

Clubs: Massive Sven Vath and New Bohemia competitions

A year in arts: what's been hot and not (chill out Brad)

Festival planner: where to get your music fix this summer

LS2

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Volume 35 Issue 19

# Leeds Student

www.leedsstudent.org

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## Sport

Should there be quotas for football?  
Plus BUCS 2008/09 reviewed

## Comment & Debate

MPs expenses and the BNP  
Is 'no platform' the best strategy?

## Features

Paddy Ashdown interviewed  
Plus the ups and downs of drug use

# LEAVE LEEDS TIDY.COM

Leave Leeds Tidy is here to help you when moving house over the summer!

Every year, during the summer, thousands of students move between properties or away from Leeds. Much of this 'changeover' occurs over the same couple of weeks at the end of June/start of July, when housing contracts end.

This 'big move' usually causes a massive amount of rubbish and chaos on

the streets around the universities, and contributes to bad feeling between the student population and more permanent residents for the rest of the year.

Student households often leave packing until the last minute so all rubbish is put out at the same time, which creates a mess as rubbish is left all over the streets. Not only does this look untidy but it also blocks traffic. Another big problem are scavengers who go through bins and bags of rubbish to look for items to sell or for personal information on bills to steal.

The environment also suffers as a vast quantity of useful stuff ends up in landfill sites as it gets thrown out during this change-over period. Leave Leeds Tidy is a project, coordinated by Leeds University Union's Volunteering & Community office, which aims to reduce the impact

of student changeover on the local community, while reducing the amount of useful items going to landfill.

The information in this leaflet will help you look after your local area when leaving and to dispose of unwanted belongings in the correct way. If you need more information please visit the website: [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com) or call 0113 3801 329.

## Changeover Wardens

A team of Changeover Wardens will be on the streets promoting the 'Leave Leeds Tidy' message. They will be reactive 'eyes and ears' alerting relevant agencies to any issues as they occur. If you see anything that you'd like to report to these wardens please call: 0113 380 1329.

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Leave Leeds Tidy is a partnership which is coordinated by Leeds University Union's Volunteering & Community office. Other partners are the University of Leeds, Leeds City University Student Union, CHAPL, Leeds City Council & CCU, Leeds City Council Community Services, Leeds City Council Environmental Services, Leeds City Council Environmental Services, Leeds City Council Environmental Services, Leeds City Council Environmental Services.

For more information on the project or the partnership please contact below. Email: [leeds@leedstidy.com](mailto:leeds@leedstidy.com)

# Leeds Student

WWW.LEEDSSTUDENT.CO.UK

## Cashflow crisis hits student press

- Cuts affect half of newspapers
- 25 per cent 'concerned' about future

Continued on page 2 >>>

THE

John Puddephatt

Financial problems threaten the future of student newspapers around the country, a survey carried out by *Leeds Student* has revealed.

Over 45 per cent have had to cut their print run or cancel entire issues at least once in the last year, with the majority (over 60 per cent) failing to meet their advertising target; instead

finding themselves "often short" of the money required.

The survey is the first of its kind to investigate the economic position of student newspapers, coming at a time when the finances of many organisations are under strain. Universities including Cambridge, Manchester and Newcastle were included in the survey, with a total of thirteen student newspapers questioned.

The findings, published for the first time in *Leeds Student*, paint a worrying picture of the state of student

newspapers across the country.

While most Unions provide a grant for equipment, printing costs must be financed through advertisement generated income, with the money required typically in excess of £1,000 per issue. If these costs cannot be met, then editors face no alternative but to cut issues or reduce the number of copies printed to save money.

Yet cutting issues or print runs can further harm advertising revenue. Companies are less likely to place adverts in lower-circulating papers while

## Leeds marking system labelled 'perverse'

Leeds University's degree classification system has been branded 'perverse' by external examiners.

Yet this report was never passed on to the Quality Assurance Agency, an organisation that reviews university standards.

Gavin Reid, director of learning and teaching in the School of Chemistry in a statement to the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee said "The QAA only sees what management puts in front of it."

The news, reported yesterday by the *Times Higher Education*, comes as *Leeds Student* is going to print, and just as many students are preparing to sit exams.

Dr Reid explained how, under the Leeds system, marks of between zero and 20 per cent are rounded up, while marks of between 80 and 100 per cent are rounded down.

It was reported that a spokeswoman for the University said the classification system allowed reconciliation of marks in technical subjects, where high marks are prevalent, with scores in arts subjects, where scores in the 90s are less common.

"Although marks at each end of the scale are compressed, this doesn't impact upon the final degree class obtained by students," the university

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### Sport

Final issue round-up  
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Plus, a look back at the year that was

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Drugs and Lib Dems  
The ups and downs of drug use  
Interview with Paddy Ashdown

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

Make contact. Right a wrong.

## Corrections

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

## Meet the team



## Union G

So the Union has been nominated for best in the land? I can see why: it's occupying the most street corners – from Lifton Place to Woodhouse Lane – has the best

product – an none of it for profit – and some quality muscle. (If you don't believe me just ask the guy who got close-lined after runnin' his mouth off outside Metropolis. I hear a promoter ain't to happy about his vehicle's current predicament.)

Word on the street is that a few hoppers have been goin' round hawkin' the LLU brand to anyone who'll listen', in the hope of securin' that elusive kingpin position held, fo' the moment, by our brothers in Sheffield.

Well I got news for these effervescent young uns: while the

game's the same, it just got more fierce. Installin' a few water fountains here and holdin' some vote counts there will not cut it with these judges (trus' me, I know all about judges). You either gotta grace their palms with a lotta green or pop a cap in someone's ass. It's all in the game yo, all in the game.

I'll admit, we gotta lotta good student residin' here. Oh indeed we do. And while some things, like this, will never change it still ain't enough alone to claim the crown.

Who knows though, getting the prize might not be all it's cracked up

to be. When you're at the top, you're there to get shot at and if you don't have the right package you could fall hard. It's a gift and a curse fo' real yo.

So how can all these good student make sure they're runnin' with the best crew? Well, they need to elect some dope councilloors who'll work fo' the electorate and not fo' themselves, grind everyday to ensure we have the illest society, and simply keep it real.

Failin' that they can always – in the words of ma man Biggy Smalls – "Uh, get anotha one."

## Uni papers in danger

## From front

An absence in issues means any deficit cannot be clawed back; in a catch 22 situation there simply isn't the space for money-generating adverts.

Advertising worries mean that over 25 per cent of editors have serious concerns about their financial future.

Eight out of thirteen newspapers face advertising restrictions put in place by their union, at a time when advertising revenues have tumbled nationally. Such bans typically prevent student newspapers from advertising companies that compete with union services, preventing many from advertising businesses like clubs and bars, which tend to rely on large promotions.

A referendum motion put forward in March attempted to lift some of the restrictions on the Leeds Student faces but was unsuccessful, falling short of the 1500 votes required to reach quorum.

Student newspapers are not alone. The financial struggles of local, regional and national press has been the subject of media focus over the last few months, with a number of

publications forced to slash workforces or close altogether.

140 staff were out on strike at the Leeds based Yorkshire Evening Post group in March, after compulsory redundancies arose from unmanageable levels of debt. The group has acknowledged revenue is at an all time low, with their position reflecting that of many other regional newspapers.

But the news that student publications are suffering just like their larger-scale counterparts could be another blow to the industry. Many students gain experience at newspapers like Leeds Student before going on to gain jobs in journalism or related fields, with this newspaper boasting a long list of alumni currently employed by national publications.

Student newspapers can also fulfill an important duty in supporting the democratic process of any student union, bringing credibility to the process by offering an independent voice, and holding those elected accountable.

Susan Nash, NUS vice president (society and citizenship) told Leeds

Student that NUS recognises the importance of student newspapers, in particular the "crucial means of communication they provide for students at university." Nash went on to acknowledge the broader role of the student press: "They play a vital role on campus, not only providing students with information but also offering volunteers practical experience of journalism."

With most national newspapers running news websites, online advertising offers an additional source of income for many publications. Despite all those surveyed having websites in place or planned, only York newspaper Nouse is able to generate a significant income through online advertising. For the vast majority, websites provide no additional cash at all.

Whilst the recession continues, new casualties continue to appear. It remains to be seen whether student journalism can be sustained on life-support until the economy shows signs of recovery. If it can't, the student journalist may become a thing of the past.

## Classifications unclear

## From front

spokeswoman said. "The system is under continual review."

The QAA did not disclose the specific details of the University's report, but said that the report listed good practice and recommendations identified by the auditors.

The THE also reported that at the select committee hearing, the Lib Dem MP for Oxford West and

Abingdon asked University College Union representatives if they felt pressured not to speak out against their institutions.

Dr. Reid said: "Some feel they can't speak out in staff meetings, let alone to Times Higher Education."

Rob Heath, a third year Physics undergraduate, who is familiar with the processing of results, feels more

could be done to increase transparency. "There's certainly a disconnection between the intricacies of the academic system and the students it is applied to," he said.

The news will do little to allay fears of bias in marking, which has been the subject of many discussions in recent years.

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# Play that funky music live, boy

Emily Dexter

Former Leeds Graduate, Scott Dean, is taking the music industry by storm in the UK's National Music competition, *Live and Unsigned*.

Dean Scott, 26, moved to Leeds in September 2000, where he studied for four years to gain a BA Hons. degree in Popular and World Music. Whilst in Leeds he fronted two bands, Ridgeway and Kryah, which have both helped to develop and establish the style which he now delivers as a solo artist.

He has managed to grab the attention of the judges of the 2009 *Live and Unsigned* competition, making his way into the Area Finals, meaning he's only one step away from competing in the Grand Final.

*Live and Unsigned* is the UK's national music competition for unsigned acts to compete live. With over 10,000 registrations for the second year running, it's the biggest music talent search for original acts in the UK.

The overall winner of the competition wins a recording and management contract with *Future Music*, with an investment of up to £20,000 to release their single including professional studio time, promotional campaigns and more.

The finalists will be thrust into the media spotlight through television, radio and the press. Furthermore, all winners will be invited on the UK *Live and Unsigned* Tour.

After battling through rounds of auditions and a regional live

final where he performed Joan Osborne's 'One of Us' and an original tune called '360', Scott is now one step closer to his dream of a recording contract and single release.

The competition's popularity is fuelled by the fact that it encourages originality and acts are commended for "doing their own thing," being individual, original and performing their own genre and style live.

Chris Grayston, Events Director of *Live and Unsigned* commented: "This year's standard has been higher than ever. The competition is really coming alive now and it is a real opportunity for the remaining acts to break through."

Scott, from Birmingham, has been playing the guitar and singing for 13 years. He has also been a private guitar and vocal coach for the last five years, having on average 30 pupils a week between the ages of seven and sixty. He has proved to be a real inspiration for his students, many of whom went to cheer him on which he qualified to compete in the Area Finals.

Throughout the competition Scott has won over audiences with his distinctive voice and guitar playing, and impressed the judges with his unique style and



**ROCK 'N' ROLL STAR:** Dean celebrates as he is told that he is through to the next round of the competition (left). The musician impresses crowds with his 'unique style' (right).

songwriting talent.

Dane Bowers, who anchored the R & B quartet Another Level, is part of the judging panel again this year. Bowers said: "This industry is all about motivation and determination. If these acts

can show they have the material, the talent and the push to make things happen—that is what we are looking for."

The Area Final is due to be held on Sunday 17th May at the Corn Exchange in Bedford.

## £15k to clear up student mess

Rosie Gizaukas

Leeds City Council has awarded a student volunteering society £15,000 to help clear up rubbish as students scramble to leave the city next month.

Green Streets, a student led volunteering project set up to help keep Leeds tidy, was awarded the grant earlier this year. It was also awarded the Leeds City Council Community and City Pride award for reducing waste and recycling.

Last summer, volunteers gave up 700 hours of their time to collect unwanted rubbish from 5,500 student homes in Leeds. Eight tonnes of rubbish was diverted from going to landfill and was instead donated to 17 local charities.

Run through Leeds University Union's (LUU) Action volunteering society, the group collect unwanted items such as clothing, kitchenware, bedding and books. These items are recycled with pieces going to charity, the homeless and free shops in the Union.

Rob Damaio, LUU's Community Officer said: "The impact that large volumes of rubbish being left on the streets of Leeds has on local people is massive. It generates bad feeling between more permanent residents and students, and leaves the whole area looking like a rubbish tip for two weeks at the end of June."

It is hoped that collections will be made from 10,000 student homes, preventing 10 tonnes of unwanted goods from going into landfill. Green Streets will be posting red collection bags through letterboxes in June for their collections.

Kim Cooper, leader of this year's project, recommends that students sort their rubbish out before the day they leave Leeds. She said: "So you don't have a massive job the day before you move out and end up chucking away loads of stuff that could be recycled or reused."

Kim also revealed how some of the rubbish is used: "Last year we sent loads of bras to Africa, and made your knickers into hunting for festivals."

Students are encouraged to volunteer for the project, and volunteers get first pick on all the stuff that is collected.

For more information on collection days, free shops, and the Green Streets project, please visit: <http://www.leaveleedstidy.com/greenstreets.htm>.

# WHITWELL EXPENSE WANGLE EXPOSED

**EXCLUSIVE**

**Leeds Student Editor Laurie Whitwell has been shamed for making excessive claims on his expenses account, we can exclusively reveal.**

A freedom of information request into LUU finance records reveals a lavish lifestyle which Whitwell expected cash-strapped students to fund.

A first class flight to Rome on May 27th has been charged to the account, representing the largest single item expense, but a number of smaller claims accompanied it. The amount of prawn sandwiches billed for by Whitwell has been referred to by one student as "simply unfathomable".

In addition, an unnamed source presented Leeds Student with a photocopied receipt showing that a

Manchester City replica football shirt bearing the legend "RONULDO" (sic) had been billed for before being returned with an attached note reading "sorry, can I get the one for that club that has the red shirts?"

Recent weeks saw a huge leap in the money being billed to the editor's account, with vast sums being transferred to a company that provides one-on-one football tuition to beginners. It seems likely that Whitwell has felt the need to gain experience for an upcoming event. Whilst an upcoming football match has been discovered on Facebook, this involved the 'Leeds Student' team, apparently unconnected with *Leeds Student*.

