenes, have more to do with a lack of space than with the superb direction of Nick Pearce. Pearce manages the staging of his cast brilliantly - a tough job when working with a script of such high tempo, and the actors themselves assure the effect of Orton's classic with the key ability to deliver absurd lines as if nothing is out of the ordinary.

Read in full at www.leedsstudent.org

words / david hayes

WICKED WORDS /

LIVE POETRY NIGHT

Seven Arts Centre

01/05



A relaxed, warm and cosy atmosphere, artfully achieved with low lights and candles, set the scene on Wednesday for a delicious serving of live verse. Hosted in Seven, a tiny bar nestled in Chapel Allerton, (tricky to find, but well worth the effort), Wicked Words is one of Leeds' most established, once-monthly poetry nights.

The first half of the evening was an open mic session, the acts picked from a hat. The variety was relieving, from quiet, reflective pieces, and humorous tongue-in-cheek types, to a charming guy with a Congo drum, either ranting about pollution and tourism, or chanting, "You're on a crap world and a crap world holiday!"

After a well-timed break, came the main attraction of the night, Luke Wright. His lightly rascissistic, heavily side-tracked, impossibly quick wit at once made you question his grip on his mental faculties, while at the same time wanting him as a best friend. His poetry was deceptively multi-layered yet accessible, and ultimately, very, very good.

Wicked Words is a revelation, something we should strive to support, so if you've never been, you must - head off to Chapel Allerton!

words / peter kawuma

LOOK OUT
POST!

words / james underwood

Film! Shift

British film telling the urban story of the reunion of two old friends (one now a class-A drug-dealer). Controversial subject matter, three-dimensional characters and a gritty aesthetic. Hyde Park Picture House, 8th-14th May

Exhibition! The Object of Photography

Traditional and digital photography, collage, drawing, animation and installation. This exhibit provides a distinct visual discussion of the issues of photography. Critical and playful and even better, free. Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery, Parkinson Building, Free

Theatre! The House of Bernard Alba

Federico Garcia Lorca's final play before being executed by fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War. A brooding and poetic exploration of tyranny, family and tradition set in rural Spain.

Seven Arts Centre, Chapel Allerton, 13th-15th May, £5/£4.50 for TG members

DON CARLOS / THEATRE REVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse

22/04 25/04



Going to the opera may not be included in most students' Saturday night plans, but this week I decided to be a little bit more cultured and it was certainly worth my time. An Opera North production of Verdi's *Don Carlos* is the latest production to take the stage at Leeds Grand Theatre.

Set in 16th Century Spain, the story revolves around the Prince, Carlos. Heartbroken, the woman he loves has been forced to marry his father, the King of Spain. Opening on a darkly lit stage, the forlorn Carlos laments the loss of his love. Suddenly a hooded figure appeared from the darkness, frightening in appearance with a booming voice. This introduced the audience into the dark and intense mood which the opera held throughout. Focusing on themes of love, loyalty and betrayal, Verdi's opera is a three hour spectacular of passion and intensity.

Sung in English, this is a perfect performance for those not accustomed to the sights and sounds of opera. However, the connoisseurs amongst you should not be warned off, as this is

an excellent production with some wonderful singers. Julian Gavin, as the agonised Don Carlos, projects magnificently the character's troubled mind and heart. However, the shining star of the production is Jane Dutton as Princess Eboli whose final aria is awe-inspiringly beautiful, demonstrating her passion and agony.

The changing of the sets proved to be a difficult task. Consisting only of three large cement-like walls, the set was changed only slightly for each scene. However, these slight movements clearly involved much work as the curtains were closed and lights went up after each scene, creating in a way, a 'mini one minute interval'. However, instead of offering the audience a chance to recover from the intense scenes beforehand, it acted only in drawing them away from the atmosphere, creating a stilted performance. The only time the closed curtains felt necessary was when they opened to show four large trees placed on stage. For the sake of the performance the set designer should have found a way to complete this task without halting the production.

The costumes were kept simple, although at times they bordered on cheap. During one particular scene, the King of Spain makes a grand entrance onto the stage. However, his sense of grandeur was heavily reduced as he was dressed in what can only be described as a massive sheet of gold lamé. While obviously trying to look regal, it instead came out looking as if they had lost his original costume and



photo/ clive bards

quickly showed him on stage wrapped in a spare sheet of material from backstage. For the most part, the rest of the costumes seemed more thought out, especially that of Princess Eboli, who wore a striking red dress throughout. This served brilliantly in demonstrating the fire of love she holds for Carlos.

The opera itself was entertaining and exciting, with some truly wonderful performances. I urge all students to take one night off from reviewing, ahem... drinking, to enjoy a bit more grown up entertainment.

words/ fiona lamont

THE MOON THE MOON / INTERVIEW / THEATRE PREVIEW

West Yorkshire Playhouse

13/05 16/05

University of Leeds graduate Jon Spooner tells *Leeds Student* about his role as Artistic Director of The Unlimited Theatre Company, currently in Leeds as part of their tour with latest play *The Moon* The Moon.

So tell us about yourself! How did the Unlimited Theatre Company get started?
We were all students at Leeds between 1992-1996 and studied at the Workshop Theatre. When we graduated we wanted to continue working together. Most of us were living in Leeds and were trying to run the company while everyone had a part time job. It wasn't working. We decided if we were going to do this, we needed to really commit. So we chucked in our jobs, and on the morning in January 1997 we set to work at Aire Street Workshop, Leeds. The Unlimited Theatre Company was born.

What makes you different from other theatre companies?

I think that a lot of mainstream art continues to underestimate its audience's intelligence. What we've found is that people have a real hunger for interesting, complicated ideas. With *The Moon* The Moon we wanted to deal with something most people have some sort of experience with, (loss, mental health) and talk about those things in a new way that's interesting - shocking on occasions, but shocking because people haven't thought of those things in those ways before.

What inspired you to create *The Moon* The Moon?

I've always been interested in the question of 'what is reality?' Someone's perception of what is real may be very different from mine or yours.

But just because it's different doesn't mean that it's not real, and in *The Moon* The Moon we explored these ideas.

It sounds quite surreal. What sort of world are you trying to create for the audience?
It can be quite puzzling because we keep lots of versions of reality that might have been possible. You watch it, and you're never entirely sure of which event is actually true. We've made a choice about the version of events, but we're not going to impose it on other audiences. You decide.

What role does sound and set play in the production?

Massive. We have a really brilliant musician called David Edwards (who has remixed for bands like Snow Patrol and Bloc Party) who has written music for the show. Sound is a huge part of the work as well as lighting.

What next?

We're starting another project called 'MixTape' and a children's show that we're going to make based on Quantum Science.

Any words of advice to anyone trying to 'make it'?

The Unlimited Theatre Company works well because we're all good friends. We're open, honest, and we don't take ourselves too seriously...but we do take our work seriously. You've got to really want it. People are always welcome to get in touch with us through the website. We're always up for a conversation.

words/charlotte gill

GREASE / DEV MUSICAL

Devonshire Hall

30/04



Even the most casual fan of musicals will be aware of the phenomena of *Grease*, and particularly the title track made famous by Frankie Valli for the 1978 film of the same name. Unfortunately for the sell-out crowd packed into the Devonshire dining hall, this production failed to include that song, or the 'groove and feeling' that it describes.

The above string budget available was readily apparent, with a distinct lack of set or scenery - most notably *Greased Lightning* herself, who was constructed from benches - adding to the amateur feel of an auditorium which lacked a permanent and proper stage.

There was little wrong with the sound quality or lighting effects, but then there was nothing special about them either. In the face of this, the actors had their work cut out, and the performances on offer were mixed. The T-Birds, displaying great unity, were led by an enjoyable and capable David Albury as Danny Zuko.

Opposite him was Ellie McPhee, offering a good account of herself as Sandy, but who appeared wasted in such a wishy-washy role. The Pink Ladies for their part were both as fun and annoying as required, though lacked the attitude necessary to counter the swagger of the boys. However, neither guys nor gals were helped by the unimaginative staging, direction, and choreography, that flirted with being plain at best, and boring at worst.

Grease is nothing if not a fun show, and the audience departed entertained and enthused, even if for slightly the wrong reasons. In comparison to other offerings around the Union this year, this was quite simply a lesser production.

words/ owen bradley

YOU'RE 'AVIN' A GIRAFFE /

COMEDY NIGHT

The Adelphi Pub

04/05



The final act of a comedy night - the value for money-o-meter, if you will - is the presence of what I like to call a cheezy cheek: a little muscular stiffness in the upper jaw. If it aches so much it hurts, it must have been a good night. You're 'Avin' a Giraffe, the Adelphi's monthly comedy night, passed the test with a numb ache. Praise indeed.

The first act of the evening, Chris Stokes, charmed the crowd with his desiccated humour and deadpan delivery. His paced diction drew jokes out as long as possible, while audience abdomens contracted in expectation, barely suppressing hysterics until the precisely timed punchline was delivered with laconic ease. His amused opening on logic, together with an enlightening lid-lifting on the cruelty of a unicorn's tear extraction, delighted the audience. Chris Stokes is an act I can see going far.

The middle third of the night was a duo of open slots, with Craig Murray and Michael J Dolan. Murray had a fairly conventional 'I'm a Northerner' style of comedy, amusing but nothing new, with mostly predictable observations about Americans and obesity. A few gems, but not enough to want much more.

Dolan had half the audience in stitches and the other half in stony confusion, which threw him off balance early on - a shame as some of his material was absolute gold dust.

The audience was somewhat conservative, and throughout the night much of the darker comedy, which would have had a different audience rolling on the floor, passed by some stony faces.

The headliner Matt Reed was visibly worried that his act, which is on the darker side of grey, might just bomb. However, as he relaxed into it, so did the crowd, and his opinions of London (I moved there because I got bored of manners, conversation and reasonable rent) and his off-hand way of looking at the world was a success. YAAG, a relatively young comedy duo, has the potential to become a great success. With an atmosphere that is relaxed and convivial, and a future line up that looks promising,

YAAG is set to be a regular staple for all comedy lovers.

words/ sam leach

photo: richard smith



'A sane view of insanity'

INTERVIEW AND REVIEW

David Hayes talks to Leeds graduate Alex Jensen about his new fictional exploration of mental illness, *The Serotonin Grand Prix*

In a cosy corner of the Hyde Park Pub, Alex Jensen is telling me about his decision to turn experience into fiction and write his first novella, *The Serotonin Grand Prix*. 'I'm not trying to be original,' he insists. 'Mental illness has been written about before, but I felt compelled to write.' His honesty is refreshing. He speaks of his writing with passion. And he is on a mission to use his experience to help people. 'Society looks at people with a diagnosis and writes them off. I want people in that situation to know that there is a way back.'