Embarrassingly for the editor, one expense claim seen exclusively by Leeds Student reporters reveals a receipt for the dry cleaning of a pair of

trousers, with an added note stating the cryptic "dropped them in the canal after stripping". While the amount claimed in this case was relatively minor, the mark against Whitwell's dignity is surely much more expensive.

Rumours that Whitwell has a 'small claims bonus' in relation to the above event are currently unfounded.

This is not the first time Whitwell has brushed with controversy. His editorial campaign in 2008 drew strong criticism after it was revealed that the slogan "MAKE WHITWELL WILL WORK WELL FOR YOU" was not just grammatically wrong, but was actually intentionally phrased to confuse voters, confusing their sense of logic and forcing them to put a cross next to his name on the ballot paper. The LUU democracy team has taken steps this year to prevent such mind control slogans from being used again.

## A history of controversy continues



A rampage just last month saw Hyde Park residents subjected to chants of "UNITED, UNITED" at 4 am, believed to refer to a seven billion member cult. Whitwell is rumoured to be a member of.



The latest expense to \$34 led to an incident neither being asked to "get her top off".

## A year in news

# Library fines still mounting

Laurie Whitwell  
Alex Doorey

The University library continues to rake it in from slack borrowers and still tops the national table of fine collecting, Leeds Student has learnt.

In March we revealed how Leeds collected a staggering £360,000 from late returners in the academic year 07/08, about £12 for every student. Comparable nationwide data from a year earlier showed that Leeds beat closest rival Manchester to the top of the fines table by over £100,000. Manchester students would be handing over just £5 each on average.

We can now expose how the gap between the two table-topping unis

last year grew to a whopping £160,000.

Claims that the cash flow from borrowers had fallen this year were met with sums that remained sky high, with a fall of just 9.5 per cent. The total fund from August to February still stood at a shocking £144,415, four times the amount fined by neighbouring uni Sheffield over the same period.

University Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection Margaret Courts defended the fees in our original investigation, saying that decisions made over fines were "student led". The original spike in fines from 06/07 to 07/08 was put down to a threshold rise, which allowed borrowers to obtain higher fines before having lending privileges removed. "The threshold was originally introduced in consultation with students to prevent their borrowing being blocked too rapidly when using our self-service lending facilities in the evening," Courts said.

While the figures for the current year have dipped, they still represent a significant income from students who are already paying £3000 a year tuition fees with the results once more calling into question the fining system. While the Library maintains that "the sole purpose of Library fines is to prevent individuals from keeping books for unreasonably long periods and so disadvantage others who need to use them" the

significant amounts repetitively collected suggest the deterrent strategy is not working, with Leeds collecting far more than similar sized unis.

Leeds Student placed Freedom of Information requests with nearly all Russell Group universities, asking for the total amounts collected in fines by their libraries for 07/08 and for August 2008 to the current date. The responses saw Leeds clearly out in front.

For the academic year completed last summer Leeds received £359,229 in fines, followed by Manchester with £198,286.11. Nottingham, which houses the same number of students as Leeds collected just half as much in fines, with the total standing at £172,446. After this came Sheffield with

£110,919; Liverpool received £106,059.93; Bristol collected £102,115; York took £99,331; and Birmingham claimed £98,357.93.

Leeds' figures for the current year are equally as eye-opening. From August 08 to February 09 Leeds received £144,415 in library fines while from August 08 to March 09 Manchester collected £109,174.44, 30 per cent less. For the same period Nottingham took £74,893; Liverpool, £58,334.54; Bristol, £47,463; Birmingham, £47,115.84; York, £38,531; and Sheffield, £33,490.

The University of Southampton, the establishment Leeds University VC Michael Arthur attended as an undergraduate, failed to respond to the request and is now the subject of an internal review.



EDWARD BOYLE: fines still too high

Photo: John Puddephatt

## Robinho rape charges dropped

Marcus Chippindale

Brazilian international Robinho will face no further charges following accusations of sexual assault.

Leeds Student reported how the Manchester City forward was arrested and bailed, (January 30 2009), as part of an investigation into an alleged attack at the Space

nightclub in Leeds city centre.

West Yorkshire police said that following an investigation into the report of serious sexual assault, a file was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service. It was then decided that no further action would be taken against the footballer.

A statement on the club's official website said that they hope that this is the end of the issue. "The Crown Prosecution Service has reviewed the evidence gathered during the course of the investigation and have concluded that no further action will be taken in this case.

The statement continued: "Robinho, who has co-operated fully with the Police throughout the enquiry, will face no charges and the matter is now closed."

Following the announcement, Robinho's advisor, Chris Nathaniel of NVA Management, was extremely pleased with the outcome. He said: "He [Robinho] has maintained his innocence throughout the Police interview process and I am delighted that no further action will be taken."



## 300 signatures for JH petition

Claire Freeston

Student support for the preservation of the Centre for Joint Honours (CJH) is continuing.

Since Leeds Student reported that planned closure, (March 6 2009), support has increased.

A petition of over 300 signatures, as well as numerous comments of support for the Centre, will soon be presented to the Vice Chancellor.

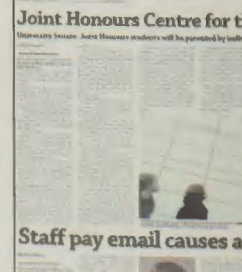
It is hoped by the supporters of the 'Save the CJH!' campaign, that the petition will make clear how many students value the work of the Centre.

Dorinda Gear, organiser of the campaign, said: "Allowing for student apathy, and the number of people who may feel that the university won't ultimately listen to protests that are made anyway, I think the number of people who've signed the petition deserves recognition, and is representative of an even larger

percentage of students who are against the CJH disbandment."

Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, commented: "We are working to make sure we get the new School and Faculty parenting arrangements right to ensure the best experience for Joint Honours students, and will be finalising them over the summer."

A link to the online petition is <http://tinyurl.com/saveCJH>.



## Accident victim on his way to recovery

The Leeds student who was run over by a car outside The Eldon pub is making a good recovery, according to one of his friends.

A car struck Scott Mulligan, 20, in the early hours of November 28 as he crossed the road at the junction of St. Marks Street and Woodhouse Lane.

He was admitted to Leeds General Infirmary Hospital, where he was placed in intensive care.

Speaking to Leeds Student, one of Scott's flatmates explained that the Manchester City fan is beginning to talk a lot more and that his walking is improving.

## Student promoters continue

Action is yet to be taken against students who are distributing promotional flyers around halls of residence.

Last October, Leeds Student learnt that students working for companies such as Rough Hill and Voodoo were breaching the terms of their accommodation contracts by handing out leaflets and selling tickets on University property.

According to the University's accommodation website, students face disciplinary action if they are caught leafleting and fly posting. However, so far no action has been taken against any individual, despite many students continuing to take part in the activity.

However, their main concern appears to be the extra litter and health and safety issues that are created by leaflets, rather than the fact that their distribution is prohibited by residential contracts.

LS understands that discussions are ongoing as to what course of action should be taken, but no firm plan has yet been formulated.

Meanwhile, there has been no change in policy from companies such as Rough Hill and Voodoo Events. Bosses are continuing to encourage students to promote around their halls, despite knowing it is against University policy. A Rough Hill source said: "Until the University takes definite action, I don't think the methods will change."

# Housing woes continue

Tom Knowles  
Marcus Chippindale

Housing has once again filled numerous column inches in *Leeds Student* this year.

Tariq Zaman, former director of failed student letting agent Providence Properties, was spotted on campus this week, with reports suggesting that he came in to speak to the LUU housing manager. Discussions are said to have included an agreement that he will begin to pay back some of the deposit money he owes from July.

There is not such positive news however from the Student Property Shop which continues to trade despite not being registered with Unipol or appear on Company House. Nadia Iqbal, the owner, previously assured *Leeds Student* (February 6 2009) that the company would be registered "by the end" of that week.

Another problem landlord, covered by *Leeds Student* (February 20 2009), James Warner has faced further complaints from unhappy tenants about his company Warner Properties.

Internet sites are also circulating complaints about Warner Properties. Touchlocal.com, which gives reviews from customers of local businesses, has seen Mr Warner receive a one-star rating from most reviewers.

Sam Leach, a third year student, rents a property from Warner Properties on Melville Place. He says it took eight months of complaining

before Warner sent new mattresses after their original ones broke. The first time Sam received a written letter from Mr. Warner about the mattresses was after his housemate failed to pay his rent on time.

"He stated in a lawyer's letter that our claims were 'without merit', but that 'once the arrears are brought up to date, our client will further investigate your concerns'; which is a bit contradictory," Sam explained.

"The lawyer said they would threaten to take us to court if the rent wasn't paid up. But that was the first time we had got a reply about the mattress. It goes straight to the aggressive."

## Unmerited excuses

Following an inspection, by an independent bed expert, arranged by Mr Warner, the tenants received new mattresses.

James Warner responded, via his solicitor, stating: "The tenants in question have still not met the rent arrears and the belief is that these issues are being used as excuses. The mattresses were replaced after the report was obtained. You will appreciate our client [Warner] receives a full range of excuses from students as to why the rent has not been paid the majority of which have no merit."

Further complaints have also been made about Mr. Warner failing to return deposits on time. A past tenant of a house on Glossop Street belonging to Warner Properties said it took six months for £1200 in

bonds to be returned. The tenant, third year student Leon Scaley-Huggins, said:

"We were repeatedly told that the cheque was either in the post; waiting to be signed; or that Warner was off ill and would not be able to sign the cheque. It was only after repeated letters threatening court action, and repeated calls to the agency with whom he is currently letting properties that the bonds were returned."

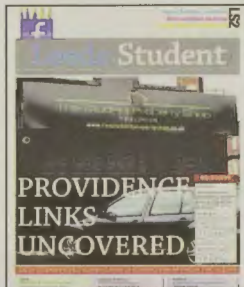
Readers will recall that in our previous article on this subject (February 20 2009), we reported that *Leeds Student* had been informed by Mr. Warner's solicitors that Warner Properties no longer take deposits.

In *Leeds Student*'s last article on Warner Properties, James Warner's solicitor stated that it was important to remember that out of a 1000 tenants only two had complained. Yet as most students have come forward to state their problems with Warner Properties it seems such a statement may have to be reconsidered by James Warner and his solicitors.

## Campaign award

In a positive turn, the Leeds University Union (LUU) housing campaign has been nominated for the National Union of Students (NUS) Campaign of the Year award.

Student-led campaigns have received great media coverage in particular students' problems with Providence Properties have been covered twice by BBC Watchdog.



This academic year has seen a record attendance at LUU's housing talks for those looking for a house to rent and consistently high numbers of students coming in to have a contract checked.

The final case against landlord Rory Aitkins, who failed to return many student deposits or to place them in the government scheme, has now been closed successfully.

Rob Damia, LUU Community Officer who co-ordinated many of the campaigns, commented:

"It's absolutely fantastic that the campaign is being recognised nationally. The nomination, and more importantly, the successes of the campaign itself, are a brilliant payback for all the long hours put in by staff in the Union and students who have been part of the campaign and I'd like to offer a massive congratulations to everyone who has been involved in making this such a success."

## Apex fined

Apex Homes student letting agent has become the first in Leeds to receive a fine after failing to license a shared student house.

The company was fined £3,500 and ordered to pay £1,500 in costs.

The fine was handed out after Futura pleaded guilty to breaching the regulations of the 2004 Housing Act. This requires all shared houses and bedsits with more than four tenants living over two storeys to have a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licence.

The company rented out a house to seven students in Kensington Terrace, Headingley, without registering the property as a HMO.

Councillor Les Carter, Leeds City Council's executive board member for housing, was highly critical of the letting agent's conduct.

"As an experienced company, they should have known better. Thousands of landlords complied with the requirement to license their property. It would be unfair on them, as well as tenants, if we were not seen to take firm action against those who don't follow the rules."

## Council backs national bursaries

Support for a National Bursary Scheme for students became official Leeds City Council policy last Tuesday.

Leeds Student reported (October 17 2008) that the University had under-spent on bursaries by £1 million and that there were calls for a national bursary scheme to ensure fairness.

Danny Adilpouyr, LUU Education Officer, explained: "As a result of the presentation we made to the Scrutiny Board for City and Regional Partnerships they are now writing to MPs asking them to support our position as well."

Councillor James Lewis, who sits on the Scrutiny Board, commented:

"I'm pleased that the Council has agreed to support a single national bursary scheme in order to make it easier for students and potential students to find get financial support through their Higher Education.

"The campaign by Leeds University Union has played a big role in getting this subject on the Council's agenda."

# Meredith trial edges to verdict

Adam Richardson

The trial of two suspects accused of murdering Leeds Erasmus student Meredith Kercher continues in Italy.

Three people were arrested in connection with Miss Kercher's murder. One man, Rudy Hermann Guede, was convicted of murder in October 2008. Two other suspects are currently on trial.

Guede was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment in a fast track trial. It is believed that Guede opted for a quicker trial in fear that the two other suspects Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito - would attempt to frame him. Guede's lawyers are expected to appeal against the conviction.

The trials of the University of Washington student Knox, 21, and Italian Sollecito, 24, began on January 16 this year. Both claim their lack of memory for their movements on the night of Miss Kercher's murder was due to a fondness for marijuana.

Prosecutors have told the court she was murdered after refusing to take part in a drug-fuelled orgy.

Knox proclaimed her innocence at a closed-door trial on October 17 2008. She has subsequently generated much media coverage, gathering support in America.

Guede was called to give evidence in the trial of Knox and Sollecito, but refused to respond to questions, exercising his right, under Italian law, not to answer.

Prosecutors claim that there is DNA evidence on a knife and on Miss Kercher's bra that allegedly links the murder to Mr Sollecito.

Knox and Sollecito both deny sexually assaulting and murdering Kercher.

Kercher was found dead in her flat on the morning on November 2 2007. She was an Erasmus student in Perugia, Italy.

A memorial service for Meredith was held in November 2008 in the Emmanuel Centre opposite the University.

The trial continues.



TRIBUTE: 2007's memorial service

Photo: John Puddaphatt

# Shock as VC medals discovered



Above: Lt Col John Thomas Whetton. Photo: Courtesy of Jim Whetton and the Whetton family. Right: Leonard examines the medals. Photo: Screenshots courtesy of the University of Leeds.

Julia Richardson

The remarkable discovery of 17 war medals on campus has unravelled the lost history of an ex Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The medals, belonging to Lt Col John Thomas Whetton (1894-1979), were uncovered from a safe in Mary Ogilvie House in January, prior to the demolition of the halls of residence.

The 17 miniature gallantry and campaign medals were originally bequeathed to Charles Morris Hall on the death of Lt Colonel Whetton's wife in 1992. They were subsequently forgotten about.



Whetton, who served with distinction in both World Wars, studied at Leeds from 1920-1925. He returned to Leeds after World War Two, became a Professor of Mining Engineering and later Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1955-57. He was influential in planning and raising funds for Charles Morris Hall, which became the first mixed halls of residence on campus in 1966.

In recognition of his work, one of Charles Morris Hall's three blocks was named after him.

The discovery of the medals was bought to the attention of property manager Mike Leonard (Residential and Commercial Services), an ex-Royal Engineer with a keen interest in local and military history. "It was a bit like Time Team - we knew his name and could identify some of the most distinctive medals, but then we came to a dead end," explains Mike.

The collection of medals include the Africa Star and the Italy Star from the Second World War and the British War medal from World War One. Whetton was also awarded an OBE, a DSO (Distinguished Service Order) and Military Cross. There were also three foreign medals: the Belgian Order of the Crown; the Belgian Croix de Guerre; and the Russian Order of St Stanislaus.

Mike recalled: "On looking at the medals, I was able to identify the Military Cross, which is awarded to officers in recognition of their gallantry in the face of enemy action."

It is believed that Whetton served at some of the major battles of the First World War, including the Battle of the Somme in 1916, where he was badly wounded, and at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

John Whetton finally retired in 1960 after distinguished careers in both military and academic life. He passed away in 1979 at the age of 85.

It is hoped that a display cabinet will be set up on campus in 2010 to display Whetton's life.

## Oil projects trigger LUU to close RBS account

Matthew Power

Leeds University Union (LUU) has confirmed that it will close its account with banking giant Royal Bank of Scotland in opposition to its investments in oil extraction.

The move comes after a motion was passed in the 2008 referendum, calling for LUU to move away from the bank because of the impact the projects it invests in have on the environment.

Laura McFarlane-Shopes, LUU Communications and Internal Affairs Officer, sent a letter to its RBS branch manager this week, informing them that the Union is to move its banking elsewhere.

In the letter, McFarlane-Shopes explains LUU's decision and condemns RBS for its funding of projects which result in a quarter of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

McFarlane-Shopes said: "Closing our Natwest account is another fantastic example of students taking the lead on environmental issues. Now that RBS is in public ownership we can demand more than ever that the bank invests in a sustainable future rather than destructive oil and gas projects, which push us further towards runaway climate change. If we are to be successful in adapting to a low carbon economy then sustainable financial investments from banks is absolutely essential."

The account closure is part of an ongoing campaign by People & Planet to get RBS to divest from fossil fuel extraction projects.

Guy Mitchell, a second year Politics and Southeast Asian Studies student and a People & Planet member, supports LUU's decision. He added:

"We have been campaigning for RBS to change its investments from unsustainable fossil fuels. However, they've failed to do this. We hope this action will send a clear message to RBS."

## EU Voting

Unite Against Fascism and other student organisations have been campaigning for students to vote in the upcoming European Union (EU) elections.

The group fears that the fascist organisation the British National Party (BNP) will gain valuable seats.

You can register to vote at the registration point at the Union reception or online at [www.aboutmyvote.ac.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.ac.uk). Follow the links at the top of the page.

## Front crawl for pool

Jess Elliot

Building work has begun on the swimming pool as part of the University's drive to upgrade the sports facilities on offer to students.

The 25 metre, eight-lane pool is at the centre of the University's new £12.2 million fitness complex. A 200 station health and fitness centre is part of these plans. Existing facilities are also being extensively refurbished.

The complex is being built on campus next to the current sports centre, close to the Leeds General Infirmary.

The pool will have a partially moveable floor to create depths of up to 2m making it suitable for water polo, canoeing and sub-aqua diving.

University of Leeds Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Arthur said: "The health and well-being of our staff and students is critical and this pool and fitness centre represents a major step forwards towards a healthier campus."

The project is being paid for entirely out of the University's own funds. It will primarily be available for the University's 30,000 students and 8,000 staff but, as there is no swimming pool in Leeds city centre, members of the public and school groups will also use the pool at times

yet to be clarified.

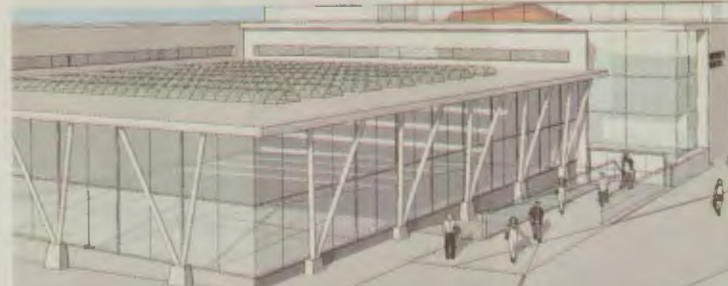
Stewart Ross, the University's director of sport and physical activity, said: "A swimming pool has consistently come top of staff and student wish-lists in campus surveys, so it's fair to say this fantastic pool will be eagerly awaited."

The University is hoping to fulfil the ambition of entering into the list of top 50 universities in the world by 2015 and the fitness complex and swimming pool are part of a wider scheme. £30m is being invested in leisure, educational and residential facilities on campus.

The pool is set to open next year, 2010.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Work begins on the pool. Photo: Virginia Newman



MAKING A SPLASH: Designs for the new £12.2 million fitness complex on which work began last week



# Letters to the Editor

## Brad's greasy views

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in response to the review of *Grease* which appeared in last week's *Leeds Student*. As co-director of this production, put on and performed at Devonshire Hall, I am sorry Owen Bradley (of the Stage Musical Society, biased much?) did not enjoy the show. Conversely, our stage team and actors had a brilliant time both rehearsing and performing but this seems to have been overlooked by Bradley's damning and frankly brutal review. What he seems to have failed to realise is, that this was a hall production. We had no affiliation with the Union, no professional facilities and no help from anyone but students who put time and effort into this piece. Bradley criticises pretty much everything, including our attempt at creating *Grease* Lighting.

The review then goes on to describe

the performance as amateur, which, well observed Bradley, it was. We never claimed to be anything more than a group of students; this isn't the West End. Having worked with this specific group of students though, I personally was astounded by the hard work and effort put in by all.

When Bradley states that the audience left 'entertained and enthused, even if for slightly the wrong reasons,' I doubt if he was wholly accurate. The audience came to enjoy watching a fun, enthusiastic performance and came away astonished at such a wide range of talent. It seems in fact Bradley was the one who came for the wrong reasons; with too much theatrical snobbery and not enough imagination. Chill out Brad, we're not threatening the Stage Musical Society.

Yours,  
Siobhan Brewwood-Wyatt  
Level One Chinese

## Health drink title misleads

Dear Editor,  
In response to the 'What's your Alibi?' article in the May 8 issue of *Leeds Student* I feel at pains to point out that Alibi is just another sugary drink.

The addition of 100 per cent RDA of various vitamins comes at a time when there is still no rigorous scientific evidence for the utility of antioxidant or vitamin supplements. Labelling it as a 'health drink' is dubious at best. There is still no substitute for obtaining nutriment from the sources to which we are adapted, i.e. whole foods.

Of course, there would be no problem with marketing this drink as an alternative, interesting tasting drink containing herbal extracts.

Yours,  
Dr Jim Caryl  
Faculty of Biological Sciences

## -Did we have news for you-

### What a year it's been.

*Leeds Student's* finest have been hiding down dark alleys, busting dodgy landlords and helping themselves to the odd cucumber sandwich at environment protests.

From unveiling the University's staggering library fine cash-in to alerting the students of Carr Mills to the series of serious incidents on their doorstep, it's been an investigative year for the *Student*.

The lights of Hyde Park bonfire and even frontbench MPs made the odd appearance, but who would have expected to see the Irish PM gracing our pages, involved in a wrangle over letting, which left students in the dark.

We've seen rogue landlord Tariq Zaman's luxury home plans in ruins and watched students vote overwhelmingly against pole dancing on the premises.

In the year that Leeds

Met's VC resigned in a funding furore, there was also fury on our side over the axing of joint studies.

Shares in coffee are sure to be down after Leeds decided to cut its late night library, but our splash on its shocking energy usage meant that cuts were to come.

It seems bittersweet to end the reporting year by saying goodbye to Uni venue Mine, but not as foul as the priceless lizard poo disposed of by over-enthusiastic Uni staff.

That really was a load of old crap.

As for LS2, it's been stuffed with reviews from stage and Stylus, and if you haven't laughed out loud at The List then it's probably because you think our writers are following you.

God help these journals when they have to get real jobs. To another year of stories, sport, students and scandal; it's still your Friday free thing.

## -Clean up, look sharp-

**Students are like Vikings: they swarm in at once, get drunk, go on the hunt for women in the late hours, trash the streets and leave all their mess behind for the villagers to clean up.**

Raiding and pillaging almost complete, the mass exodus is about to begin, and none are more aware than the Uni, who are laying on staff to walk around 'helping' students to move.

Most likely this will be in the same way that your mate 'helps' you clean up after a house party (shouting instructions from underneath the duvet) but you get the idea.

Sofas in the street might look cool and bohemian at

first, but when they start to rot and the rats move in, no-one's going to want a cup of tea on that.

If the council's labyrinth of waste disposal instructions gets too much for you, nip down to the charity shop next to the Total on Cardigan Road. They'll be happy to take furniture off you, as long as it's not covered in an advanced fungus, and you can pick up a copy of Jimmy Hill's autobiography while you're there. Priceless.

And if it gets to July and you're still out of ideas for how to get rid of your stuff, just carry it to Hyde Park, pile it up and burn it. Joking.

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# the big debate:

## Degree or Disagree?

The global financial crisis has led to an increasing number of university students graduating with no job to go to. As graduate job prospects appear worse than ever, this week's Big Debate asks:

**University: was it all worth it?**

Yes

Kieran Toms  
kierantoms@googlemail.com

To start bluntly: University graduates earn on average about a quarter more than people who leave school after their A-levels.

Thus, from a financial point of view, going to university is worth it. Of course, there's a recession on, but in the long term, it is still worth it. It's not as if not having a degree will magically gift you a job anyway, it's tough for everyone. When all these corporate behemoths have discovered different ways to make money, precious graduate schemes will return.

And about that debt. Everyone seems terrified of it. But even Martin Lewis, the Max Clifford-style rent-a-quote guru of the personal finance world, has written, "Debt isn't bad, bad debt is bad." That is to say, your student loan is not like any other loan - you only begin to pay it off when you earn a certain amount. You are not tied into any sort of minimum payment per month that might prove an unbearable burden in times of struggle. Income-based as it is, it is practically a tax, but one with a limited shelf life; the better you do economically, the quicker you pay it off. In the unlikely event you do particularly badly for a particularly long time, well, then you won't have to pay it off at all.

Anyway, to look at university simply as a financial investment for the future would be to do it a vast disservice. University is a bit like life with all the bad bits taken out of it - from your first year, that glorious first year, where even bills and the necessity to achieve marks higher than 40% are banished, where "it's only first year" becomes a mantra providing excuses for all manner of high-spiritedness. Even later on, you need not consider trifling matters like office hours, commuting or your company's quarterly sales targets, you can work when you like, and play when you like, all within a local, yet vastly diverse student community.

Perhaps some have been confused by the phrase 'The Rat Race.' What's that quote? "The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat." Anyhow, that's not even my point. The point is that life's not a race. To talk of how much you might have earned by now had you started work three or four years ago is

meaningless. Life is not a mad charge towards some arbitrary monetary figure that must be achieved as early as possible.

Plenty of people have increased their bank balance to unimaginable levels but no one has ever managed to extend their life to permanence. Time is more valuable. If you start working when you're 18, you'll spend about 52 years on a career. The next thing to look forward to will be retirement, then death. Why not have a slightly more enjoyable start to that slog, and work just the 49 or so years? Or better still, think of things differently, though perhaps that's another issue for another day. Make the most of your life. Why cast yourself down one particular employment path when your life experience extends little further than your school and hometown? Spend university years getting to know yourself a bit better, and avoid taking a life choice you'll later regret when you are drier behind the ears.

University, more than any other time in our life, is where we are free. There's such a lot to do... well you know that. Look around you; almost every hoodie proudly advertises a friend-filled society of non smiling faces. The amount of people your own age in one place at one time will never be equalled in your life.

They say that youth is wasted on the young. But maybe by the time of university we are just about able to deal with the diminished responsibility of our still-just-about-fledgling existence, able to understand and appreciate it, able to take it in our grasp and wring every last bit of pleasure and excitement out of it, before dreary years of middle management mortgage-paying wash away life's brightness.

(If that won't convince you, just a reminder: YOU'LL BE RICHER WITH UNII)



### Results from last week's poll:

Should we be worrying about swine flu?

Yes: 38%

No: 62%

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



No

Maria Yasin  
mariayasin@yahoo.co.uk

The end of the academic year usually fills me with nostalgia, anxiety and excitement for the future. But with the end nigh such feelings do fail me. Instead anger and regret, I'm afraid to say, pervade emotions that I apparently should be feeling as a final-year student. Unlike my peers I haven't found myself longing for more lectures - "Dr Blah Blah Blah [literally] was the best lecturer" - or wished that I had another essay to write in order to defer looking for a job.

University for me was not so much a regret as it was annoying. I decided to pursue higher education in the hope that I would, well, learn something. There were no plans for me to meet new people or get wasted every Friday. Instead rather naively (and geekily) I had hoped that my undergraduate course would open my mind and enable me to see the world in a completely different light à la Dead Poets Society (without the best parents or suicide). I slept through much of my first-year and so it was in my second year, no less, that reality dawned on me. There were no Robin Williams-esque professors who told us to 'think freely' and recite difficult poetry at the top of our lungs. Nor was there any standing on tables. And what was this? Assessed marking? Surely this was not mentioned in the course brochure. Instead of feeling as though I had learnt something of great value, pressure was placed on scoring a 65 on 'Introduction to Hinduism' and a 68 on 'Muslim societies'. It all seems too clinical. Where has the joy in teaching gone?