Jensen is 34 and graduated from the University of Leeds in 1999 with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. He is extremely open about his history as a mental health patient. 'I had a breakdown,' he says. 'I'm shocked by his bluntness, but soon realise it's how he works. As a man and a writer he tells it how it is.'

Jensen lost his best friend to cancer in the final year of his degree and, a year later, was diagnosed as mentally unstable and sectioned as a mental health patient. Almost ten years on he is fully stable, and in a sick 120 pages has crafted, in his own words, 'a sane view of insanity'. And it is brilliant.

The story follows Marko, a patient suffering from schizophrenia and severe paranoia, struggling with life in West Royd Community Mental Hospital. Marko's

character is strongly reminiscent of Joseph Heller's Yossarian - a man suffering from the relentless paranoia that everyone is out to kill him. His only friend is Byron, a racist thug with 'eyes bloody red and black' and teeth 'fucked up beyond dental repair'. Byron's character is impeccably depicted, and it is easy for the reader to hate this cruel beast of a man. But Marko's character is ambiguously drawn to him. Ask Jensen about their relationship and he admits that 'being alone is the worst part of life in a mental hospital. We all crave people'. It seems that there is an explicit sense in the relationship between Marko and Byron, and indeed throughout the rest of the book, that in a mental hospital another man is company, and that is what's important: no matter how awful a person they may be.

Jensen admits that the characters in the book are loosely based on real people, and it is clear that Marko is his own fictional persona. I ask him how much of himself he sees in the character that is haunted by polar bears with guns in his dreams, and he smiles. 'Marko is a very dynamic character. There are definitely parts of his character that are not me... but paranoia is the central issue, and that's all I experienced that.' This doesn't surprise me. There are stream-of-consciousness passages in the book so overwhelmingly convincing,

that only someone who knows what real paranoia feels like could have crafted them. Jensen's ability to make this paranoia tangible to a reader who has never been in his position is one of his obvious strengths as a writer, and makes the reading of this book a thoroughly involving and educational experience.

With his first published work, Alex Jensen has produced a thoroughly compelling, comically dark, dynamic and thought-provoking novella. It is a triumph of honest experience, and one from which Jensen hopes, and I believe, everyone can learn.

The Serotonin Grand Prix currently available on Kindle from www.kdp.amazon.co.uk/dp/B008381014



words/ david hayes

instead set up a devastating way of life intent upon eroding the abode we are temporary tenants of. It is not however a 168 page diatribe against the avarice and profligacy of the human race; if it were I am not sure I would have finished it. Lovelock pins his colours to the mast early on, repeatedly advocating the widespread introduction of nuclear power as an alternative to wind power, emphasising its safety, green-value and comparative efficiency. He writes articulately and elucidates his complex arguments with ease, engaging even the most environmentally ignorant readers - yours truly included. His rhetoric is spellbinding and despite being less than well read in the field, I truly did want to believe him. His slavish

dedication to analogies becomes a little tiresome and I think the printers could have saved themselves about 60 pages with some closer editing, but from the mere numerous gems arising - such as when Lovelock compares reducing CO2 emissions to Googling to the cure for cancer.

The lasting message was that the human is the 'ultimate predator' and 'all we can do is to try to temper our strength with decency.' This may be a tall order, but all in all Lovelock successfully opens the door of an incredibly complex topic to the layman and raises a smile in doing so; like saving the planet, it is no mean feat.

words/ lori kilpatrick

women caught on the borders of the East and the West. A considerable part of the book is devoted to reflections on the importance of preserving one's virginity in the Muslim world, and the lengths that some families go to in order to maintain the honour of their family. However, the book's falling point is that it sets itself up as a thriller that is meant to keep the reader hooked. Sadly, it fails to meet this expectation, and what is left is a shoddy attempt at a woman's hour James Bond-esque drama. Johnson spends too much time exploring the emotions of those caught in the conflict of colliding civilisations, and the pace of the novel is too slow to set the heart of the reader racing. It's probably best to abort mission if you're searching for some high octane testosterone fuelled action. Stick to James Bond instead.

words/ nali sivathasan

Environmental
FIVE OF THE BEST

Global warming is certainly a hot topic right now. But why is it important? And what are the key concepts and problems involved? Get informed with our pick of books on major environmental topics.

Crisis

James Lovelock

The book that set the fireball rolling back in the day. Lovelock is one of the world's most respected climate scientists, and in this book he introduced the now-famous 'Gaia theory', which sees the planet as a single, super-complex, self-regulating organic system.

Silent Spring

Rachel Carson

Published in 1962, Carson's lyrical study of the destructive effects of chemical pesticides has been credited with starting the contemporary environmentalist movement. Her research on the disappearance of birds in her local area also led directly to the banning of the pesticide DDT.

The Weather Makers

Tim Flannery

Zoologist Flannery explains in an easy and illuminating way the current and future impact of climate change on the planet's biosphere, describing the critical difference between simply hunting species to extinction as our ancestors have done, and the way the industrial world's alteration of the entire system causes mass extinction.

Blue Covenant

Maudie Barlow

Forget oil, water - or fresh water to be more specific - is rapidly emerging as the resource that future wars may be fought over. With countries such as India and China already facing critical shortages, the need for a radical rethink about the usage and ownership of water is argued eloquently by Barlow.

Cradle to Cradle

William McDonough & Michael Braungart

While overpopulation may be a problem, this book is about industry and not babies, despite the possibly misleading title. The authors argue that industry and environmentalism should not be seen as mutually exclusive, and propose a sustainable approach to industrial production.

words/ antony tibbs

The Vanishing Face of Gaia

REVIEW

James Lovelock

'The real earth does not need saving. It can, and will always have saved itself and it is now starting to do so by changing to a state much less favourable for us and other animals.' This is the overriding message of Lovelock's *Final Warning*: a bleak assessment that we, the inhabitants of the earth, are nothing more than a pesky infestation that stubbornly refuse to be exterminated despite severe scratching from our host body, and have

Lulu in Marrakech

REVIEW

Diana Johnson

If the ITV show *Loose Women* was to procreate with James Bond and be condensed into the format of print, *Lulu in Marrakech* would be their twisted love child. Lulu Sawyer is a CIA agent let loose in Marrakech to trace the flow of money from donors to radical

Islamic groups. Lulu's initial perception of the situation is as naive as George Bush's attitude towards the Middle East. Good Americans + bad Muslims = American intervention. However, as Lulu becomes immersed in the workings of the expatriate community, the

boundaries between good and bad become blurred, as well as those between West and East. On her assignment Lulu meets a wide range of people who are involved in the suspicious activities which seem to coincide with Lulu's arrival in the city. Although the background of Suma Bourad, a young French-Algerian woman who is on the run after supposedly bringing about dishonour, is a word away from that of the gangly British poet laureate Robin Crumley, they are all thrown together with other characters into the melting pot of Lulu's environment, and everyone is under suspicion. Even Lulu's lover Ian Drumm is under suspicion, and the rest of the novel unravels the truth of the situation. Johnson excellently observes the reality of twenty first century Morocco, but this is at the expense of the plot. An anthropological study of Moroccans, Islam and its relationship with the West is dished out which is particularly interesting as it focuses on the plight of



Fix Up Look Sharp

TELEVISION COMMENT

Hatti Cawley considers the reality of what is presented to us on TV – is it all just a fix?

I happened to notice the other day that after the end credits of *Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares*, a very brief warning flashes up. It says: 'the producers have provided customers at the restaurant with a financial contribution towards the cost of their meal and goes on to clarify that the footage shot in this program has been edited such that in places it is



shown in a different time sequence than actually shot'. Obviously I have noticed that the ending of every episode is the same, and I am not naïve enough to believe that Gordon Ramsay enters a dingy American diner and leaves it a Michelin starred restaurant every week. However I didn't realise that what I was in fact watching was a blatant series of lies that have only the loosest grip on reality in the first place. Finding out that this programme is completely faked has made me less inclined to watch it as I simply do not see the point. I can't care about the people featured on the show if I know their emotions are false.

This got me thinking about other well-known TV shows, and whether these too were making a mockery out of my innate trust that producers will convey the truth to viewers. The hot topic on everyone's lips at the minute is *The Apprentice*, which is now well under way. It seems clear that the loud, entertaining members like Philip, Debra and Ben are given much more air time than someone like Anita (remember her?) or Maj. I know they are trying to make a piece of

entertainment but this isn't *Big Brother*; I thought the BBC were trying to be more high brow and present an insight into the world of business. It also seems that the more entertaining characters are being kept in. For example, in the show that was aired on April 29 (in which the participants had to flog goods for the highest price), it seemed clear to me that Ben should have gone, as he had not carried out enough research into the pricing and also was a poor team leader as he did not delegate equally. However Sir Alan turned on Noorul for not really any reason in particular, other than it seems he was quiet and unpopular with the public. If this is the way the show continues to go I think Sir Alan is in danger of crossing the line into puerile reality television.

Another incident the cynics have dubbed a fix is the Susan Boyle furore created by *Britain's Got Talent*. Much has already been written about this, but I think the real swindle has come in the form of the talented twelve year old Shaheen Jafarhohi. He is the lad who started singing Arny Winehouse's version of Valerie but was told to start again with a new song as this was



not working for him. Whilst he is clearly an amazing singer, is it really likely that he would not only have two songs prepared but also that he would not crush under the pressure of having Simon Cowell

'spontaneously' tell him his first song was not appropriate. It seems clear the whole thing was constructed to get people talking and I suppose in a way it has worked.

Overall, I can accept that it is inevitable some TV that is passed off as impulsive is actually premeditated. However I just wish there was a bit more honesty. A flashing sign at the end of the programme saying that what you have just watched is complete rubbish is annoying for the viewer and in a time when competition between the channels is fierce, I think they should be trying harder to make high quality programmes.

The Eurovision Song Contest 2009

This year it takes place in Moscow. It is the 54th Eurovision Song Contest and our applicant is Jade Ewen. It will broadcast live on BBC One at 8.00pm on Saturday May 16.