Society has us fooled that it is an essential part of the cycle of life - a cornerstone - when

actually it is just part of a massive scam to rob you of your money and sanity. I'm trying not to come across as a die-hard socialist but really isn't Higher Education just about institutionalizing us and chaining us to a job, any job, that will pay off the student debt? I'll leave that thought with you.

A major misconception is that a degree will help us secure a well-paid job with a prestigious firm. However, recent figures reflect the mediocrity of the current financial situation and hence show that 40 per cent of under 25 year old will be without a job.

Added to this my internet research sparked by exam-fuelled insomnia and conversations with friends who have graduated indicate that employers are more likely to give you a job based on experience rather than a 2:1 degree. School friends who opted to take the (wise) path to full-time employment after compulsory education often boast about their £20,000 a year pay packet which is the same amount newly qualified teachers are expected to earn upon completing their PGCE. Students waste massive amounts of money on education in the hope that upon graduation they will be earning the big bucks, when in reality graduates will earn the same amount of money as someone who had not attended University. So what is the point?

'Well I'm here for the experience you big nerd', I hear you scream. However, attending university for the 'full blown experience' is a misguided assumption. Firstly, £20,000, the average debt racked up by students during a 3 year bachelors degree, is a vast expense for an 'experience' which could be had as fully or as richly elsewhere. Why not just take out a £20,000 loan and blow it on a few years of frivolity? See the world, party like never before, pursue intellectual development or help your fellow man. All of the above may just be a better use of your precious youth.

And so, let it be known to school-leavers across the country. Don't be fooled by your school's insistence that university is an essential part of your development. It is expensive, doesn't pay the financial dividends they promise, and you could have more fun somewhere else.



Illustration by Becki Jones

# The understated statesman

Former Liberal Democrats leader, Paddy Ashdown, was in town to promote the recent release of his autobiography, 'A Fortunate Life'. LS Extra caught up with him to talk "Education, education, education" – more on that later ..



Once leader of the Liberal Democrats Paddy Ashdown in Leeds Waterstones signing copies of his autobiography  
Photos: Richard Smith

The key decision in my life was also the most irresponsible decision.

Backtrack to a month or so ago and I was making an insomnia-fuelled coach journey back up north following a brief excursion to a landlocked fishing village down south that goes by the name of Sheffield. To stave away boredom, my friend and I decided to indulge in a little quiz. Nothing too taxing on our weary brain cells, just a few simple questions; "Name three different types of French cheese" being one that springs to mind.

Round one successfully executed, cue round two and my starter for ten: "Who is the current leader of the Liberal Democrat Party?" Ah, I knew this one. At least I thought I did, or maybe I'd confused actually knowing the answer with the fact that I should know it? It's a fine line. Swallowing my pride, I asked for his initials and finally arrived at Nick Clegg. Oh, the shame.

Just imagine my bliss, then, when I discovered that Paddy Ashdown, the most well-known leader in the Party's (albeit brief) history would be coming to Leeds to promote the recent release of his autobiography. After booking the interview, scenes from "Frost/Nixon" conjured up in my mind as I anticipated a month's intensive political study in advance of our scheduled showdown.

Given my earlier demonstration of political knowledge, was I scared? Oh yes, I was petrified.

Upon arriving at the city centre bookshop on an non-descript Wednesday afternoon, I was disappointed to discover that staff were already packing away the stall that had been set up for Ashdown's

signing with half an hour of the allotted time remaining. My star-ometer began to wane. Then we met. Ashdown has this aura of wisdom about him – one of those people whose confidence simultaneously reassures you whilst making you feel extremely helpless at the same time. He orders a coffee (plus one celebrity point) and starts displaying somewhat of a Crackberry addiction by checking the beast on a regular basis (the true mark of a VIP, surely?). We're back in business.

The autobiography, entitled 'A Fortunate Life', is more a tale of personal than political triumph. It documents Ashdown's extraordinarily varied existence; from his Indian beginnings in 1941, his family's migration to Ireland, his experiences in the Royal Marines, time spent serving as a Foreign Office representative, working as a factory employee and then as a Youth Worker...the list is endless – and all this before his political career kicked off, which is where our conversation begins.

The key decision in my life was not about fate. It was also the most irresponsible decision. It was also potentially the worst decision. The thing I can't resist is when someone says, "It's impossible, it can't be done". Something I've learnt is that if you're presented with two options, always take the more difficult one", remarks Ashdown in relation to his decision to become a Lib Dem MP in 1976. He and his wife had set up home near Lake Geneva and were leading a comfortable and stable life as he worked for the Foreign Office in

Switzerland. There seemed to be little good fortune about trading this in to take on an active yet unrewarding role at the heart of British liberal politics.

"I am a political animal. I only discovered that in my thirties. Once you're a political animal, you're always a political animal. My days of frontline politics are over, but I'm very happy to help from the backseat. It's not all about power; it's about something you believe in."

Speaking from his backseat role, Ashdown talks highly of the current Lib Dem leadership, including the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vince Cable; "He has this amazing ability to take a complex issue and phrase it in terms that people understand. He is an asset to the Party, an asset to the country as a whole." Likewise, he holds Nick Clegg in high esteem, stating that the two of them are quite similar, both in terms of policy and character.

Like Ashdown, Clegg is pro-European and a "passionate internationalist", yet he also possesses the same impatient streak that plagued Ashdown in his youth and "...must learn the habit of patience – it takes time to break through as leader", Ashdown notes, with a heady self-awareness. It comes as a refreshing change to hear the two leaders phrased in similar terms since the media often portrays them as being at different ends of the political spectrum. This owes itself to Ashdown's Labour-oriented past, rivaling Clegg's Tory values. This is "...not accurate description, but one that is easily made", Ashdown states.

Indeed, with the potential for a

coalition in the next election, it's a description that's made with increasing frequency. On this note, I ask Ashdown who the Lib Dems should side with in such an eventuality, a question to which I'm damned if I get a straight answer; "My only advice is 'don't listen to old warhorses in the backseat' (himself included). Every leader has a hand to play and only Nick will know what's right for the Party at this time. I'm sure Nick will make the right decision."

Surrendering to the fact that I wasn't going to get a definitive response, we then turn to education, a topic I introduce jovially: "So, education, education, education", I say. "...which I invented. Blair stole our idea", Paddy remarks abruptly. I seem to have touched a nerve.

"It is the fundamental investment you have to make, especially in this post-industrial age. We will prosper as a nation on intellectual capital. That's how we will survive. Labour have invested in education, yes, but I don't think they've done it how I would have done it, and I don't think it's achieved the outcomes I would have liked to have seen." I probe this further, asking what reforms Ashdown would have made to the system. He draws upon two main points.

Firstly, "I'd like to see a second chance education...I want an education system for the late developers", he says.

Secondly, and rather more controversially, Ashdown states:

"Now, you're not going to like this at Leeds...I think education systems are the centre of networks, but I think we're too tied to the idea of them being building-based. To solve the conundrum of funding, we should not be so tied to buildings and should engage more in remote learning. We could educate much better, I think, if education wasn't so tied to buildings. I think the building itself should be somewhere that's visited maybe once a year. There's a lot of interactive learning today that doesn't have to take place in the classroom, or even in the presence of teachers. It would be better if we treated lecturers like we treated doctors and only went to them for the high value stuff that you really need personal contact for."

"Look, it was a radical idea when I proposed it ten years ago. No doubt it'll still be a radical idea now. Perhaps it's not ideal, but it responds to the demands of our time. That's what our economic competitors are doing in Japan, Korea...it provides a way of educating the masses on a large scale as the demand

for tertiary education increases."

This notion of online learning is not one which Ashdown restricts to solving the funding crisis in education. He argues that it has far wider implications, which he realised almost a decade ago:

"My solution to the millennium project was to create this database with all the information in the known world stored on it, sort of a modern day technological equivalent of the British Museum, in which we would have accumulated and stored all the information. We would have been information brokers, just like insurance brokers."

"Yes, but would it have been safe? "It would have been perfectly safe, because what you do then is open it up completely, so every British citizen has free, full-time access to that information. So you have new technologies serving not the government, but the citizen. And I still believe that if we'd have done that, it would have helped to generate the intellectual capital of this country in a way like no other."

With time running out, I ask Ashdown if he had any wisdom to impart to the students of Leeds. The question prompts a bashful shrug of the shoulders and a "Well, I'm not sure about 'wisdom'" response. "Okay", I ease towards compromise, "what about some advice then?"

"I learnt far more after I left formal education", Ashdown remarks. "It doesn't matter if you don't get into the career of your choice straight away. Take some time to experience life, explore what you want to do. I didn't fall into my chosen path until late into my thirties. Never ever stop learning."

As soon-to-be graduates of the recession, it comes as a great comfort to hear that we've still got a few years on our side.

Sarah Allen





# HIGHS AND LOWS

By interviewing current and past students, *Leeds Student* considers the ups and downs of taking illegal drugs whilst at university...

The liberation of becoming a student in a new place, and freedom from the tyrannical rule of Father Hitler and Mother Pot is a big part of life. "It can be such a liberating experience to suddenly have this realisation that you are able to do what you want," says Sam\*, a guy I had managed to meet through chance, a former student at the University of Leeds.

Sam was not just a graduate, however; during his time at Leeds he used to grow marijuana.

"I had a big set up, but I only grew two plants a time, with a total of 6 grown altogether. I never sold any of it, it was strictly for myself. It was just cheaper in the long run!" he says with a cheeky smirk.

According to the Times Higher Education Guide, 33 percent of students use illegal drugs. This figure does not include those who misuse prescription drugs, drink alcohol or smoke tobacco (the taxed drugs). The percentage would then be much higher. My research experiences have led me to incorporate legal drugs into the equation. I have found students do drugs for different reasons and have tried to interview a section from each different rationale and look at drug abuse rather than illegal drug taking. Of course, the biggest one to look at is alcohol. By the vomit stained pavements and alleyways from the morning after and the infamous 18 bar gauntlet known as the Otley Run, one can see that Leeds has a student population who like to drink. But that's not the focus here.

I met Sam at a house party and managed to persuade him to let me interview him. He agreed as long as he remained anonymous. We met in a cafe in Headingley and spoke over coffee: "I began growing it (marijuana) two years ago when I realised I was spending £80 a week on the stuff... I grew addicted to the stuff and was spending a stupid amount. I came into some money one summer and decided to buy my own set up," Sam explains quietly so as not to be heard by the other coffee revellers around us.

I asked when and why he had started smoking in the first place: "I occasionally

smoked it with my friends at college back home. It was almost like a rite of passage, but you had to be wary of your folks. Coming home red eyed and nearly in a comatose state was risky business... Coming up to Leeds I met a lot of people who also smoked it, plus without the parental rules and it being able to be delivered to your front door, I began smoking it a lot more," he explains.

"I did drugs as a way of escaping from the stress of uni. After a long day of lectures and reading, there was nothing like coming home, putting on the TV and skinning up... taking that first toke after a stressful day was heaven", Sam tells me, smiling, as if remembering that feeling.

"I had around 10 different dealers in my phone before I grew it for myself... there are so many dealers in Leeds, I even know students who have dealt weed for extra spending money." Sam had begun to tell me that illegal drug taking among students was larger than most statistics presented by the media. "I used to stay in Terley Hall (a

33 per cent  
of students  
use illegal  
drugs

University of Leeds Halls, now closed) and pretty much everyone there smoked weed or took pills, or even both!"

"It can be quite dangerous taking drugs though. Of course you hear about pills and powder being cut up with all sorts of dangerous stuff, but about a year ago there was an issue with marijuana. Some weed was being sold that had been sprayed with really fine lead fillings to give it more weight... and people were smoking it. Think about the





fifteen/may/zero nine

INSIDE

**28 PAGES OF...  
STUDENT?**

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

## 10

## Ways to spend the summer...



Life's probably looking a bit bleak at the moment, especially if a 12-hour stint in the Edward Boyle silent area isn't your idea of a 'party.' But soon the freedom of summer will be unleashed - which, judging by the job market, the majority of us will spend on the sofa trying to scrape up enough dole/pocket money to buy an ice-cream. Luckily, to save you from a summer of tedium the entire *Leeds Student* team has banded together to compile THE essential list of summer activities 2009...

1.

## Be arty

A creative streak is the secret to any well-spent holiday, and this summer's all about the installation art. Make love to your partner on a home-made lunar landscape using egg-boxes, PVC and muesli. Help Joanna Lumley make amends for colonialism and make indigenous cave paintings on the insides of tube tunnels. Turn an airport departure lounge into Turner Prize-winning art as you walk around in a hired bear suit making a house of cards using 'Warning: Wet Floor' signs. Or, dress like a tit and see how long you can stand in Topman's window. A long time probably.



2.

## Join a protest

According to the media, the police are anticipating a 'Summer of Rage' this year as the UK revolts against the powers that be in this economic crisis. And with so much that is really quite rubbish in the world, why not wile away your summer waving a placard at a figure of authority? Personally I think what the world needs is not a 'Summer of Rage' but another 'Summer of Love'. Unfortunately there are too many angry people and too many coppers whose Top Ten list for summer activities includes such things as 'Truncheon a Lefty' and 'Gas a Green'.

3.

## Watch TV

Why should the fact that it is summer have any bearing on how you spend your time? Just because it is now sunny and warm outside does not change the fact that inside, in a living room, on a sofa, is where you really want to be. Block out that glaring sun, turn on the artificial lights. Pop a cooler on the floor beside you, pull a table within reaching distance, and if you have a catheter handy you will never need to move. You don't need a tan, you hate frisbee and sunglasses make you look like a giant fly so why put yourself through all that? TV can give you everything you need: someone to laugh with, someone to cry with, someone to show you the best of the great outdoors from the comfort of your big comfy sofa. But, what is great about the summer, what you should really look forward to is that when all those fools are running around and frolicking in the sun, there will be no interruptions during your *Come Dine With Me* marathon.

Arts



TV

Comment



4.

## Observe

*Leeds Student* does not condone any kind of sick voyeurism, but if that takes your fancy why not perve on people happily basking in the sun and then ruin their day. Water guns filled with paint anyone?

Observations

5.