Jade gained this honour after winning *Your Country Needs You* on the BBC. This programme had an X Factor feel as several talented performers battled to be the chosen one. The song that Jade will perform is called 'It's My Time' and it was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Diane Warren; it is bound to be a hit.

Jade will take to the stage in the enormous Olimpiyski Indoor Arena in front of 15,000 Eurovision fans and perform to a potential worldwide television audience of more than 100 million viewers.

Will we miss Wogan? This time Graham Norton makes his debut as the witty, critical commentator. And just when you thought Eurovision couldn't get any more camp.

Jade has been campaigning around the country and, by crunch time, will have performed in 13 countries. She has also been working with *Strictly Come Dancing* judge Arlene Phillips on her dance moves.

The way the contest is now organised is now really complicated and I don't understand it, so if you are a true fan you might want to look that up. There is something to do with semi-finals, then a ritual sacrifice I believe.



THE ARGUM%!*T

Would you Snog, Marry or Avoid this programme?

For

It's the question that's been plaguing the human race for centuries, gnawing away at the collective consciousness like an incessant headache, and finally the powers that be have channelled the answer into a 30-minute television programme hosted by Jenny Frost from Atomic Kitten. Much more important than those trivial metaphysical quandaries such as meaning of life or the existence of God. Bigger, even, than the tricky puzzle of how to accomplish world peace. Yes, it's snog, marry or avoid? Since watching this programme I've actually had nightmares about being stuck in a tanning booth, such is the state of some of the women (and men) that POD has been obliged to 'make-under'. Having said that, most people on the show realize they were much happier as a tart/Goth/down etc and end up promptly changing back. Which is, I suppose, a lesson to us all.

words/ claire pidsley

Against

How, just how, could you ever enjoy watching this programme? I happily existed without the knowledge it also co-inhabited this world until there came a day when I was too hungover to move and it was played in order to cheer me up. I believe my response was another wave of nausea. It is literally as if the makers of this programme seek out the most annoying people in the country (this includes the presenter, Jenny Frost, an ex member of a certain not-so-eternal flame) To top off the 'nails scraping on a blackboard' effect, there is a giant camera that talks and refers to itself in the third person; I mean really! It is supposed to uplift us as it tells the orange, horrendously dressed idiots that they are naturally beautiful and don't need the disgusting amount of fake tan they soak themselves in. I don't really care if they are, just make them go away!

words/ evic prysor-jones



Film of the week

The Wiz

Saturday May 9

ITV 1 2:58pm

Do you like the Wizard of Oz? Do you like Motown? Today is your lucky day. Hollywood combined the two, and the BBC is screening the result at some godly hour of the night. (I would like to point out here that, most likely due to post Bank Holiday burnout, that this week was rather a slow one for films. I decided it would be best to select the one that stood out as most interesting, rather than bluffing my way through a write-up about something solid but dull.) This film, adapted from a Broadway production, combines the two disparate elements into one all-singing, all-dancing, incredibly 1970s musical extravaganza. Diana Ross stars as Dorothy, stand-up legend Richard Pryor turns up as the titular Wiz, and none other than a teenage Michael Jackson is the Scarecrow. Give it a go. The songs'll probably be good.

words/ tim boden

Friday May 8

Have I Got News For You

BBC1 8:15pm

Have I Got News For You is classic Friday night entertainment and this is why it has remained as hilarious and fresh as ever while in its 37th series. This week, Jack Dee, a regular contributor to the show, guest hosts a long with panellists including Clare Balding. Who knows what cock ups Gordon Brown will have made this week, but you can bet Merton and Hislop will be on form tonight, satirising the events of the week. In these dark times with essay deadlines looming this is the perfect way to spend your night in.

words/ hatti cawley

Sunday May 10

The Da Vinci Code

BBC1 9:00pm

For anyone that did not see this film when it was out in the cinemas, this is your chance! This Oscar-winning adaptation of Dan Brown's best-selling novel will not disappoint, with its sober yet enthralling plot line. The beautiful Parisian backdrop also enhances the cinematic experience, whilst the actors leading us through the story include Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen. For those who are unfamiliar with the story, it is the tale of a modern day search for the Holy Grail and by extension, a secret that could threaten the foundations of the Christian religion. Action is provided by the network of zealous religious powers bent on obstructing Hanks and Tautou's search for the missing pieces of the puzzle.

words/ hatti cawley



Monday May 11

The Secret Millionaire

BBC1 8:00pm

I have never understood the feel-good premise of this programme. The fundamental aspect is surely that the millionaire is secret; therefore when he/she reveals themselves in a blaze of self-gratifying glory at the end of the show, this removes the point of the entire exercise. If you want to go round helping deprived areas of the country with your riches then that is fine by me, but what that does not make you is a secret millionaire. I genuinely find the last half of the show cringe-worthy as elderly people are patronised by dogooders they don't know and will never meet again. Still, if you like that kind of thing then this is for you.

words/ hatti cawley

Wednesday May 13

The Apprentice

BBC1 10:00pm

I was going to pick some remote programme to recommend for your Wednesday evening, but let's face it, at nine on Wednesday evening you know that *The Apprentice* is the only thing that is going to be on your television. This week, the remaining contestants are transported to the seaside town of Margate, where they are charged with the task of creating posters, leaflets and a plan to rejuvenate the town as a tourist attraction in two days, before facing Margate's residents and tourist board, and Sir Alan. Expect backstabbing, shouts and eye rolling galore as per usual.

words/ serena peddle

Saturday May 9

Britain's Got Talent

ITV1 8pm

The auditions continue, and its probable a fresh load of freaks and weirdos will be crashing their way onto our TV screens. Some things, however, are guaranteed this week: Piers will still be an insufferable smug walking ego, Simon will be playing Mr Nasty and Amanda...well there's not much you can say, except her botox-ridden face won't have aged a day. Ant and Dec will be taking care of things behind the scenes and will no doubt be providing some much needed humour and entertainment.

words/ hatti cawley

Tuesday May 12

10 Things you Need to Know About Sleep

ITV1 10:30pm

It's that time of year, when coursework and dissertations are in, but yet there isn't a moment to breathe as the guilt of not starting revision starts creeping in. Between the drinking, partying and of course studying, often as students we are incredibly sleep deprived, although it is likely that many of us forgo one of the above to make room for sleeping (no prizes for guessing which one). The presenters try various experiments to show us how best to make the most of our sleeping time, and at such a stressful time of year, we might learn a few things. And delay opening our textbooks for just one more hour.

words/ serena peddle

Thursday May 14

Extreme Male Beauty

ITV1 10:00pm

I'm not really sure why I'm reviewing this programme. It caught my attention, possibly because I was hoping it was a programme purely about beautiful men, and now I feel slightly let down. What this programme actually focuses on is the male beauty industry and shows the lengths some men will go to. I find it quiet sad that one man felt the only way he could find romance was through plastic surgery and that there are actually several methods of penis enlargement. But, if you're a man who feels he needs some tips in the beauty department, watch away.

words/ evie pryor-jones

Friday May 8
Britain's Got More Talent

Ant and Dec host yet another round of hopeless auditions which are incredibly bad that they make even the most mediocre of singers look like A list superstars. Yes ladies and gentlemen this is, apparently, as good as it gets for us Brits and the show 'clearly demonstrates a fair demographic' of the best of British talent...! Anyone worried? Well at least we have our reliable and forever faithful judges to rely on - Piers Morgan (talent personified), Simon Cowell ('that sounded like a cat being dragged down the motorway') and Amanda Holden. If the talent makes Amanda teary eyed then it's got to be good right?

words/ hannah perlin

Saturday May 9
The World's Greatest Comedy Characters

A countdown of the top 50 best comedy characters as voted for by the public and some of a few apparent comedy know-it-alls on whose shoulders we place all our comedy trust. Aside from the array of god-knows who, the program manages to cover a variety of different comedies that cater for absolutely everyone's tastes. Whether it be *Green Wing* (a definite favorite of mine), *Dad's Army*, *The Office*, *Steptoe and Son* or *Partridge*, there's something for everyone! Also included are interviews with great comics such as Paul Whitehouse, Terry Jones, Ardal O'Hanlon and Leslie Nielsen.

words/ hannah perlin

Sunday May 10
Katie and Peter: Stateside

Some of you may comment that you hate these trashy programmes about celebrities' lives - but you are definitely not fooling me. Everyone loves a bit of trash and Katie and Peter are certainly dishing it out this week in their quest to settle their new lives in Malibu, California. In this week's episode the family head to a dance class where Peter and Junior get to show off their moves. However tensions run high when Katie and Peter get bombarded by the paparazzi while out shopping to find the perfect outfit for Elton John's Oscar party.

words/ steph byrom

Film of the week

Master and Commander

Monday May 11

Film of the week

This highly-accomplished film takes inspiration from Patrick O'Brian's excellent series of naval novels, but took a lot of stick upon release for failing to faithfully retell the story of any one of the books; instead director Peter Weir presented audiences with a finely stylised and eminently watchable cinematic rendering of the spirit of the books. For what it's worth, the plot follows the long drawn out duel of cannons and wits between the crew of a British frigate, and a superior French warship that seems intent on sinking them at any cost. Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany, reunited after their successful pairing in *A Beautiful Mind*, are excellent as the staunch Captain Aubrey and his best friend and ship-surgeon Stephen Maturin. The battle scenes are gripping, but the film wins most fans among those willing to engage with its steady pace, evocative atmosphere of isolation on a wide ocean, and the slowly unwinding contemplation of such themes as conflict, friendship and duty. An expertly crafted, flawlessly acted piece of thoughtful cinema.

words/ charlie cooper

Monday May 11
Youth Hostelling

A strange pick this week but it certainly looks interesting from the outset. This documentary tells the story of Youth Hostelling which was founded in Britain in the 1930's through archive films discovered at the Youth Hostel Association HQ in Derbyshire. The images show young people enjoying a new sense of freedom - hiking, rock climbing, folk singing and even skinny dipping. It really does make you think about how simple pleasures were back in the day, now replaced with job culture and binge drinking!

words/ steph byrom



Tuesday May 12
Kingdom

Pressure is mounting on Peter as he is forced to hide his fugitive brother, Simon - but how long can he keep Simon's reappearance a secret? Meanwhile, Peter becomes involved when a dotting daughter accuses her seriously ill father's nurse of being more interested in his money than his well-being - but is it all as it seems? And Lyle is forced to bare all to resolve a dispute between the local naturist community and a group of objecting residents.

words/ amy harker

Wednesday May 13
The Truth About Online Anorexia

Presenter and DJ Fearnie Cotton investigates the shocking world of pro-anorexia websites, where young girls can meet to share diet tips and encourage each other in their quest to be super skinny. Fearnie puts her normal healthy eating on hold to expose the dangers of extreme dieting, trying two crash diets. She also meets a mother who lost her teenage daughter to the illness, as well as Marjorie Wallace of mental health charity SANE, and a young woman who runs a 'pro-ana' website.

words/ amy harker

Thursday March 14
It's Me or the Dog USA

This week I seem to have just chosen programmes with names that amuse me. As a human being this programme caught my curiosity but as a dog lover I saw an opportunity to express an opinion I have felt for some time now: always choose the dog. I grew up with gorgeous, incredibly disobedient black standard poodle and adored him. All dogs are 99 per cent wolf, from the little snappy ones to the big slobbery ones and yet they love us, we love them, they never answer back and provide endless entertainment. I'd choose this over a housemate any day (sorry guys).

words/ evie prysor-jones



Textbooks to go

How long before eBooks result in the end of libraries?