## Support your country

The fourth Ashes test will begin at Headingley on Friday August 7, and unless you're a member of the Wakefield Lawn Bowls Club, you should acquaint yourself with Yorkshire's OAP population here as England strive to reclaim Test cricket's ultimate prize. Pack some sandwiches, Werther's Originals and a hipflask of tea, rock back in a Panama hat, and enjoy a ten-wicket England win.

Sports

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## 6. Expanding your mind

Disco biscuits. You'll hear music in a new way, enemies will become friends and, if you're lucky, you'll fall in love with someone as high as you – what's the catch?!

Musically, try SYSTEM's COCOON IN THE PARK featuring Sven Vath - Saturday June 27 12pm-11pm. One of the greatest DJs in the world, Sven is coming to Leeds alongside the musical delights of Luciano, Steve Bug and Adam Shelton. This will make your summer.

Clubs

## 7. Take an interest in random things

What better way to spend a summer than by inexplicably taking an interest in the world around you. Delve into the mysteries of your local town: do they recycle? Is there an obesity problem? Are there any aspiring magicians?

Perhaps you could get hold of that distant friend of a friend and quiz her about her sex-addiction. Why, you ask? Well, by September, you'll have morphed into one of those people who knows everything about everything, dazzling people at parties when you throw in a statistic about some pressing social issue, and leaving people breathless at your ability to quote various figures of authority ad hoc. Note to remember: steer clear of experts whose grasp of the topic may surpass the mighty oracle of Wikipedia, in which case you will come across as a mere fool with no particular field of expertise, and too much time on your hands. Which is definitely not what you are.

Features



## 8. Try photography

Have you had enough of taking 1000 pictures of your friends posing in dark, sweaty nightclubs? Well, if you feel you want a change of atmosphere and want to dabble in the world of Pulitzer-winning respectability with some iconic action photography, taking some pictures of the London Metropolitan Police can be a good start. Hanging around kids playgrounds to capture the innocence of youth is another good one. And then use iphoto and get it bound into a suave book for less than a tenner. They even laminate it for you. Sorted.

And for the budding inventors, you can even custom-tailor your camera by sellotaping a phone to it, a la Flight of the Concorde. Cheaper, and (arguably) better than the iPhone.

Photos



## 9. Read

Summer is definitely the time to catch up on all that reading you've been meaning to do. Why not get a head start on next year's set texts and make sure you're familiar with the lesser-known Elizabethan playwrights? Only joking. Why not take up the alternative challenge of tackling the entire Mills and Boon back catalogue, or work through the autobiography of every naff 80s popstar and Big Brother failure that the WHSmiths bargain bin has to offer. Sense of achievement not guaranteed.

Books

## 10. Recycle those newspapers

It's rather difficult to think of fun things to do with newspapers over your summer break. All that text... Their only use – now that sanitised blank sheets are used wrap fish 'n' chips – is to make papier-mâché ornaments. Revive those pre-pubescent memories by inflating a balloon, tying a knot, and slopping a mixture of PVA glue and your favourite pages of Leeds Student all over it. A quick pop here and a meaningful slice there and you'll have your very own, erm, vase. To put stuff in. Repeat the process and add a couple of mâchéed peanuts in the appropriate places to create a comedy pair of breasts, to be unfurled whenever the summer mood takes. Bowls and boobs: what more could you want?

Editor

So now you've read these ever-so-slightly biased suggestions, you can spend those gruelling Edward Boyle hours (silently) counting down the days until liberty.

words/ leeds student

\* Leeds Student does not take any responsibility for death by drugs



6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



## FOOD/

Back to the 80s for two totally rad retro dishes

"I've got love for you if you were born in the 80s,"...sang Calvin Harris. Well, rather embarrassingly, I've got love for food if it was eaten in the 80s. Leeds students seem to have a real penchant for all things vintage (Who'd have thought Dr. Martens would make a comeback?) Anyway, I thought I'd capitalize on the love of retro fashions and share my love of retro food with you. A little tenuous I know. I hasten to add, this love isn't an unconditional love. I do not love cheese and pineapple on cocktails sticks, for example, and I don't love boiling vegetables until you don't have any need for your teeth. But I do love retro puddings from the once glamorous Italian tiramisù to the ultimate granny favourite of sherry trifle. This was the food era before organic, before size zero, before Jamie Oliver and before the obsession with risotto and butternut squash. It was the era of dinner parties, shoulder pads, profiteroles and prawn cocktails.

I realize that we are all in work panic mode and the idea of leaving the library after a day of frantic highlighting to go home and whip up your own choux pastry for some profiteroles or throwing together a casual Coq au Vin is less than appealing. So here are two quick, comforting, and most importantly, totally retro recipes to try out.

Firstly, Macaroni Cheese: tacky, fattening and utterly delicious. Secondly, a Fawley Towers favourite (strictly speaking a 70s classic - give me a break I've been highlighting all day): Crepes Suzette.

So give yourself a break from the Edward Boyle, rent Top Gun, Cocktail or Rain Man (my love of short

scientologists is also embarrassing), throw on your acid washed denim, kick off your Dr.Martens and tuck in. Just remember that flambeing and hair spray is not a good combo...

## Macaroni Cheese:

250g macaroni pasta  
250g cheddar cheese  
250ml evaporated milk  
2 eggs - beaten  
Nutmeg

Preheat oven to 220.  
Cook the macaroni. Put into an oven proof dish.  
Grate the cheese and mix with the milk, eggs, pinch of nutmeg and season.  
Pour over the pasta and put in the oven for 15-20 mins.

I admit this is not culinary wizardry but I promise you will feel happier after it.

## Crepes Suzette:

Juice of 2 oranges and zest of one  
175g butter  
75g sugar  
8-12 shop-bought crepes  
80ml Grand Marnier or Cointreau

Pour orange juice into pan and add zest, butter and sugar. Bring to the boil and then simmer for about 10 mins till syrupy consistency.

Fold crepes into quarters and put in large dish, pour over warm syrup and gently heat up for three mins. Heat up the alcohol in the syrup pan, pour over the crepes and carefully flambe.

words/ laura pullman



## HEALTH/

Body beautiful beach bum? It's yours, if you want one...

Summer is coming! Everyone is looking forward to their post-exam, post-dissertation holiday, whether it be Eurocamp, backpacking to South America or an all-inclusive on the Costa Brava. Either way, swimwear angst is at an all time high. For the majority of us (girls and boys alike!), just the idea of digging out our cossies from our bottom drawer is enough to provoke sweaty palms. Oh, the shame, when it feels that bit tighter than it did last year, or, worse still, won't even go up over the thighs!

But really, gaining weight is an unfortunate side effect of being a student. Days spent sitting, reading, writing, studying, or sleeping off that hangover. And of course, the social side of Uni doesn't help! However, we can do something about it. And I am NOT talking crash diets, which seem to be the quick fix of choice for most of my friends. No, dieting is not a solution at all.

On top of the fact that dieting doesn't prevent permanent weight control, depriving yourself of things, whether it be that muffin in the morning, or your whole lunch, is harmful. Your body will start wondering where its next meal is coming from and so start storing sugar, calories and fat rather than letting you

use it as energy. Furthermore, you will feel grumpy, tired and generally unhappy if you start depriving yourself of your treats or meals, particularly around exam time.

The trick to a beach-friendly body is not deprivation, but a balanced lifestyle, not only in what you do but what you think. If you don't already enjoy eating fruit and vegetables (5 different types a day), try to find new ways: Soups? Smoothies? Salads? Similarly, keeping active helps work off any extra little indulgences that you shouldn't feel guilty for, especially around exam time!

Just try walking / jogging round Hyde Park before you settle into your favourite revising / sunbathing / barbecuing spot. That's about 25 minutes walking and 100 calories burned, or if you look at it my way - a guilt-free ice lolly!

Use [www.walkit.com/cities/leeds/](http://www.walkit.com/cities/leeds/) to plan how long walks around Leeds take and how many calories it will help you burn. Now the sun is coming out to join us, walking is the perfect, student-friendly, free-of-charge Sunday activity.

words/ anna wiseman



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[knowledge-leeds.co.uk](http://knowledge-leeds.co.uk)



## BURSTING THE BUBBLE/

Leeds Student abroad:  
Why contemporary China is  
more interesting than its past

The big question I often get asked is, 'why Chinese?' Is it the fascinating 5000 year old history, the challenge of learning such a difficult script, or even the overly friendly "hair-dressers"? For me, it's far more subtle than that. Granted, the culture born out of those thousands of years of rich history is extremely colourful, traveling out of the big cities offers the onlooker the chance to experience the sheer diversity of the numerous different minority groups in China, and the monuments of China's past are many and grand; however, it is

the everyday living in and around Chinese people in Beijing that has mostly made me fall in love with the country.

China is, for the most part, a bizarre place. Just the other day I was getting in a taxi on my way to the local park to watch the old biddies practising their "tai-chi" for instance, and within five minutes, the taxi driver hawked up half of his lungs, opened his door in moving traffic and spat out before slamming the door to reach for his thermos of green tea. One day I watched open-mouthed as a granny squatted down at the government issued

outdoor gym, with her grandson in front of her, whistling and shaking him to make him pee through the slit at the back of his trousers. It is more than strange to observe the overly nationalistic military adverts they have blaring out of screens at the supermarket or teams of restaurant staff sent out on team bonding missions to run around town in perfectly symmetrical lines singing at the tops of their voices, slowing down for the fat chef at the back to light his cigarette. Weird? Yes, but all the same, it's the reason I can't

forget enough of this place. Things shocked me at first—normal things from a Chinese perspective, that happen daily around town. Ultimately though, these things do make me giggle and think to myself: 'God, I love China'..

Don't get me wrong, I'm a keen reader of Chinese history, but I live in Beijing for now, not for the past.

words/ dominic kinsky

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## SINGLES

The Answer  
'Tonight'  
Albert Productions  
(7)



The Answer were almost chemically engineered by *Classic Rock* magazine for their readers. Regardless of what the copyright credits tell you, you'll still be trying to work out if this song is a Thin Lizzy cover. Nonetheless, it is fairly uplifting hard rock anthem that's bound to please its demographic.

Ellen and the  
Escapades  
'Without You'  
(7)



This local folk-pop five piece impress immediately with their classy sound and catchy songwriting. They're accessible without being trite, and spacious without being pretentious. One criticism - the vocals are strong and professional but could be rawer, more honest. A very promising first single.

Baddies  
'Holler for My Holiday'  
Macedo  
(6)



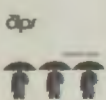
It's slightly depressing when every major music publication's 'Hotly Tipped Band for 2008' sounds exactly like all of those bands from 2008, 2007, 2006 and so on. It simply suggests that British music is trapped inside a sonic Twilight Zone with no hope of getting out of the rut.

Gloria Cycles  
'Chancer'  
(4)



See above, but replace 'Hotly Tipped' with 'One to Watch'. The persistent hi-hats in 'Chancer' keep the tempo up but even by the time the first chorus, with its ska-riffs and the repeated lead chants of 'Scream, scream, scream...', you cannot help but feel that you've heard it all before.

The Alps  
'Obstacle Race'  
(5)



A reasonably nice ballad with hummable melodies and a moving bassline. It is, however, quite dull and it's unlikely to lodge itself into many peoples memories, meaning the band don't stand much of a chance at getting as monumentally huge as their name would suggest.

words/ george reece and luke fear

## RECORDS

## Silversun Pickups

### Swoon

Dangerbird

Three years have passed since Silversun Pickups' debut album *Carnavas*, and since then, the band have been hard at work on the infamously difficult second album. So how does it fare? Well, not bad at all. It's all you'd expect plus more. There are some typically ambient chill-out numbers, such as 'Draining', well spaced out enough on the album so as to not adversely affect the exciting pace. There are also heavier indie rock songs like current single 'There's No Secrets This Year'.

Their sound has progressed since the first album, whilst retaining the essence of what fans love about them. However, *Swoon* sees the band less restrained about



being more aggressive in some of their rockier tunes - not a bad thing by any account. Brian Aubert's vocals are perfectly in tune and balanced, while the rest of the band keep everything tight, from the pounding drums to the recognisable tone of the Gibson Thunderbird bass.

Stand-out tracks include 'Growing Old Is Getting Old', in which a calm melody and almost U2-esque guitar part guide the track

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK

until around half way through when it kicks off with some simple but effective rock and roll drumming and distorted guitars. Also noteworthy is 'Substitution', which bears quite a resemblance to their previous hit, 'Lazy Eye', but is still a winner. Quite possibly the two strongest tracks on the album are 'The Royal We' and 'Panic Switch', with the former really utilising producer Dave Cooley's studio prowess, with layers of violins and synthesizers mixing perfectly into the ensemble. The latter offers a more raw sound, quite reminiscent of Radiohead on occasion, with a truly anthemic chorus.

If one criticism has to be made, it is that after the first five or six tracks, some of the songs lose a bit of the energy of openers; that said, the album finishes on a top-notch melodic rocker, 'Surrounded (Or Spiraling)'. Overall, this is a very good album, with a stadium-filling sound that bodes well for their live show. *Swoon* presents the band as more mature, more musically adept and, probably, more likely to make it big. (7)

words/ richard benkinjop

## MORE ALBUMS

William  
Fitzsimmons  
*Goodnight*  
Phonon



*Goodnight* is not at all funny. It's not an exuberant electro-pop romp, nor an anthemic rock exaltation. It is an angry, bleak neo-folk album about the divorce of William Fitzsimmons' parents. Incidentally the heavily bearded songwriter's own marriage broke down as he recorded this album, and he describes it as 'absolutely one of the most depressed and dark records I've ever been through'. It is not a barrel of laughs. What it is, however, is jolly pretty. Fitzsimmons' voice is light and breathy, his guitars warm and resonant and the songs are good, simple, melodic, rock songs. Some, however, are directionless given their length.

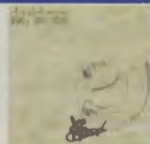
'Leave Me By Myself' is a case in point. It starts out suggestive and guarded, but just builds up interest and then stoutly refuses to deliver the payoff - it's like leaning in to hear a joke and having the teller forget the punchline.

The build-ups almost always seem to end in anticlimax as the low end fails to materialise at the bottom of the texture. This absence becomes starker still when the rough, dirty electronic percussion enters the picture. It is simply begging for a beefy, bassy ally to help it bring out the anger and pathos of the lyrics, but Fitzsimmons' vocal line is unfortunately left sounding tired and cynical, as though he has already given up.