The new Amazon Kindle DX has been unveiled, offering a portable eBook reader with the largest screen to be seen on the market to date. Aimed at delivering more than just books, the larger screen is designed to encourage more newspaper lovers to switch to the device. eBook readers have been around for a few years now, but the technology is yet to reach mass market appeal, mainly due to the price. At £200 for a low end reader, that's a pretty significant premium on top of the cost of the titles you want to read. The high price is mainly down to the revolutionary nature of the screen itself: it isn't backlit like a typical computer/phone/MP3 player, but rather has an appearance just like a printed page. Much easier on the eye when you're reading page after page. Browse through the Amazon Kindle store reveals there are currently few e-



texts (at least for a subject like physics) available. Of course, English students studying classic literature are likely to have more

But if you're hoping for a switch to digital formats to result in some

significant savings, you're in for a disappointment: it seems certain publishers want you to think you're

paying £60 for that textbook because, well, it is a hardback and all those pages can't have come cheap, right? Well, it turns out that printing costs aren't really all that high, and the rise of on-demand printing for expensive texts removes the risk of printing only to later pulp, something that could cost a publisher dear.

No, only a small fraction of that money goes to covering raw materials - the majority lines pockets - maybe not the author's so much, but the money grabbing intermediaries necessary to get a book on the shelves (physical or online).

The University of Leeds library does have a growing electronic collection that you can check out free of charge. With the potential to make fines, returns and carrying bulky books a thing of the past, it can't grow fast enough.

Sadly, until the hardware takes a dip in price, it's still a long way off.
words/ john puddephatt

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

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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.

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Come for the best, forget the rest



both caffeine and alcohol are drugs, but with opposing effects. The mixture of caffeine found in energy drinks and the depressant alcohol in large quantities can cause problems such as shortness of breath and heart palpitations. It is hard to expect that the combination of a drug that thins the blood and another which raises the heart rate should have no adverse effects. Research has even shown that those who had energy drinks as mixers with their alcohol were more likely to end up in A&E and to travel with a drunk driver. When asked if this information would deter her from drinking it in future, Alice admitted that she had never thought of the risks before and that she would "have to pick a new favourite" for future heavy nights out.

Alcoholism is a difficult concept to deal with. Aside from the judgemental preconceptions that come with it, it is difficult to define when an occasional drink has become an addiction and quite how to overcome it if it has. Being young is no excuse as alcoholism is an illness which can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or race. It is not a question of how long you have been drinking, neither is it what you have been drinking. Rather it is a serious question about how drinking affects you that must be addressed, and Alcoholics Anonymous was set up to help answer all of these questions.

A.A. originated as a word of mouth programme in the United States, and was started by a New York stock broker and a seaman from Ohio. Having ruined his Wall Street career due to constant drunkenness, Bill Wilson was introduced to Dr. Bob Smith and, on 10th June 1935, had his last drink and became sober. This date is recognised by members as being the founding date of the Alcoholics Anonymous programme. Together, Smith and Wilson helped numerous alcoholics recover from their addiction and furthered the programme with a book entitled "Alcoholics Anonymous" from which the programme adopted its name. This was not only to help others who suffered from the disease of alcoholism, but also to maintain their own sobriety and the idea has spread into the well known recovery programme, recognised today as A.A.

A principle influence in Wilson's recovery was American medical doctor, William Duncan Sullivan, who specialised in the treatment of alcoholism. He was the first to recognise alcoholism as a pathological, disease-like problem, encouraging Wilson to realise that it was more than mere moral weakness that was the cause of his addiction. This is important to note when regarding alcoholics today. Bryan, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and secretary of the new A.A. group set up in the student union, explains that, "Being an alcoholic is first when you find that, even though you do not want to, you are powerless to stop yourself from having a drink despite the inevitable consequences. Second it is when, after the first drink you find that you are unable to stop".

He further explained that this is because alcohol affects alcoholics differently to 'normal' drinkers. Once an alcoholic takes any alcohol into his system, a chemical reaction is triggered which makes it near impossible to stop. For this reason, there are no half-way points in recovery – it is an all or nothing system whereby alcohol must be omitted completely in order to become sober.

Recently, the Leeds Student Union has become the host for new A.A. meetings. These are open meetings and so the group offers advice and support for friends and family of those with an alcohol problem or those simply wishing to get information about alcoholism, as well as for alcoholics themselves.

The meetings, held upstairs in the union building in Meeting Room 8, occur weekly on Wednesdays 12.30-1.15 pm and are informal and loosely organised. There are no 'leaders' or 'bosses' but rather a group of people all invited to speak and take part in whichever way they feel

comfortable. Bryan explains:

"The meetings are warm and inviting and are very informal. They can even be funny! Not only do we have good fun but it's all totally free."

Furthermore, as implied by its name, the programme is 100% anonymous. This is in order to discipline the fellowship to govern itself by principles, rather than personalities. Rather than striving to make known the individuals who participate, A.A. strive to make known their programme of recovery. No membership records or case histories are kept and they also do not engage in or sponsor research. Neither do they attempt to control their members, make any prognosis, dispense medication or psychiatric advice, or offer religious services. It is a tradition of the fellowship not to impose or apply their opinions to outside issues, and so they do not judge or label those who choose to drink and are not there to persuade those who

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straight line

choose to drink not to. Their presence should not be seen as intimidating but rather more supportive of individual choice.

As some may have incorrectly assumed, A.A. is not a religious network. However it is a spiritual programme, making it valuable to those of any or no religion. The spiritual basis behind their programme lies within their explanation of the power of alcohol. The belief is that willpower alone is insufficient in beating alcoholism, because alcohol has a power greater than the individual. In order to beat alcohol, a power is required which is greater than alcohol itself. This greater power may be different things for different people – whilst some may find this in religion, others may find the power they need within the fellowship of the group or otherwise.

In order to become sober, and maintain abstinence from alcohol, members simply stay away from alcoholic drinks, one day at a time, their sobriety maintained via sharing experiences, strength and hope at the group meetings as well as by following the suggested

Twelve Steps for recovery. These steps are based on the experiences of the

earliest

members of the society, and are very open to individual

interpretation.

Aside from this programme there are many other ways of ensuring that you are responsible with your alcohol consumption. Knowing the standard prices of a night out and taking a limited amount of money with you can help keep you on track with how much you drink. A lot of the time, people will buy more drinks because they know they can afford to. As Greg Metcalfe, a film studies student, explains:

"I can think of so many times I've bought drinks just because I have more money even after I begin to struggle to walk in a straight line. I'm the worst if I take my debit card out with me because I end up buying more drinks that I would've because of the minimum spend they have in most clubs".

For many people on a night out, having a drink in their hand at all times is standard and trips to the bar an ideal break from the dance floor. Drinking your beverage slowly means that you will be buying less alcohol overall and this will obviously save you money. Drinking games such as 'strawpeodes' where participants race to consume an alcohol may seem to be a fun and quick way to get drunk, but don't forget your liver can only handle one drink an hour so don't push it too far. And if your feet are begging for a break, ordering a glass of water at the bar between drinks has the added bonus of warding off a morning hang-over. Keeping the body hydrated is important as hangovers are caused by a lack of fluids in the brain. Counter-acting the dehydrating effects of alcohol with water will help avoid this and also help avoid getting too drunk in the first place.

I can testify to having experienced that moment where all of the alcohol you have had seems to hit you at once, and you don't quite

understand how you got yourself into such a state. Eating high protein foods, such as meats and cheeses, slows down the absorption rate so that alcohol will not hit you all at once and you can stop before getting to this dangerous point.

These are only a few of the ways that you can be responsible for yourself, and many more ideas can be found at the site.org. It is important to remember that, although alcohol may add to the enjoyment of an evening, it should never be the primary focus of any activity. Being aware of the facts is your own responsibility not only to yourself, but to others around you who may fall victim to your reduced inhibitions. Alcohol can not only cause you to be more aggressive and unpleasant to be around, but also increases the chances of you being targeted for your vulnerability. Where alcohol is concerned, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

Gen "Suisse" OJ



One drink leads to another

Every cloud...

A Tory victory in the next election would motivate a revitalised left, and a more dynamic Westminster



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As David Cameron finished giving his surprisingly good speech in Cheltenham last weekend and the curious choice of the Bryan Ferry classic, "Let's Stick Together" played from the PA system, I actually tried to stop my body convulsing with the unwise elation by the realisation that this man will soon be representing this great nation to the rest of the world. That was until a chattering thought occurred to me: perhaps this is the only way out of our current political snarl.

British politics is currently in a frustrating stasis. In light of their record over the last year, the government inspires about as much national

confidence as 'The Queen would were she picked at scrum-half for the national rugby team; we have a Prime Minister whose image as the "economically astute good guy" has been completely erased by the recession and the Damian McBride affair. The electorate can only see cabinet ministers who, if they're not plotting against each other, are ripping us off for expenses spent on second-homes and porn. That's before we get to Harriet Harman, whose defence of Gordon Brown when she stands in at Prime Minister's Questions has gone from idolatrous to half-hearted and almost ironic. For the past few years we've had a government underperforming with an equally aimless opposition pointing out their shortfalls but who provide no solutions for fear of being exposed as equally clueless.