This could have been a very good record if only Fitzsimmons had sung and produced these rock songs in a more instinctive fashion. It doesn't have to be like other rock music, it just has to admit that that's what it is. If Fitzsimmons was half as self-aware in his execution as he is in his composition, he'd be a major musical force by now. (5)

words/ george reece

David Saw  
*Broken Down*  
Figure



'David Saw is not a complicated man' states his website and, quite honestly, neither are his songs. *Broken Down Figure* is hardly the most exciting of albums, showcasing a very samey mix of Michael Buble-esque songs that rarely show much of a sparkle. Having played with Carly Simon, who sounds as though she should be strictly confined to a tacky Texan country bar along with Shania Twain and the reputable, if not a little wishy-washy sounding Ben Taylor, Saw is taking a break from touring to promote this record.

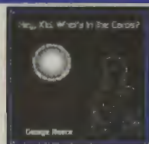
Joining the endless list of unimaginative, 'relaxing' artists that appeal to mothers across the world - yes I'm looking at you, the Fray - this CD could send one off into the land of dreams, and not in a good way.

'Heaven knows I've been sitting here for too long', could be applied to the long hours in the Edward Boyle and I suppose most people have 'wished they were a little bit more clever'. Equally, every girl has secretly wished 'hurry up love, you've only just begun'. However, in spite of telling me 'Buy My Record', I wouldn't - even if that is, by far, the best song on the album, surprisingly enjoyable to listen to with its memorable rhythm.

As *Mother's Day* is a year away, and Christmas a whole 7 months in the future, there is actually no market to pawn this record off onto. A cup of Ovaltine would be a far more pleasant way to send yourself to sleep. I expect 'Broken Down Figure' will soon be gathering dust in houses across the nation. (2)

words/ lizzie edmonds

George  
Reece  
*Hey, Kid. What's In  
the Cards?*  
Vikings



George Reece is an upcoming pop-folk artist based in Leeds, who, despite being young, now has a third album under his belt. Having previously dived in prog, he now turns his hand to making simple three to four minute long pop songs.

All one needs to hear to notice this change is the leadoff single 'I'm Running Free' which sets the precedent for the majority of the album with its traditional pop blueprint and catchy choruses. An apparent influence, central to the songwriting displayed here, is Randy Newman (the singer responsible for a number of Disney soundtracks) and is most evident on tracks like 'Last Week'.

Made on a tight budget, one of the album's double-edged swords is the drumming. With a drum kit being too big to fit into his home studio, all of the beats have reportedly been made on his *Playstation*. When this works, it works well, lending occasional abnormal but DIY, clicking rhythms to a track like 'All I Want Do'. Most of the music on the album is acoustic though and consequently, syncopated, skittering beats, like the ones on 'Tell Me', don't necessarily do the other stripped down element of the song justice. Having said this, don't be surprised by the electric guitars when they do come. There's no questioning the man's ability to solo when 'The Look' takes a turn for the breakdown.

The album liner notes make note of the fact that the music on this album was not made with innovation in mind. Listening to the album is proof enough that these songs were made within the frame of a simplistic singalong format and are all the better for it. (6)

words/ luke fear



## COLUMN/ TOBIAS GINSBERG

### La Roux Academy

07/05/09

Heartbreak are the best support band of this evening's NME-sponsored line-up; entertaining in their self-effacing irony, they're the sort of thing your mum would refer to as 'fun'. The only possible criticism of their set is that vocalist Sebastian Muravchik seems wildly over-excited at the audience's reaction and looks like the whole experience is brand new to him. Musically though, they were certainly worth seeing, and warmed up the room well.

La Roux, fronted with a whimsical effortlessness by Elly Jackson, play a short but effective set. She sings strongly, but appears almost too cool at first, as she holds herself haughtily above the audience; only a few wry smiles and chatty turns to her band-mates betray the fact that she's a 'real person'. Even her striking hairdo is

susceptible to real-world influences; by the end of a sweaty, dancey set, she struggles to keep her quiff erect. But for all their



polished professionalism, the band still lack something: clarity.

What is La Roux? After two songs Jackson introduces her two on-stage compatriots (neither of whom is studio collaborator Ben Langmaid), but fails to

make it clear exactly what relation they bear to the music. Are they just live session musicians? Are they co-writers? Maybe I'm just a nerd who's more interested in the sleeve notes than the music, but I find it somewhat unrewarding to listen to this faceless art. With whom should I be impressed if I like it? Whom should I blame if it's crap? Was the drummer of Busted actually part of the band, or what?

In fairness, the music's not bad at all. It suggests a modern amalgamation of Prince and David Bowie - aggressively quirky and colourful electro-pop. The album will certainly be worth a listen when it's released later this year; I just want to know who to pat on the back. That's all...

It is worth mentioning, though, how very impressive it is for such a new band to sell one headline tour, even a relatively small one like this. La Roux, on the back of just one hit single, have generated a buzz that most bands can only dream about over their lifetime. They just have to hope that the eighties revival wave they are riding keeps on rolling. (7)

words/ george reece

### MORE GIGS

### Doves Academy

08/05/09

Support act Malakai fail to make an impression; their particular mix of psychedelic rock and hip-hop breaks is often interesting on record, but unfortunately doesn't translate well live. Without the samples and beefed-up production of their recorded counterparts, the songs sound empty and no amount of charisma can cover up the fact that the band's singer is simply not very good.

In the publicity surrounding *Kingdom of Rust*, Doves' latest album, several broadsheets took to labelling the band's sound 'man rock', perhaps insinuating that a band has to be young, attractive and charismatic in order to grab the attention of its listeners. The three members of Doves that take to the stage tonight are fairly ordinary-looking and pushing forty; these men can, however, lay claim to a back catalogue of beautiful, instantly appealing tunes, performed with an unassuming charm.

Singer Jimi Goodwin's relaxed yet heartfelt performance lulls the crowd into a real sense of comfort. Having previously witnessed Doves live in support of 2005's *Some Cities* album, it is surprising to see how little their set has changed since then. New tracks 'Jetstream', 'Winter Hill' and particularly the country-tinged lead single 'Kingdom of Rust' stand out; however, by the time old favourites 'Pounding' and 'Black and White Town' where wheeled out, the crowd were completely absorbed. Likewise, come the Northern Soul throwback 'Here It Comes', or the samba drum solo that rounds off 'There Goes the Fear', the songs sound so good you hope they'll play it just the same in years to come. (7)

words/ tobias ginsberg



### Gallows Leeds Met

10/05/09

The billing for Gallows' comprehensive UK tour is a somewhat bizarre one. American hardcore veterans Every Time I Die declare the night 'fucking amazing' and indeed their set is. The band are tight and Buckley commands the stage as the band churn out gem after gem much to the crowd's delight. As the pit opens up and everyone head bangs along it seems apparent that this band are a little out of place supporting as they perform a truly triumphant set to a half empty room.

Gallows are a highly contentious band, their visceral lyrics and violent live performances have drawn comparisons to the Sex Pistols - many hailing them as the future of English punk. They do really excel live, their stage antics are entertaining to say the least.

The high point of the night comes during 'The Great Forgiver' which is accompanied by a circle pit encompassing the size of the room with a sprawling human pyramid at the centre. Musically, however, questions still remain unanswered. Despite the spitting, stage diving, and self mutilation there are several lulls where even the angry fans appear to grow a little impatient, with one even shouting out 'play the hits!' - strange really for a punk band. There is no denying the str that they have caused, songs like 'Abandon Ship' and 'London is The Reason' are truly amazing and the surprisingly diverse audience scream back every impassioned word.

Despite all of this, however, there are more than a handful of people not on the way out that entertaining as tonight was, Gallows are just not as revolutionary as they may like to think. (7)

words/ rebecca atkinson



### HORSE the band

Joseph's Well  
12/05/09

Taking the piss out of support bands is the easiest, laziest and most pathetic way of getting a laugh out of your mates. So it's pretty irritating that the early birds for tonight's gig choose to do just that, particularly when the band in question are, not only pretty good, but also have a similar sound to the band that people have paid money to see. Blackfish couldn't care less though. The band treat the gig like it's their last, throwing themselves into their hardcore and jokingly bragging about getting wasted in Sheffield, "because we're mental like that".

HORSE the band, were playing their own brand of Nintendo-core years before the members of Crystal Castles had even met each other. Although, as Napoleon Dynamite doppelganger, Erik Engstrom, points out, the band have gradually been declining in popularity since 2004. The keyboardist stands at the front of the stage, whilst handlebar-mustachioed vocalist, Nathan Winneke, stays hidden away in the left-hand corner. This isn't to say he'll keep quiet though. He spends the majority of the night making antiquated jokes about AIDS and child-rap that *Team America* was making half a decade ago.

This would be less irritating if it didn't comprise half of the set. After a punter screams for them to play a song, Winneke shouts back, "if you want us to play a song then you don't know who the fuck we are!" Evidently the band put their comedy before their music, which is a shame considering, whereas one in ten of their jokes are actually funny, all of their music is pretty exciting. Eventually they close the flawed show with their classic, "Cutsman", based around the evil *Megaman* boss of the same name. (6)

words/ luke fear



Recently, I've been contemplating the move to a new, smaller house this summer, which has led to me reluctantly consider leaving my turntables and record collection at home. Then something happened, which I can only put down to an act of God, a disparaging reminder of what I'd be missing out on if I turned my back on my stacks of wax.

Early last Monday morning, unsuspecting punters across the nation, who were just having their regular poke round their friendly, local independent record store may have come across a record with a plain black label. Perhaps they overlooked it at first as one of many forgettable test pressings, only to have the man behind the counter hand it right back to them, with a knowing grin.

"What's this?" they ask.

"Gold dust," he replies.

So what's on this mystical black platter?

Two tracks, "Wolf Cub" and "Moth", put together in a collaborative effort of near mythical proportions by two of electronica's most revered producers: Burial and Four Tet. It sounds too good to be true but fear not, it doesn't disappoint. Listening to "Wolf Cub", you can dissect the different influences of each producer, from Four Tet's love of Far Eastern instrumentation, to Burial's signature warped vocal samples. Yet, at the same time, you sense that both producers are trying something brand new, resulting in what has to be one of the most original dubstep tracks I've ever heard. Continuing in this innovative vein on the other side of the single, "Moth" sounds like nothing I've ever heard either Burial or Four Tet produce; although not as anthemic as the likes of Burial's "Archange", this is in my opinion the most club-friendly piece of music either have made. Their unique beats, usually too jittery for the dancefloor, have been replaced by a pulsating four-to-the-floor rhythm in this entrancing deep-burning house number, perfect for last tune of the night, when you're breaking out of the club and into the early morning sunshine.

Why, then, was music of this magnitude only released on a very limited, non-discount 12", appearing in record shops across the country as if left there overnight by a crack team of angels, or some other ethereal force? Whatever the answer is, it's refreshing to know that, at a time when the next generation of laptop DJs are turning their noses up at tangible records, two of the genre's pioneering artists still identify themselves amongst the dying breed of vinyl lovers.

## FEATURED GIG AS FUCKING USUAL

## Calvin Harris

### The Cockpit

Scottish commercial dance DJ Calvin Harris, who shot to fame with the irritatingly catchy 'Acceptable in the 80s' a few summers back, brings in the summer Festival season with an extensive UK warm up tour. Having collaborated with the likes of Deadmau5 and Dizzee Rascal, Calvin Harris is best known for his top-ten tracks, interestingly arrogant song lyrics



and his taste in unpractical rave shades. The strobe lighting abates, revealing a

bleary eyed, sweating, surging mass: the main room inside the Cockpit. Soon the sweat is dripping from the roof as it is on fire. The venue is maybe a little bit too busy; it feels more like a fire hazard than a dance gig: there is barely any room to make some serious shapes, potentially another fire hazard.

Consequently, when the electro-beats begin to pulsate through the crowd (fire hazard?), it feels as though the latter should be far heavier. Regardless, as soon as Harris' well known tracks are played, the crowd goes wild (FIRE HAZARD). 'The Girls' is soon broken down into football-chant sing-a-long, and flailing arms. Latest release 'I'm not Alone' is easily the best track of the night, and finishes the gig on a high. The main surprise of the night is how well the band can play. Harris' musicians rarely miss a note and the man himself is pitch perfect throughout. However, the set doesn't 'gel' particularly well: there certainly could have been far better mixes between songs. Indeed, there are occasionally awkward silences, losing the crowd almost entirely.

That said, the order in which the songs are played is nice: dipping from the ecstatic highs of commercial tunes to housey, disco album classics such as the title track of his first LP *I Created Disco*. It would seem that the difficult step from DJ set to live, performed successfully by the

"I get all the girls.. I get all the girls..."  
With a set like that Calvin, it's no surprise.

mighty likes of Faithless and Pendulum, hasn't quite been achieved: there is still some work to do on the seamless transformation from computer to gig.

Although a majority of his songs have been remixed into oblivion, subsequently producing far superior music, Calvin Harris proves that he is a star (FIRE HAZARD) in his own right. For Wednesday night

there is very little more a crowd member could ask for: good tunes, good atmosphere, and a good front, and a good man.

Onwards to Ibiza, Harris, and we all hope your luck with the ladies continues over there.

words/ lizzie edmonds



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THE  
LOW

DOWN

with Paul and Prijay



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 final instalment, here's guest writers number three, Paul and Prijay.

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

First impressions are vital. What would you have thought if I had started with the sentence 'I hate the sunshine'? I doubt many would be yelling in agreement that's for sure. Nor would I come across as a particularly sociable and spirited individual. Instead, the first impression one would probably get is of a hermit who constantly grumbles about life. In reality, you will be pleased to know I am not really either. Perhaps balanced somewhere between the two is a more accurate description depending on the day you happen to meet me that is.

So what would you do if you met a person named Ben Dover, Mike Rotch or

This isn't a joke either, there really is some (un)lucky soul out there named Marijuana

this in mind that I bring to you, 'Marijuana Pepsi Jackson'. A bleary eyed and giggly layabout with a huge appetite? Not at all. Rather, a sharp-suited teacher with a Master's in Higher Education Administration, who will soon begin work on her doctorate. It is bizarre to think parents could ever want to subject their children to a life of misery with such a name, but then again, it didn't turn out all bad for Marijuana did it?

This isn't a joke either, there really is some (un)lucky soul out there named Marijuana. Even though I wouldn't be particularly pleased if that was my name, I think it is a great example of the individualism and quirkiness that still exists. Celebrities often get ridiculed; names such as 'Apple', 'Petal Blossom Rainbow' and 'Fifi Trixibelle' immediately spring to mind. But aside from being a great conversation starter, it marks one out from the crowd and people take notice. What a first impression you could make with the name Marijuana, be it good or bad. People wouldn't be short of nicknames for you that's for sure.

Prijay

At the risk of sounding like a hermit who constantly grumbles about life, I have to disagree. I find this trend for ridiculous names incomprehensible and mildly sadistic. If you're not a celebrity, surely this is just another obstacle that your poor child will have to navigate in their journey to the relative safety of adulthood? However well adjusted Marijuana Pepsi has turned out, she still grew up knowing

she was a joke from the moment she was born. As for celebrities, it's just another sign of their complete removal from reality that their children usually end up sounding more like pet dogs than people. In the case of Fifi Trixibelle, Pixie and Peaches, I think it would be kinder to have them put down.

Anyway, while the fad to name your children something that almost always guarantees a career as a sociopath seems a bit grotesque, the trend of renaming oneself in later life seems to be perfectly acceptable. With the advent of Facebook, it is of course even easier to try out a new name for a while, such as Maddy Rage or Oliver Garth Snake-Bake Swazey, as a quick browse of your friends will no doubt reveal.

According to Norwich Union, "Sometimes a simple change of name can unlock the potential that was there all along. If you want people to remember you, it helps to have a name that sticks."

If it worked for Richard Starkey and Walter Willis, then I can't see why it won't for us. The Lowdown writers formerly known as Paul and Prijay has a certain ring to it, or perhaps we could emulate George Eliot and adopt female pen names. I can't speak for Prijay, but I've been toying with Barbara Hardacre, or possibly Vivien Sinclair. I think being able to play the drums helped Ringo Starr more than changing his name, but as a pair of talentless chimps aimlessly bashing at a typewriter, we could do with all the help we can get.

Barbara

## GOING UP ^

### BBQs

There is nothing better to distract you from revision than the smell of a BBQ. Throw in tunes and some cold cider and it is the perfect way to enjoy the sun.

### Festivals

The festival season is upon us, and this year there are even more vying for your attention than ever. Whatever your tastes in music, there is somewhere for you to go and get smashed in a field.

### The Economy

Once again we've had a few days of sunshine and, despite the evidence of every previous year, have convinced ourselves that this summer will be the one. Fingers crossed, eh?

### Daytime TV

Probably never up, but now with the sun beginning to shine there is no need to stay in. Get to the park and work on that that David Dickinson tan you have always wanted.

### Builders

With the house next door being redecorated, drilling has become my new 9am wake-up call whether I like it or not. And I definitely do not.

### Jade Goody the musical

Of course it is sad that Jade passed away, but is there really any need for a musical? The media obsession is even sadder - one minute they berate her, the next she is a national treasure. No thanks.

## GOING DOWN

"I got beaten up on the way home. They didn't even take my phone but my shirt. Can you believe that they actually made me walk home topless?" / "A bong? Is that a gold thing you hit?" / "It's fine, you can throw that banana skin on the floor - it's biodegradable. But make sure you take the sticker off first!" / "Well I have to say, she does have slaggish elements." / "If Comic Relief's so great at solving poverty, how come they have to keep doing them?" / "Can you eat marijuana?" "Yeah, some people chew on the stalks" "Oh, is that what Chewbacca does?"

OVERHEARD

# 10 THANKS /

## The fat lady clears her throat

Leeds Student's fabulous editorial team say their thank yous and goodbyes



LS LUVVIES: Heroes, the lot of them.

photo/ barry carlyon

Well, the year's up already. That went pretty quick. I will never be able to shake the feeling that I'm not quite working long enough or hard enough in any future employment. The fact that almost 15,000 pairs of eyes locked on the pages each week was motivation enough to ensure every issue was to the best standard we could've delivered. Each issue I feel so proud of the collective effort put in.

There are so many people to thank I could dedicate a whole issue to it. But – due to the inevitable waste in un-read papers it would leave – I won't. But there are some I simply have to show a massive gratitude to.

John, the paper would not be what it is without you. This year has been as much yours as mine. The time you have spent in the office when you should have been finishing a Masters is simply ridiculous (3am anyone?). The sheer intelligence, creativity and dedication you possess is flabbergasting. An inestimable amount of pages look the better for having your superb design eye cast over them. I would have died of a thousand heart attacks if I didn't have your knowledgeable self here all along to reassure, aid and teach. You are a sponge of information, there to douse me whenever I get heated with frustration. (Enough homoeroticism?) You will go on to bigger things. (There we go.)

Daf, what can I say? Witty, hard-working and Welsh (we all have our faults). It has been a pleasure to get to know you this year – the sound of you whispering the language of Cymru down the phone to a lucky listener will live long in the memory.

Rob, calm, collected, and then we buy you a

beer... Having you with me at the death each Thursday has been a much-needed injection of talent and comedy.

Clare, you've pretty much held the features section together this year and made it full of topical, worthy, and often hilarious pieces with an organisation I cannot fathom. Simply astonishing. You've taken (too many) calls from me asking for a guiding hand when you should've sent me to voicemail purgatory.

Ali, a character like you I'll never meet again. To be the sole photo editor this year has been nothing short of momentous.

Special mention to the musical demi-gods that are Helena and Ramzy – two years at the helm of the most in-demand section and you've done it better than justice.

News, you've been fantastic, proactive and incredibly dedicated. I applaud you for all the hours spent in front of those Mac screens. Virginia, she's your baby now – be gentle with her. Thank you to Doorey for bringing that professional air to proceedings.

From Vicky and Jack – what you have done with Arts is nothing short of majestic – to Ifor – a dude in the purest sense – and Owen – the filth you spew everyday has been hilariously inappropriate – and back again, everyone of you I've been lucky to meet this year have made it all worth while.

They say don't mix business with pleasure. But with this newspaper it's impossible not to. When you spend this much time with so many fantastic people, colleagues quickly become friends and friends best mates. It's been an honour.

Laurie

I remember coming to the end of last year. The year before that, I'd only spent the odd five minutes in the Leeds Student office, but by the end I'd accumulated quite literally scores of hours spent sat at a computer, enjoying free takeaway food or generally avoiding the mountain of degree work that always seemed to hang over me.

One of my biggest fears was that the next year wouldn't be as good as the last. How could the team be such a great group of people yet again? Well it was, and it's been an amazing year as a result. It could be luck, but I'm convinced it wasn't. We don't handpick team members and put them through some kind of social vetting process, we're a society that's open to anyone. Some of the best people seem to appear at random, popping into the office now and again before they're sucked in, keen to feed what becomes a genuine addiction. But somehow, and I don't know how, we end up with the best team of people anyone could ask to work with.

I had high hopes for this year, and they've all been exceeded. Sharing a house with the editor has meant I've literally never escaped, but as a result we've achieved an incredible amount. But the Leeds Student isn't just about the editor, far from it: it's the team as a whole that puts together the Leeds Student, and when just one person is missing, they're missed. I'm not going to thank you all individually... you know who you are. Here's to next year's team - I wish you all the best!

John, Associate Editor extraordinaire

I'd like to thank their mums, the brother Ramzy never had, and the brother Helena does. Thank

bloody fuck they got rid of those pastel boxes, yeah? And the Christmas tree was pretty shit. (Luke Fear actually said this, so thanks to him.) I'm confident in their replacements, if only through sheer quantity BUT, SERIOUSLY, the last two years have been made significantly more possible by the ongoing supply of writers, especially those who have consistently turned up and met deadlines. Thanks to Laurie, helmsman and friend (respectively), and the rest of the editorial team (first and second mates, respectively). Certain of my writers deserve a flagon of love. George, in particular: you have shown dedication and exceptional ability throughout our editorship, for which we are inexpressibly <s>mild</s> grateful (we're not a curry says Helena). Your literary and musical futures are bright, and we're sorry for being so disorganised Michael, you've been this year's White Ladder, and we're very happy about eventually leaving Music in the hands of your successors. Lizzie and Rebecca For your commitment and dependability, I thank. Helena and Ramzy would like to thank each other. The first words Ramzy ever said to Helena were I don't think I've seen you at the meetings but my GOD has he seen her at the meetings since. Good looks (7/10 or over) will always open The Doors for a girl (10% of the time, every time).

(6)

Helena Goodwyn [pictured] and Ramzy Awakeel [semi-pictured]

The newly requisitioned, newly christened 'Arts Sofa' has never seen so many cherubic, brightly-lit faces peering back at it. (That's because Jack's hair is emitting a powerful UV glow...) To all

those faces, the Arts Sofa would like to say a big "Thank you, thank you very much" and offer round the pick'n'mix again. But don't eat the lips. Those are the Arts Sofa's favourite. Its floral print, padded cushions have cupped the burns of many a wonderful writer, and it is thankful for that. Particular favourites (that's writers, not bums) have been respectively inquisitive, imperious, and sofa-enthusiasts - that's Charlotte, James and finally Matt and Nali. (Arts Bds - I wonder why the Arts Sofa chose the latter pair for new eds?) Fiona is the best web editor the Arts Sofa has ever seen in its long, shabby life. The Arts Sofa would like to thank itself for being so really, really, ridiculously good-looking. And finally, the Arts Sofa would like to thank the rest of the Leeds Student team, without which its days in the office would be less pizza-filled, less innuendo-fuelled, and altogether less GLORIOUS. Ta.

**Jack and Vicky**

A whole 20 issues has passed? Wow that happened quickly. I think (hope) that the Clubs section has been entertaining to read over the year and that we have tried to find where student rights and specialist dance music events somewhere meet. Personally, I know that this position has opened my mind to new music week-in week-out, and for this I'm really thankful. A year ago I couldn't have seen myself with a fascination of techno, planning trips abroad to feed the habit!

Clubs has managed to feature a number of big profile interviews and run huge competitions in affiliation with various local and national events (don't sleep on this week's two competitions!), however it would be arrogant to say that it has all my doing. I must foremost thank Jon and Jo, who have regularly written a piece for the section. Jon has even shown his talent as an illustrator in recent months. Promoters across Leeds have been instrumental in allowing us access to the nights we feature, and within the Union, Lucy in Events is as always a star. Within the paper, I must foremost thank John who has improved the design of my pages to a point where the section is unrecognizable from its form last year. Further thanks go out to the whole paper team and Pizza Cano, for feeding me every Tuesday since September.

The quality of DJs and live acts that have played in Leeds over the last year is testament to what a thriving city we live in musically. My advice is to keep your ears open and to take advantage of everything Leeds offers. To next years editors Coco and Guy, I'm sure that the combination of your talents will lead to further improvement, if there isn't, there will be trouble!

**Sam.x**

As TV editors, Evie and myself have had to overcome some technical hurdles, as we were slightly inept at using the major programmes of both Quark and Photoshop at the start of the year. However with the continual support of both Laurie and John we have both learnt a lot and the pinnacle of our success can be seen through the inclusion of cut out pictures in our section - a massive achievement in my eyes. I would also like to thank Clare for helping us to write the argument each week, we've forced her to write about everything from who's the biggest wanker on The Apprentice, to arguing for the benefits of watching Snog, Marry, Avoid. Finally, thank you to our loyal team of writers who remained reliable regardless of deadlines and other priorities. I will be sad to leave the Leeds Student next year but wish Evie and everyone else staying on the best of luck.

**Hatti**

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has

written for the Big Debate this year, and all those who have read it and voted online. We have covered some divisive issues, and those contributing to the arguments have never failed to impress with their wit, humour, insight, and passion. Thanks to everyone working on the paper for helping me think up headlines, and generally making the office a fun place to spend an afternoon: I've made some great friends and they will be sorely missed. Finally, a special mention goes to Jack Cullen for his continuing support and creative input, especially regarding the Mountaineering: Top 5. I couldn't have done it without you.

**Andy 'always' Rogers**

To all the writers I couldn't print: I'm sorry. Both Comment and Observations have been incredibly high-demand this year, with plenty of fantastic writers. If you're one of them, please continue to submit work next year - the new team are fantastic, but nothing without contributors! And to all the writers I have printed: thank you for a great year.

To Andrew and todos los Hispanohablantes, gracias para hablarme cuando estoy borracho (y si entiendes español, me disculpo. Estoy borracho otravez.)

Ali, You're the best damn photo editor a boy could ask for. Your Observations articles without a doubt betray the state of your mind, but it's certainly an entertaining read.

Zupnik, you are the cancer that is killing the Leeds Student. Without your tireless distractions, the paper would be finished on time... but we wouldn't have cut-outs anywhere near as good as we do now.

To Laurie. Sorry for the consistently late Thursdays. I'm sure we'd be finished earlier if it wasn't for Beer O'Clock, but if nobody stymied the system things wouldn't be half as interesting.

Daf. Machadaynu, abadaynu, machadaynu-daynu! Thanks for making Thursday nights as enjoyable as they were (and hopefully will continue to be, fellow Assistant Associate.)

To everyone else in the office: thanks for a great year. You're all stars.

**Rob 'making love on the' Heath**

Ah, Leeds Student... Where else would I get to write front pages about poo and redundancy?

Thanks go to all three of my News counterparts for a year of fun and frolics. I'd like to mention Adam's seemingly bottomless and equally fabulous Pun Generator in particular. Matt and Virginia - I'm pretty sure that we should all feel ashamed of ourselves for being reduced to hysterics by Adam's weekly antics: "NEWS! "Voice breaks" and his drunken exploits as a result of three pints of Strongbow, but somehow we all manage to soldier on and let him get on with it. Good show.

Big congratulations to Rob Heath - you'll make a fine Associate - you...[be prepared], I'm going to push the boundaries here! GOOD OLD BOY, you!

May the Wheel of Doom keep wheelin', the server keep crashin' and the Cut-Out Editor Wars never cease... Here's to next year!

Cheers to Laurie and John who have worked damn hard throughout - the paper looks better than ever.