And that's why the polls' suggestion that the next election will be a Conservative walkover isn't necessarily the worst thing ever. Even if you're a left-wing zealot who comes out in cold sweats at the mention of the name "Thatcher", you can't be satisfied with the point scoring, vacuous statements which pass for parliamentary discourse these days, and this will be changed as a result of the imminent election victory for Mr. Cameron.

Once the Tories are in power and have to make actual policy decisions, as opposed to just picking holes in those of the government we, the electorate, will be able to make a decision on what

they offer as an alternative, beyond soundbites and photo-ops. So far all we've heard are vague concepts like "social justice" and "fiscal responsibility" with no precise policies verbalised. Their being given the chance to put some actual ideas into practice is a good thing for the country

The age of
New
Labour is
over

because they can be implemented and judged by the public at large. If they're good then we reap the benefits of successful policy and if they're bad we can see what the halloo box.

Not only that but the Labour party will have its first injection of energy in 15 years, and a real change of tack can be made, with a cull of parliamentary seats signalling the end for many who've been in and around the cabinet for a decade and whose ideas just don't apply any more. The age of New Labour is over and the recent

budget, although made in extraordinary circumstances, shows that they're not afraid to go back to their re-distributive roots. The next election could also be a good one for the Lib Dems, as many of the seats which will be lost by Labour in northern constituencies which are still staunchly anti-Tory and have a Lib Dem council, in which Nick Clegg is hoping to make significant gains. This will mean a stronger and more balanced opposition, leading to more ideas and less cross-party spats and an altogether healthier parliament and a healthier country.

Irrespective of political allegiances or opinion of our baring a minor miracle - next Prime Minister, we can all seemingly look forward to the end of a parliamentary sphere deadlocked by an inept and no-longer trusted government making decisions only to be whined at by an opposition which ventures no alternative and is only interested in undermining - when all the while the quality of life in Britain leaves the many desiring much. It's exciting to think of the up-till-now over-complicated Labour Party being forced into opposition and having to come up with a new strategy. In this newly-competitive political scene the new government will have a chance to make early changes which might actually make a difference, rather than remedial measures to paper over the damage of their earlier decisions. And that, surely, is a reason to be cheerful.

Voyeuristic by nature

The media circus that surrounded Jade Goody's death is a sorry reflection of our society



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I would be stating nothing new in claiming that we live in a culture obsessed with the figure of the celebrity. Our society delights in fixing individuals up onto often undeserved pedestals, where they are worshipped accordingly, and then exalting when their flimsy footholds come crashing down. Yet, not for a long time has such voyeurism been witnessed, as that surrounding the recent death of Jade Goody from cervical cancer. The media storm surrounding the reality television star's life and death has been immense, and there is, resultantly, a great wealth of opinion and speculation. However, whatever one may feel towards this tragic young woman, it is impossible to escape from the fact that her death has cast a sad indictment upon the state

of our society.

Sir Michael Parkinson, whilst acknowledging the sadness of a young woman succumbing to cancer, has described Jade Goody as representative of 'all that is paltry and wretched' in Britain today, and that she was 'ignominious and puerile'. By contrast, Stephen Fry has more positively depicted her as a 'kind of Princess Di from the wrong side of the tracks'. Nevertheless, whichever of these opinions one attaches most weight to, the main issue here is the behaviour of the public sphere and the media scrutiny surrounding Jade's illness and

Jade's life
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death. As news emerges that a musical entitled 'Goody!', which is to depict the reality television star's life, is in the pipeline, the full exploitation of this woman becomes crystal

clear.

The 27-year-old Jade Goody had first come into the public eye in 2002 on Big Brother and proceeded to make millions, before being struck down by terminal cancer earlier this year. During her short stint of fame, she was vilified as a 'pig' and an ignorant racist and, at the other end of the spectrum, praised as a woman who had managed to escape the deprivation of her childhood, and was a loving mother to her two young sons. The disparity between these images of Jade exemplifies the fickle temperament of the media and the obsessive and voyeuristic nature of our society.

Jade Goody's life and, particularly her death, were presented to the world like a circus show. From the moment that Jade was told she had cervical cancer on the Indian Big Brother, the media relayed a blow by blow account of her degenerating health and accompanying emotional state. The media moguls were in their element as Jade reacted to her illness by choosing to marry her boyfriend Jack Tweed and have her sons christened, in an attempt to find order and meaning in her final days. All of the national newspapers tracked this chain of events, whilst magazines were littered with interviews and accounts of her life. Old news went so far as to publish a tribute to Jade before she had even passed away.

One may suggest that news coverage is to be expected in such a situation and that the media will latch onto any story that will sell. However, the sheer amount of exposure

Society
becomes
fixated
on one
individual

concerning Jade Goody's illness and death points to an unhealthy public interest in the unfortunate woman. Thousands of people in Britain die of cancer every year and, yet, our society becomes fixated on one individual, whom the majority of us knew only via the media, rather than through any real human intention. For one tragic woman to provide such unlimited fascination points to a fatal flaw in our culture, and a loss of fundamental sense of what's important in life. That is, whilst Jade Goody's death is indescribably sad, it was ultimately a very private thing, and its occurrence should have been the concern of her close friends and family, and not the world. It is time for our society to pull its head out of the sand, and for individuals to focus on the realities of their own lives, rather than indulging in the tragedies of others.

The pigs are alright

The disproportionate panic over swine flu distracts attention from more important matters



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With every new case seemingly being turned into an overnight sensation, the swine flu epidemic seems to have been distorted by the media into an event even larger than its global proportions.

Yet, with no confirmed deaths in the UK and only 27 fatal cases reported worldwide, it seems a little preposterous that this issue has taken up so much space in the news. Admittedly, global pandemics are not something to be taken lightly, and we should be grateful for a media which highlights such important issues, and therefore puts pressure on the government to respond

promptly and effectively.

But the way in which the story has been stretched to its very limit by constant coverage seems to tell us more about the way in which the modern media works than

People are lining up to profit from fear and morbid fascination

it does about how to protect ourselves from this new threat. For many in the media trade, this story is a dream come true, with nearly untethered potential for follow up pieces. With Max Clifford taking the enviable role of PR manager for the first British couple to contract the illness, it seems that already people are lining up to profit from what is in essence a combination

of people's fear and morbid fascination. After all, what more do people really need to know? The couple went to Mexico, caught swine flu, and came back - end of story. Or so it should be. Instead we are invited to gawp at their predicament and watch as their tragic story unfolds, not completely unlike Clifford's previous PR role for Jade Goody.

It also seems pretty convenient for the government right now, in the midst of various scandals over MP's expenses and the small smear campaign, to have a scare story to distract people from the current sleaze surrounding the Labour Party. The emphasis on Britain being one of the best prepared nations in the face of the epidemic helps to bolster Brown's dwindling public image, in much the same way as his attempts to lead a global response to the recession.

But beneath the boasting about how well prepared we are lies the notion that perhaps this is not due to the government's uncanny persistence in prohibiting its outbreak of swine flu, but more due to the fact that we remain a wealthy nation with ample resources. Meanwhile even the most noble and well-intending governments in the developing world will struggle to mobilise enough resources to combat the flu. Yet it is unlikely they will be receiving much aid in these times of financial gloom. In fact, the

epidemic diseases which continue to riddle the Third World such as TB and malaria are yet to see a response similar to the current

TB and malaria are yet to see a response like this from the media

panic over swine flu, from either the international community or the media. Perhaps this is because they largely do not impact upon the developed world, and therefore, are seen as irrelevant to our everyday lives. However, before we start panicking about a global pandemic, we should remember that there are already quite a few out there which are the whole, genuine epidemic.

Yes we can? So why Afghanistan?

Obama's failure to end offensives in Afghanistan and Pakistan undermines his great promise



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More than one hundred days into his presidency and I still trust Barack Obama.

In Britain, perhaps we expected the bright promises of the campaign trail to flicker and fade when hope became realisation - and power. For recently, we have been the victims of just such a false dawn.

In 1997, the youth and vigour of New Labour made the whole nation fall in love with politics, and a better Britain in a better world seemed near. That novelty has grimly transformed to an ugly old model of underlings and overlords, wars in foreign lands we know little about, and police officers who seem to loathe the people they are charged to protect.

No wonder then, that so many looked across the Atlantic with a sceptical eye in January.

But each new initiative seems to fulfil Obama's great expectations: the message of reconciliation being sent to Iran and to Russia; the capping of bankers' bonuses and weeding out of tax loopholes; the lifting of bans on stem cell research, and admitting and looking to heal America's wrongs in Latin America. Obama's record since entering office reads like a left-liberal's political wish list.

But far all of this, there is one area of policy that casts its shadow over everything the man has achieved, and threatens to throw the world's hopes in this hinge year 2009 into disillusion, just as Blair and Brown brought the hope this country had in 1997.

On Wednesday the USA expressed 'regret' at the death of dozens of people in one of its airstrikes in the Farah province of Afghanistan. I remember, in the darkest days of Bush's presidency, being sickened by the empty words of regret uttered from the mouth of the very man who ordered the bombs to drop who, the very next day, would order more bombs and more deaths.

That Obama is now this man is not something I want to believe. But he is. His policy on Afghanistan - and the Pakistan policy it is bound to - is the one area where Obama has offered nothing new, and the one policy which threatens to ruin his

If Obama means what he says, why are the bomber planes still flying over Afghanistan?

presidency.

It is foolish to think of Obama as another Bush. And after all, the Afghanistan-Pakistan crisis is not of his making, but of his predecessor's. Indeed, the damage done to the world by George, Dick, Donald et al, is only now, in their blessed absence from world politics, becoming apparent.

When Bush expressed regret, we felt disgusted, because he did not mean it. When Obama expresses regret the overwhelming feeling is sadness, because he does mean it,

and frustration, because if he means it, why are the bomber planes still flying over Afghanistan?

Because the Taliban - now influential in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, represent 'The most serious threat to American security' Obama has told us.

That may be true. The Taliban are a barbarous group and left to their own devices, they will enslave women in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and they will train terrorists to kill. They must be opposed.

But vicious men opposed by vicious methods, will not be pacified. Worse, they find their cruel way of life validated and glorified, and attract others to their cause. Besides, a war cannot be fought against a small group of men. The bombs that fall do not discriminate guilty from innocent, militant from child.

Only in peace can progress be made, and international support for the people and legitimate politicians of Afghanistan and Pakistan. It would not be an easy peace, nor a quick road to recovery. But war only breeds hate - any alternative is preferable.

Obama is no fool. He knows these things are true. But on this issue, unlike any other he seems bound to the same falsehoods as his predecessor - and even honest regret does not excuse him for that.

Helicopter parents

Propelling you in the right direction?

Though the term might yet be uncommon outside of the media, you'll undoubtedly be familiar with the concept: parents who hover over their children's lives constantly interfering in their educational and career choices. Largely confined to the middle classes, university open days are the place to spot this species of parent in action, interrogating lecturers whilst their children stand back with a look of either shame or boredom. UCAS appears to be embracing this trend with parents now able to act as agents on behalf

Parents generally have much more in common with their children nowadays, and that doesn't just mean a shared Winehouse CD

of their children in the application process; an understandable move perhaps for students away on gap years, but also a golden opportunity for parents to take control whilst their children take the backseat.

This can continue throughout students' university careers with some parents constantly on the phone to lecturers, landlords and banks to sort out their children's woes. Whilst university is traditionally considered the first step towards independence, parents are increasingly ready to swoop in at the first sign of trouble to fight their children's battles for them.

Helicopter parenting is however, a fairly recent phenomenon and my own parents, themselves not exempt from helicopter tendencies, tell a different story of university in the 70s. As my father points out: "Our parents' generation had been brought up during the war and, with massive political and cultural changes in the 60s, the generation gap was much bigger."

Parents generally have much more in common with their children nowadays, and that doesn't just mean a shared

Winehouse CD but also shared life experiences.

Most parents in the 70s, even amongst the middle classes, hadn't been to university themselves so the whole university experience was unknown territory and they felt far less confident about giving advice and getting involved. In fact, on the first day of term, many students made their own way to university without mummy and daddy there to hold their hand; unimaginable now as the swarms of parents descend on Leeds around September-time. Even those parents who haven't been to university themselves are nowadays much more informed on the whole process and may still feel they know best when it comes to subject and university choices.

But perhaps it's unfair to vilify this new breed of parents; surely it's a natural reaction to show concern for their children and could it be the students themselves at the heart of the problem? The journalist Barbara Ellen recently leapt to the defence of helicopter parents in her Observer column: "This is what people always forget before pointing the finger at helicopters - look at what we've got to work with. Everywhere you look, there are middle-class teenage blobs, in Jack Wills hoodies, seemingly with nothing on their minds but parties and the next Pot Noodle."

Harsh as this judgement may be, many students are often all too willing to shirk their responsibilities and offload them on to their parents. It's usually after a phone call from their offspring complaining about an unfair essay mark or a broken boiler that parents step in to fix things. However, this seems like a vicious circle we're getting ourselves into; if, as Barbara Ellen argues, parents are willing to do all the worrying and organising for us, why should we concern ourselves with the harsh realities of the world when there's another night out to be planned?

Never is this more true than when it comes to the dreaded career planning; whilst many students insist on living in blissful ignorance of what the future holds, it is often the parents who spend hours researching possible career paths and lining up interviews. More extreme stories in the press of parents attending interviews with their children may still be rare cases but Nalayini Thambar, Assistant Director of the University of Leeds Careers Centre, admitted

that graduate recruiters have reported more contact with parents over the past 5 or 10 years. In terms of the impression that gives to employers, she acknowledges: "It's quite a risky strategy because ultimately, if you want to position yourself in the world as the self-reliant graduate with many skills and qualities to offer, but then you have to get your mum to ring up about an interview, that undermines that impression."

However, at a less direct level, Thambar points out that parental input can be helpful: "students can't rely 100% on seeing what happens to be advertised, so in that case it can come down to who you know. Obviously if you're fortunate to have parents that have contacts then that can be very useful."

It's better if they're hovering at a safe distance away rather than preparing to land

will want to ensure it pays off.

Essentially though, despite their best intentions, if helicopter parents take over the steering completely, their children may one day find themselves wondering how they've ended up with a life they never chose. As the ever-insightful Bon Jovi put it, "It's my life, it's now or never", so next time your landlord steals your deposit or your bank overcharges you, forget the speed dial direct to your parents and see it as a chance to reassess that longed-for independence. Though we all need the support and guidance of our parents to fall back on, it's better if they're hovering at a safe distance away rather than preparing to land.

Naomi Wells

As a source of information, their own experiences in the job market should not be dismissed, though Thambar warns: "things have moved on and if those parents themselves have been at university and are offering advice based on what happened when they graduated, that can be risky."

As recession hits Britain and the job market gets more competitive, it seems inevitable this helicopter-like behaviour will only become more widespread. As a generation brought up in times of boom, students still remain largely unaware of the implications the credit crunch may have on their future. Parents, who have in contrast lived through similar crises, worry about how to steer their children clear of the dangers to come in these uncertain times. Saddled with growing student debts, parents understandably want to prevent their children from going under. They have also made a massive financial investment themselves in their children's education and, to put it crudely,



LS Sport

COMMENT

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

10

Ricky Hattons, contrary to popular chant, required to beat Manny Pacquiao.

300

Bottles of champagne left on ice in Cardiff on Sunday.

PUNDIT WATCH



"So, can you and the fans really be the 11th man at the Emirates, Tom?"

Radio 5 Live's Richard Bacon unwittingly reveals Arsenal's numerical disadvantage ahead of their defeat to Man Utd.

Nouvelle Vague threaten the old guard

This week saw the sacking of Jurgen Klinsmann as manager of Bayern Munich and Marco Van Basten's resignation at Ajax. Both coaches have lost or left their positions due to failure to meet with the expectations and ambitions of their clubs.

In France, Lyon, seven points behind Marseille and Bordeaux, appear to be about to relinquish the Ligue 1 title after winning the last seven championships. With these clubs not reaching the potential they believe they have, does this herald the demise of the status quo in Northern European football.

In Holland, for the first time since the 2000/01 season neither Ajax nor PSV Eindhoven will win the Eredivisie. The clubs' fall from dominance is so great that neither club has qualified for the Champions League this season for the first time since the 1992/93 season. Instead, Louis Van Gaal's

AZ Alkmaar are Champions and Steve McClaren's FC Twente have qualified in second place for next year's Champions League. Both these clubs are of a very modest size. As late as the 2005/06 season AZ played at the Alkmaardahout which had a capacity of just over 8,000, when they finished third.

Holland is not the only country to see the greats of its history fall behind emerging smaller clubs backed by football Sugar Daddies. In Germany, former player and technology magnate Dietmar Hopp have backed the fairytale of TSG Hoffenheim. Hoffenheim were promoted four times in nine seasons from the fifth tier of German football. They were top earlier in the season but have since slipped to ninth.

Bayern may still win the league, only three points behind leaders Wolfsburg with six games remaining. It is, however, the manner with which Bayern have



Klinsmann fails to reach expectations

played through the season that led to the sacking of Klinsmann.

Despite retaining the Ligue 1 title for so long, Lyon's dominance is coming to an end as other clubs take advantage of Lyon's futile obsession with the Champions League. Is this season merely a blip for these clubs or is it a sign of times to come. Clubs are no longer funded by their respective fan-bases or even TV rights, but as in Hoffenheim's case, are able to rely on the money of rich individuals to artificially bankroll them.

One thing that is certain is that the dominance of individual clubs over an entire league cannot be healthy for domestic football in that nation, as the Bundesliga, Eredivisie and Ligue 1 are constantly giving ground to the Premiership and La Liga. The rise of smaller clubs can revitalise these waning leagues.

for Duncan

Capital capitulation and other sporting collapses

I had hoped to wake up on Monday morning to find that the previous day had all just been a bad dream.

Unfortunately, Cardiff City's seventh place in the Championship's final league table stared blankly at me from my computer screen, an unforgiving reminder of Sunday's monumental collapse.

With four games left in the season, the Bluebirds had automatic promotion in their sights but wilted under the pressure to succeed like a daffodil in a blast furnace.

They mustered just one point from a possible twelve, conceded twelve goals and threw away a golden chance of becoming a Premier League club.

As I searched desperately for reasons to be cheerful – well, a possible trip to Hull next season – I tried consoling myself by thinking of sport's other spectacular capitulations.

"I would love it!" is the infamous Kevin Keegan quote which will forever be synonymous with the 1995-96 Premier League season and, in particular, dramatic self-destruction.

Despite being 12 points clear at the top in January, a jittery run-in saw Newcastle surrender the title to Manchester United.

The Magpies never truly recovered, and now face the ignominy of joining the legion of underachievers in English football's second tier.

Eclipsing Newcastle's capacity to crumble under pressure is quite a feat, and one that the English cricket team has repeated on numerous occasions.

Most memorably, the second test of the 2006-07 Ashes at Adelaide signalled not only the turning point of the series but also the end of the briefest of golden eras, "The Class of 2005".

Having declared on a manmoth 551-6 in the first innings, the tourists were poised to level the series at 1-1 when they were 69-1 in their second innings.

Once Andrew Strauss fell to England's perennial tormentor Shane Warne, however, they imploded to gift Australia an unexpected win and, with it, a platform for a crushing 5-0 series triumph.

When the Ashes start in July, I'll be in Cardiff hoping that the England and Wales Cricket Board XI can upset Australia and, in the process, spark a collapse that I can actually enjoy.

Dafydd Pritchard

Error message: rules are there for a reason

Some would say it is typical that rather than reveling in their Champions League semi-final victory, many connected with Manchester United are instead bemoaning Roberto Rosetti's decision to dismiss Darren Fletcher in the 75th minute.

"Justice for Darren" they have cried, whilst completely forgetting the point of all this: rules are there for a reason, and they need to be adhered to.

Everyone is in agreement that Fletcher's red card was the wrong decision, but human error is part of sport and Rosetti made a mistake. That doesn't mean that disciplinary procedures shouldn't apply in this case.

There is talk today of Uefa making an exception for Fletcher. For me, any such action by Uefa would put them on very dodgy ground for the future; you could conceivably have every future red card or booking being looked at after the event.

Not only would this be a huge waste of time, it would massively undermine the credibility of referees, who have a tough enough job as it is.

Unfortunately it seems that this isn't the only example of sporting authorities wishing to tweek or change the rules to suit specific circumstances.

Discussions over a spending cap in Formula 1 - teams will choose to spend less and have more technical freedom, or spend more and have less room to modify their cars - would essentially create an un-level playing field that would have a detrimental affect on competition, not least if Ferrari carry out their threat to leave the sport.

Elsewhere there are other examples, NHL officials want to change the rules regarding video replays - halfway through the season to iron out mistakes.

This on the fly changing of regulations and trend to make decisions based on specific cases is a dangerous one. Fletcher was certainly hard done by and it is heart-breaking for him that he will miss the final, but an exception should simply not be made.

The rules are there in black and white. Ignoring them this time around would not make up for Rosetti's earlier mistake. It would open a door Uefa should be very wary of going down.

Sorry Darren, but for the sake of football's integrity you'll just have to watch the final like the rest of us.

Owen Bradley

Is the League upside-down?

So-called 'big clubs' need to put the present ahead of the past

Feature

Last weekend saw more chapters added to the tragic tale of what are arguably some of England's most prestigious clubs, with the relegation of Charlton Athletic, Southampton and Norwich City into the bleak, long-ball wastelands of League 1.

They have joined a band of clubs, such as Leeds United, Leicester City and Millwall, to have fallen further down the league hierarchy, after once reaching so high at the top.

Unfortunately, it looks as though the face of the football league is

beginning to change. Supposed 'big clubs' are now seeing themselves relegated, with teams of no-hopers and echoing shells for stadiums sending them down dismally quickly.

In just three seasons, Charlton have managed to undo everything ex-manager Alan Curbishley had set up, to plummet from an eight-year high in the Premier League, to a place in English Football's third tier.

What is intriguing though is the surprise this has generated. The general opinion from supporters and pundits appears to be that thoroughbred 'big' clubs such as Charlton and Southampton should not be going down.

Instead, lower clubs with smaller

The likes of Manchester City and Nottingham Forest have recently found themselves in the third tier of English football

fan bases deserve to stay lowly with small fan bases.

This is the same thought that was voiced when Leeds got relegated back in 2003, the same when Manchester City were down in the then-called 'Division Two' in 1998, and it will certainly be the same if Newcastle see themselves out of England's elite this season.

What surprises me is a notion voiced that 'smaller' clubs such as Wigan Athletic and Hull City should make way for the larger ones.

Listening to Radio 5Live's 606 Phone-in last weekend, an irate Newcastle United fan was questioning why his team should be put under the strain of relegation, when clubs with smaller fan bases such as Hull get to stay up.

This is an absurd suggestion. The thought of playing in a higher league purely on the basis of club stature is one that can only be voiced by those drunk on passion and pride for their

Southampton, Charlton and the likes respect this turning of the tables?

No club has a divine right to play in the top flight, as much as no club has a divine right to play in Europe (I'm looking at Tottenham fans here), or win the league (ahem, Liverpool).

Maybe it's forgotten that Manchester United were once roughing it in 1974's Division Two, whilst Aston Villa had almost two decades outside the top league.

The cycle will always continue. Many would say Nottingham Forest, two time European Cup winners, should be up there with the best.

It's a sorrowful indictment on the game of football when fans begin to argue the stature of a club. Are Forest bigger than Arsenal? They've won more European honours after all.

Are Middlesbrough bigger than Newcastle, with a League Cup to their name compared to the Magpie's trophy-less streak of over 50 years?

The way I see it, we need to look at the present. A club does not have a right to play in a league on the basis of its history. It is what happens now, in this season, that dictates what level you play in the next.

People may argue that Newcastle, if relegated, have more of a right to be in the Premier League than newly promoted Wolverhampton Wanderers. However, right doesn't get you anywhere.

You have to earn the right, as Leeds and Southampton have found to their detriment, but Wolves and Wigan have found to their credit, to play at the highest level you can.

If you can't hack it, you will be found out, with no second chances. And it's a long road back to the top.

A club does not have the right to play in a league on the basis of their history. It is about what happens now, in this season that dictates your fate

clubs.

What is sometimes difficult to grasp is that the cycle of football will always continue. Every team has its ups and downs; Leeds are currently swilling around the bottom of a down, whilst Hull are arguably on the crest of an up.

So why can't Newcastle,



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the big debate:

Deductions lead to responsibility

James Green

The use of a points deduction system in football for those clubs who go into administration is a good thing, it's true. The system makes sure that those who are running football clubs do it responsibly. Without them there would be nothing to stop the owners running their clubs into the ground and then leaving with the club in tatters. Whilst it may seem a harsh measure but does more good than harm for the beautiful game.

And responsibility is exactly what the FA should be promoting considering the current state of the economy. How is it possible to sit by and watch clubs throw away the vast sums of money that they get, when fans are at home without a job, and not take some action? It would be irresponsible. Now with the economy in tatters there will no doubt be some clubs, especially in the lower leagues, suffering and I

If there was no deterrent, more clubs would enter administration.

would hope the FA would in some way offer the help they need to survive because the last thing anyone wants to see is clubs disappearing. There has to be some form of punishment for those who fail to run their clubs properly when so many others are trying to become more sustainable.

Many argue that point deductions hurt fans more than clubs, since the demise of clubs directly involves supporters. However, I believe that it actually benefits the fans. If there was no deterrent from mismanaging football clubs then the number of clubs going into administration

would increase. This would hurt the fans. If the owners mismanage the football club, then the money disappears, the players get sold and it is the fans who suffer. But with a point deduction for mismanagement the benefits of mismanaging a club for profit is reduced, making it more likely that the club will be well run, ultimately benefiting the fans.

The deductions incurred by clubs such as Luton, Bournemouth and Leeds for not adhering to FA rules surrounding administration are equally justifiable. It is perfectly plausible to ask for a club, once it has got itself into administration, to follow the guidelines for getting itself out. By bothering to follow instructions these clubs could have saved themselves the loss of more points, and in the case of Luton perhaps even their league status.

What possible alternatives are there? A fine would not work as the clubs apparently have no money, hence why they are in administration. As far as I can see there is no other method for successfully both punishing and deterring owners from poorly running their clubs.

Despite the original appearance of unfairness and a system aimed to kick a club when it's down, the points deduction system actually, when looked at closely, is a good thing that does exactly what it's supposed to do. It acts as a deterrent from running football clubs poorly and in the long term keeps football as healthy as possible.

Are points deductions fair?

At the start of this season Luton Town were deducted a total of thirty points for entering administration, and were subsequently relegated from League Two. With newly relegated Southampton set to begin next season in League One on -10 points (again for entering administration), LS Sport asks; *Are points deductions a good idea?*

Unnecessary evil

Craig Wood

Speaking in November last year, Sir Alan Sugar, the businessman-turned-reality-TV boss, said of the ongoing Leeds United saga: "They should be thrown out, down to the fifth division and have to work their way back up, playing on Hackney Marsh." Many would have shared this view, particularly for a team that spent millions and came very close to footballing stardom.

Yet, is it really fair to deduct points at all from football clubs? Football League bigwigs are keen to enforce this rule, introduced in 2004, which sees 10 points deducted from any team entering administration. However, some teams have fallen victim to this rule without splashing millions on superstars and after adhering to strict budgets for many years. This week saw Stockport County become the 86th club to fall into administration since 1986. For those that are unaware, there are 92 clubs in the Football League (some of the 86 have fallen out of the Football League since succumbing to administration).

This startling statistic shows that even the most sensible of clubs can suffer from financial collapse. It also seems that this move places financial importance over true football ability.

Take Luton Town, for instance, the team who recently lost their Football League status despite battling bravely against a 30-point deduction imposed after falling into administration. This year they have shown that their on-pitch capability far outweighs their financial acumen. Victory at Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, a competition for League One and League Two sides, has proven that Luton have the potential to mix with the best of both divisions. Yet they remain rooted to the bottom of League Two, unable to shake off the dreaded title of football's basement team. Originally deducted points whilst in League One, Luton

now find themselves out of the Football League just three years after a mid-table finish in the Championship. As they drop a division, so their financial problems worsen - leaving clubs in an inescapable downward spiral.

Given the current economic climate, the deduction of points seems to be a harsh and unnecessary punitive measure. In March, the Football League Chairman Lord Mawhinney stated that the full impact of the recession is yet to hit English football, in spite of the numerous clubs being docked points already this season.

Stockport County narrowly avoided relegation after becoming the 86th club to fall into administration since 1986.

Predictions made last year estimated that English clubs owe in the region of £3billion. It has to be asked, therefore, whether teams should be allowed to combat these financial difficulties without the looming threat of a points deduction. Additionally, persistently punishing teams in this way runs the risk of alienating fans in an age where many teams already struggle to fill stadiums.

It seems that what is needed is a degree of transparency with regards to a club's financial dealings. If clubs begin to publicise such details, fans could no longer complain at being victims of injustice. At a time when the bigger clubs enjoy the glitz and glamour of the Champions League, big-money TV deals and multi-million pound transfers, it is the lower league sides who mean so much to English football that must be nurtured, and not neutered.



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Flying Formula One is Brawn again

Feature

By Ben Higgs

Boring: a word often banded about by some when talking about the world's premier open wheel championship. 2009 has been far from it.

It's almost impossible to describe everything that has occurred in these last hectic six weeks in a short space.

Firstly, the emergence of Brawn GP surprised many, especially those who had discredited their testing times as 'media laps'. Normally that would be the biggest talking point in a season - but not this time.

Teams may have tied to the stewards, argued about the legality

of other cars and found themselves at the opposite end of the grid than previously.

In Australia, Jenson Button won at a canter, but behind him the race was anything but simple.

Robert Kubica and Sebastian Vettel conspired to bring out the safety car, an act that won Vettel a dubious grid penalty.

What followed was almost farcical. Jarno Trulli failed to keep his car on cold tyres, on the track and was passed by current world champion Lewis Hamilton.

In an aftermath from last year's incident at Spa, the McLaren team went into full blown panic mode and ordered Hamilton to needlessly allow Trulli past.

Their already-battered public image was again knocked when they lied to the stewards to try and

Teams have lied to the stewards argued about the legality of other cars and found themselves at the opposite end of the grid than previously

regain that place. The after effects of this arc still not entirely known as the team heads into an FIA hearing.

Malaysia was wet, very wet. The race descended into farce as the cars spent an hour sat around waiting to find out if it would be restarted.

The rain had called a halt to proceedings at less than half distance.

With Button winning again this time, it was Ferrari who provided the comedy side as multiple bad strategy calls led them to leave Sepang with zero points from two races.

Just to add to the calm, a blazing row over a loophole in the rules had broken out.

Eventually the 'diffuser three', as they became known, were

cleared and normality seemed restored.

Wrong. Rain again came to join the fun in China, leaving Sebastian Vettel to secure Red Bull's first win.

Further down the pack Hamilton provided the action as he charged through the field only to lose control each time and find himself back at square one.

Only this weekend the Bahrain Grand Prix saw blocking controversies during qualifying and a first two laps that were nearly impossible to follow.

Other than that, it's been a dull season.

2009 is already turning into a classic after only 4 races, if this continues Murray Walker's heart may need to be monitored.



Brawn's emergence brought Button's early domination and sparked the start of a season full of exciting twists and turns.

Oaks on verge of play-offs after baptism of fire

Baseball Leeds Oaks

Matthew Kay

Leeds University's newest club - the Leeds Oaks Baseball Club - played their first fixtures just before the Easter break. They were playing in the first season of the British Universities Baseball Association (BUBA) Spring League, just three months after the club itself was founded.

The Oaks suffered a baptism of fire with their first two fixtures, coming back to back against the Nottingham Thieves, BUBA founders and current Fall Cup champions. The gulf in class was clear to see from the start.

Whilst Nottingham have been

competing for three years in Cup competitions and in national men's leagues, the Oaks could only draw from the experience of a few weeks practice and a handful of foreign exchange students.

The pre-game excitement was very quickly extinguished as Nottingham raced into an early lead, ruthlessly exploiting some poor fielding as the Leeds pitchers struggled in blustery conditions.

Nottingham's pitching was clearly used to the wind at their home ground; allowing them to completely shutout the Leeds batters, who failed to score over their five innings.

Despite a woeful second innings that saw the Oaks concede twenty-six runs, heads did not go down and Leeds very quickly learnt from their mistakes. Despite a 41-0

After two wins, it is not inconceivable that Leeds could qualify to compete in the play-offs

drubbing, the Oaks were confident of a much improved performance second round.

Playing the second game straight after the first, starting pitcher Kaz

'Milkman' Honda shocked Nottingham with a fantastic display of both pace and control to shutout Nottingham's first two innings. The Thieves eventually recovered to win the game 15-5, but the impressive learning curve of the Leeds players cannot be commended enough.

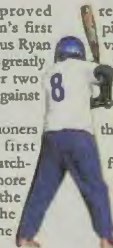
The much improved performance saw the team's first ever win scored by a delicious Ryan Owen, and confidence was greatly boosted ready for another two games the following day against Lincoln.

With the Lincoln Commoners also playing their first competitive games, the matchup promised to be much more evenly contested. Using the valuable experience of the previous day, however, the

Oaks were the team teaching the opposition all the lessons, routing Lincoln 24-3 in the first game of the day, which included Titus Singh somewhat unfairly picking out Lincoln's only girl on the team to score an inside the park home run.

While Lincoln started the second game strongly, the Oaks recovered with some solid pitching from Singh to take the victory 26-12. The whole team performed admirably but it was Adam Carter's experience that proved invaluable to the team over the weekend.

After two wins and with fixtures remaining against Durham and UEA, it is not inconceivable that Leeds could qualify to compete in the end of season play-offs.



Cricket captain speaks with confidence ahead of new season

Interview

James Preshland & Callum Brown

LUUCC's Club Captain James Moss took time out of his busy schedule to talk to *Leeds Student Sport* about the up and coming cricket season.

James, who captained the Seconds since his fresher year and now, in his fourth and final year, he is in a prestigious new role.

James is a middle order batsman who has got off to a slow start this year, scoring around the 30s and 40s but not going on. However this doesn't seem to faze James as his team goes from strength to strength.

Callum and Jamie: Team bonding is obviously important for the morale and success of any sporting institution. How have you gone about keeping the team together in the closed season?

James Moss: With cricket being a summer sport we made sure we trained throughout the winter, as to keep the team gelling and in constant communication with one another.

We maintain a hectic social calendar, a recent highlight being a

messy night in Sheffield! On the flipside we decided to combine training, socialising and a holiday with our tour to India, where we played against some of the country's top teams.

At the start we found it difficult to cope with their style of play and the high humidity, however by the end of the tour we were competing on the same level and overall had become a tighter-knit unit.

C&J: Well James, that's all well and good, but has this been translated into success on the pitch?

JM: We've a few games into yet another fixture packed season; so far the three teams have only dropped a single game between them.

The first and second teams are currently maintaining a one hundred percent record, with the thirds losing just one of their games.

Having won the Championship last year, I'm confident the firsts can gain promotion to the Premiership this season.

C&J: Sounds like we have a promising season to look forward to, what is the reasoning behind your supreme confidence?

We decided to combine training, socialising and a holiday with our tour to India, where we played against some of the country's top teams

JM: The size of the squad this year is large enough to deal with absence for coursework and exams, the best part about our squad is everybody can adhere to the same high standards.

We've been lucky to have UCC coaches involved with us – they take the time to work with the players both in group scenarios and on a one-to-one basis.

The freshers this year have been an especially impressive addition to the squad, in particular Sam Burge who is a middle-order batsman and wicket keeper who has opened his LUU account with a flurry of runs, with an impressive 84 and well-rounded 60.

We also have a host of players who are partaking in the UCC team, with our very own Chris Prowling captaining the side.

C&J: The funding and facilities must be top-notch for such a large squad.

JM: Our facilities at Westwood are used by Yorkshire Academy, which obviously speaks for itself. We feel very lucky and privileged to have the chance to work with such facilities.

As for our funding, the university funds the cricketer

aspect, and we raise our own money for socials and tours, usually by selling 'fruity' tickets, so please buy them!

C&J: The British Isles are renowned for torrid and unpredictable weather conditions. How difficult does this make organising fixtures and arranging teams?

JM: One of the hardest things about being a club captain is the administration and bureaucracy of putting teams together when you know there's a good chance the game will be called off – it's a bit of a pain contacting players to tell them they are in the squad then ringing them a few hours later to say they're not.

After enjoying a good chat and a bit of banter with James, we believe we have dispelled all rumours that cricket is an exclusively gentlemen's club, and is more about hard work and friendship.

Just as we were about to leave, James asked us to give the 20/20 matches on 15th June at Westwood against Met a special mention – get down there and give the boys some support!

Women's quad squad secure silver

Leeds brush aside Durham and Bristol to capture second place

Rowing Women's 1sts

Sophie Devonshire

The women's first quad squad brought huge success to the University last weekend, beating out competition from around the country in becoming national silver medalists at BUCS Regatta at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham.

They breezed through their heat, beating crews from top rowing universities such as Durham and Bristol to earn themselves a place in the final.

The recently formed, powerful quad comprised senior women's captain Sophie Devonshire, vice-captain Kirsty Usher, Hanna Holloway and Sarah Hocknell.

The four girls stormed their way down the notoriously treacherous 2km course in just less than eight minutes finishing with silver medals, only seconds behind the winners.

This was a tremendous feat for

the crew, earning the Boat Club their first BUCS medals in water, while setting very high standards for the remainder of the season.

This national success followed on from the Women's 1st VIII's win the previous weekend at Nottingham City Regatta, in which the girls defeated many crews, more notably their northern rivals from Newcastle University.

The men's squad have also had a successful start to the regatta season with convincing wins in their VIII, IV and a single at York Spring Regatta, as well as some promising results from BUCS Regatta too.

If you are interested in joining the Boat Club or want to find out a little more about what we do, please get in touch with luubccaptain@hotmail.co.uk or have a look at our website www.luubc.co.uk, we look forward to hearing from you!



The Leeds quad squad show off their silver medals

Photo: Sophie Devonshire

LS Sport

www.leedsuniversitysports.com



Emery eyes future success

Men's Hockey

Interview

Reflecting on a season of success across the board for Leeds University's five hockey teams, club captain Chris Emery was full of praise for the squad's efforts.

Clearly Emery was delighted with performance throughout the hockey set up and began by congratulating the fifth on a fine season.

"It was their first season in BUCS and they did really well to get promoted straight away. There was a scare on the last day of the season when they lost to the Met. Met fielded some players from their other teams but our fifth managed to do it all themselves and they got what they deserved when results went their way and they were up."

Unfortunately, the fourth and third were less fortunate. Both were left frustrated as they finished second in their respective leagues.

"Sadly one bad result early meant them both commented Emery,

"but they'll be pushing for a double promotion next year."

The seconds suffered a similar fate, narrowly missing out on promotion from league 2B. Emery was once more quick to defend the side, however, after an encouraging season.

"The 2B is a really tough league to stay in, and to get promoted out of. They did admirably and missed out on promotion by just two points."

Highlight of the season for the captain came in the 3-1 defeat of rivals Durham in a pulsating contest, in which Leeds bravely fought back from two goals down against one of the league's strongest competitors.

"They are always strong and it's not often you get the better of them. That was the first time I'd got a win over Durham in my time at Leeds so that was a really great game to be a part of."

Perhaps the most memory of the season is going back to match two of the first season finale, in which the Uni overcame Nottingham Trent in an enthralling relegation decider. "We needed a draw or better to remain in

"It was one of the most ridiculous games I've played in. We eventually pulled it out of the bag and got a vital 5-4 win to stay in the division"

BUCS Prem. It was one of the most ridiculous games that I've ever played in. We were four all up at half time and then in the nervous 10

and they levelled it up at 4-4. Thankfully we eventually pulled it out of the bag and got a vital 5-4 win to ensure we stayed in the division.

Leaving the squad in a healthy position, Emery hopes that his hard work will continue to yield success for the players he leaves behind.

"I have firsts have been in the BUCS Prem for three years now which is pretty good. They can look to finish in the top three next year."

"We've been exceptionally strong at Weerwood this year and we'll be looking to keep that up next season. We've got a few freshers who've applied for next year who look like potentially great additions."

Also, Josh Gunnell is returning. He's just done a year out where he

been playing in the European Hockey League for his home team, Cannock, so it'll be great to have him back."

Leeds will field six teams in next year's BUCS A competition for the first time and, despite offering highest compliments to the whole squad, Emery did single out two exceptional performers who he believes will be key to Leeds progress in the 09/10 campaign.

"Two reshers that came in this year - Rodney and Smithers have been brilliant." The displays of the former have even seen him earn a place in the full Wales training squad, while Emery praised Smithers' pace and skill as a central factor in the first's achievements.



Leeds Uni take on the Met earlier this season

Fluor, Matthew Pochler Black

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