**Clair e**

I'd like to say a massive thanks to the other members of the News Team - Virginia, Adam and Claire - for putting up with my regular rants on Trotskyism, scruffy environmental campaigners and building occupiers. Anyone else would have given me a damn good telling off. Maybe I need one...but thanks anyway!

My other expression of gratitude must go to Apple Mac's 'wheel of doom' for wasting

numerous hours of my first year at Uni whilst waiting for it to do its thing. Thanks for showing your ugly face in my dreams and well and truly fucking me over this year. Nice one.

Finally, a serious big thank you to all those people who have given me help and guidance in and around the LS office this year. Too many to mention. Much appreciated.

**Matt 'I've got the' Power**

Well, a year in news. Firstly, I'd like to thank for this fantastic opportunity. Being a news editor is simply the best job on the paper - the excitement, the rush, the inevitable late nights. Even the 'wheel of doom' deserves a mention.

Seriously though, I'd like to thank my fellow 'newsies' for being fantastic this year - and for putting up with me, my puns, and my diatribes on building occupiers and environmentalists. Firstly, a big thanks to the writers, who've stuck with us. Without you, I'd have to write everything, and that would be an interesting experience for all concerned! Natasha - you were brilliant, knew everyone and left far too soon. However, we were lucky enough to have two equally brilliant replacements in Claire and Matty, who jumped straight into the breach without thinking twice. A massive thank you to Virginia, my partner in crime. We've seen it all this year, and are still standing. You will be great in your new position as editor next year.

John - you've been immense this year. Alex also deserves a mention for making News as good as it could be. And Laurie - a huge thanks to him. He has been with us through every issue, every complaint (and I've had a few!) and every triumph. He has succeeded in making the paper accessible to as many people as possible, and I'm sure he'll go on to greater things.

**Adam 'Richie' Richardson**

We've had a great (and sometimes stressful) time putting together the fashion pages for the avid readers of Leeds Student this year to ensure everyone has no excuse to wear Ugg boots (please please burn them if you have a pair). Aside from that we truly hope you have enjoyed the page and its contents. Big thanks have to go firstly to God (joke, of course) but seriously Laurie our lovely editor for putting up with our incompetence at IT, the team at Leeds Student, all the businesses and contacts we've dealt with, and our extremely enthusiastic team of writers and stylists who have really made our job a lot easier with their efforts. Thanks and wishes of good luck also go to Virginia Newman, next years editor and my housemate, for helping me with just about everything throughout this year, if it wasn't for her organization I would probably be wandering aimlessly somewhere indistinct by now.

**Alex H**

Thank you so much to all the writers who produced such brilliant work this year, and to everyone in the office who made LS so much fun to be involved with. I'm proud of the paper and I'll miss being part of the team!

**Rebecca**

I would like to thank my photographers for being extremely patient with my slap-dash photomeetings and onslaught of weekly emails - I'm grateful to see many friendly faces every week that definitely lightens up my otherwise mundane life.

Special thank to all the photographers who contributes week-in and out, despite the stories ever being referendum/election or housing bullshit. Perhaps next year we can hire a publicity stuntman.

And definitely a word of appreciation to Sarah Greene and the other photographers who managed to do the 'graveyard shift' and made

the trek out to Weetwood, especially when the weather was shite.

I would not like to thank: News Team - sorry your one-word descriptions of the photos you need just doesn't make the cut - You're meant to be journalists - your whole job is to elaborate on things! Giving me 4word sentences doesn't make getting you a photo easier! But it could be good for Haikus.

But yes, thanks everyone in the office - Andy and Rob for the Beer O'Clocks, Owen Bradley's mom, sister and dad and granny (god her lovely soul). I'll always remember the curries, and the pizzas - guys, the spinach pizza must live on. It Must live on.

**Ali 'well' Hung x**

For those of you still reading, congratulations, you've reached the pinnacle of thanking: LS Sport.

Commiserations to our flailing competition for flying the flag for mediocrity, but thank you for taking the 'other' Paul Scholes off our hands. How we'd have coped with him this year, I'll never know.

Huge thanks to the new crop of writers who have braved the stormy climes of Weetwood to make our pages interesting without you, this would not have been possible.

To Carl and Wendy (before she jumped ship) cheers for putting up with our never-ending demands for fixtures/results/phone numbers. Again, without your help, this would have been balls, instead, it is the balls.

Rob and Ali! The piece 'Hung' the photos that have appeared in print have nearly been as good as the ones you send us in private. Neary.

Other sections: good effort. We apologise for leaving you all in the starting blocks once again. You really must try harder next year.

To Laurie. We'll miss harassing you on a daily basis. You're committed to both the paper and to your home town club, Stockport County, has been nothing short of remarkable. You've been a gent.

To those of us who are staying on, we wish you all the best; you have been a pleasure to work with. Next year will be a roaring success.

And finally, to borrow a line from Kipling... Peace out, A-town.

**Owen, Daf and the Sports Crew**

Thank you LS for being like a weird but lovely family for four years, surviving together on only pizza and curry. There have been ups and downs, but mainly just dying computers and articles 300 words too short. I'm going to miss everything about it, apart from the fear of bumping into one of the rowing team...

**Love Doorey**

Most importantly I want to thank all the writers - we couldn't have done it without your enthusiasm and commitment. A massive thank you to the other news editors Adam Richardson, Matty Power, Claire Freeston and Natasha Evans (who left too soon) and well done for all the work that we have achieved this year. Also a mention goes to Alex Doorey who I have learnt a lot from during my time at Leeds Student. From the never ending eventful and scandalous union politics to going under cover to suss out dodgy landlords this year has been excitingly varied. Bring on the awards!

Last but not least a huge thank you to Laurie for all the work he has done - get out my seat now though please!

A massive thank you to everyone who me supported in the election, especially Alex, Nat, Jess and Dave, it means so much. To everyone staying on next year COME TO PAPER MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 5PM!

Thanks!

Virginia

## Fest Fest

LS2 instructs regarding summer fests upcoming. Remember Music this way.

### LEEDS/ 28-30 AUGUST

Pretty much Radiohead. Fresh from spurning Miley Cyrus, the most mentioned band of Music's last 24 months of columns return to West Yorkshire to promote a shockingly exhaustive reissue campaign from which they have publicly distanced themselves a number of times. With every date pushing back their studio time, we're sure you will want Oxford's best band offstage asap.

Both plugging new albums, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Maxïmo Park make up the between-three-and-five-members contingent. Having returned with their most acclaimed record for some years earlier in 2009, The Prodigy promise to olden the school, while the infuriating Kings of Fuck could use somebody (or a kick in the head) on Sunday.

### CROPREADY/ 13-15 AUGUST

Legendary folk-rockers Fairport Convention are set to headline their very own 'Cropredy Convention' yet again this year. Renowned for being 'the friendliest festival in Britain', Cropredy boasts a number of attractions for all the family, from face-painting and carnivals for the kids to plenty of real ale and local pubs for the adults. Often seen as the younger sibling of the Cambridge Folk Festival, Cropredy this year will see Steve Winwood headline Thursday night; godfather of folk, Richard Thompson, the Friday; and, of course, Fairport Convention (and friends) closing the show on the Saturday. Other acts bringing in the fans this year include one of the biggest punk bands of our [our? - ed.] time, The Buzzcocks; young, mainstream folk act Seth Lakeman; and dub/techno/folk group, Dreadzone, originally championed by the late, great John Peel.

### BEACH BREAK LIVE/ 16-19 JUNE

Now in its third year, and self-touted as the 'UK Student Festival', Beach Break Live is a relaxed affair in North Cornwall whose combination of wacky activities (such as 'blindfold long jump' and the 'Granny Grand Prix'), a beach (to cater to the unlikelihood of the sun shining), intriguing venues (an abandoned quarry, a rock-mine [? - ed.] and a main stage with a stunning view) and a 'green' conscience, SEEMS to be the perfect way to start the summer. Main acts include Mystery Jets, Friendly Fires, Ladyhawke and Delphic.





## ROCK NESS/

12-14 JUNE

It's a Nessfestal... if you will. Headline acts include Flaming Lips, Basement Jaxx and Orbital. Featuring a tent auspiciously termed 'Bollywood Sub-Club Party', this three day party is situated in Dores, near Inverness. Windproofing would seem necessary.

## DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL/

12-14 JUNE

This year, Donnington Park will play host to a decidedly older looking Download line-up. Following on from Kiss' triumphant headline set last year, 2009 sees the main stage return of golden oldies such as Def Leppard, ZZ Top and Faith No More, alongside last year's Leeds/Reading dropouts Slipknot. Elsewhere, highlights will include the ever hilarious and awful Papa Roach, J-Rock gods Dir en grey, and Leeds' very own Pulled Apart by Horses. So if you feel most at home amongst kilts, beards, and sweaty, middle-aged men, then get yourself down to Download, and headbang away those post-exam blues.

## SONISPHERE FESTIVAL/

1-2 AUGUST

New festivals are always a risk for all involved. You'll either witness the birth of a dynasty or be put through an organisational balls-up on an apocalyptic scale. If either of those options appeal, Knebworth hosts the inaugural UK leg of Sonisphere on the 1st and 2nd of August. Helmed by Metallica and Linkin Park, the event boasts over 30 bands across three stages, including the last UK show of Nine Inch Nails' farewell tour. Tickets are still on sale, so if your tastes swing to the more metallic end of the musical sale you'd be mad to miss this one.

BESTIVAL/  
11-13 SEPTEMBER

Possibly the most arrogantly titled festival of the bunch, Bestival is also best suited to psychedelic drug users, children or those who enjoy dressing up. With its annual fancy dress theme set months before the shows kick off, to allow plenty of time for creativity, the last major festival of the season promises three days of fun once more, with the theme 'space'. MGMT headline main stage bringing home the space-age theme. The mighty Massive Attack are also set to play, and will certainly wow the crowds. The line-up is jammed packed this year of thousands of up-and-coming indie-electro bands. Main ones to go and watch are Leeds-based Dinosaur Pile Up and filthy electro artists Casio Kids. However, although arguably the best line-up in that respect, whoever was put in charge of the DJ sets was either lazy or zaxy. Only notable occurrences are Zane Lowe (who is hardly Bestival-trendy), Fake Blood and DJ Yoda, although he is hardly exclusive and could be seen at most Metropolises.

words/ ramzy alwakeel, rebecca atkinson, richard blenkinsop, lizzie edmonds, helena goodwyn, alister simpson

## INTERNATIONAL/

## Exit

Serbia, 9-12 July

EXIT

The rise in our desire to hit foreign festivals has risen in the past few years: Benicassim grows more and more popular with those not satisfied simply by Global Gathering; Dour in Belgium grows in size, as does the Reggae Sundance Festival in Amsterdam. No one, by the way, has any idea why the biggest reggae festival in the world is in Holland. It would seem that the Brits simply cannot refuse the excuse to have fun, get drunk, listen to music and get burnt at the SAME time. Exit, though, combining the allure of a far-off foreign land with an excellent array of musical talent, is one of the most popular and talked about festivals of the season. From Andy C to Korn, Arctic Monkeys to Moby, the festival really caters for all. Madness are also tipped to storm the main stage, the first major appearance for the band in a long time. The lower slots are mainly taken up by underground DJs, bought in, apparently, to set the mood for the likes of Korn. Invest in a few different stages; no one really wants to go from chilled out summer time house to Korn. The lovely Lily Allen also 'hits' main stage on the first day of proceedings, undoubtedly showing off her new album.

## Benicassim

Spain, 16-19 July

Benicassim is not for the faint-British. It is HOT. The music starts at 5pm and finishes around 8am. By 10am your tent will be so unbearably hot that you have to crawl to the beach to fry whilst trying to catch a few winks, not rays. Unless you take at least one illegal substance you will not stay awake, and may find yourself asleep in a plate of paella. Shower queues if you are female inclined last for approx. three hours so take a book, and a towel. This year's headliners are Oasis, Kings of Leon, and the Killers. Acts worth seeing are Elbow.

## Fauxstival

Iceland, January (all month)

Hosted in a badly insulated complex of abandoned banks, Fauxstival has been carefully designed to accelerate climate change.

## Sasquatch

Washington [US], 23-25 May

'THIS AMPHITHEATRE,' screams the Sasquatch website, 'IS NOT LOCATED IN SEATTLE.' Presenting Nine Inch Nails, Jane's Addiction, and Kings of Urrrrrrghhhhhh, Sasquatch promises to be in "The Gorge". If you leave now, you might get there in time.



# 14 FASHION/

## THE SUMMERBALL ISSUE

What better way to fill the last fashion pages of the year than with one of the biggest annual student parades of fashion - the Summerball. This week's issue provides you all (guys included) with some great ideas for the ball or any formal event you're attending.

### EDITOR'S FAREWELL /SUMMER FASHION

It's that time of year when we're allowed to get nostalgic and look back at the academic year...but we'll refrain from doing that and just get on with it! So we'll leave you on a note that doesn't dwell on the past, but looks forward to the future, here's our fashion tips for the summer:

1. Buy a one piece: bikini's are all the news, unless you're on the beach in Magaluf/Beridorm, dress as appropriate. Bikinis styles look amazing and remind me, yours with a pair of retro sunglasses and a cocktail in your hand. Sorted.
2. Leave your usual footwear: flip flops never look good, this season has fully provided us with gladiator sandals and the return of...the jelly shoe. Wear it if you have, and want to feel right again.
3. Go original with your summer ball outfit, use an existing dress or create a head piece that you can try and pass off as haute couture. Be warned though, wearing wellies is too far, yes they're comfortable and practical but you tend to look like a farmer's wife. Cool at a festival, not at the ball.
4. Speaking of festivals, use any you may be attending this year to trial some of your most outrageous looks, flags as dresses can only be pulled off when returning the world to Kasabian or lying back on the grass to Radiohead.
5. We never thought we'd say it, but maxi dresses look good. Perfect for summer evenings or events where family members may be attending, hence no tiny pieces of clothing as usual, asos.com provides us with some great styles at student prices.

Finally, we'd like to wish good luck to next year's fashion editors, Anna Temby and Tom Purdie, both of whom we're sure will do a great job of continuing to improve the page. Assisting them on shoots will be our esteemed stylist Charlie Bland and Caitlin, whose creative visions will help to inspire you all with next year's cutting edge fashion. Goodbye Leeds Student!

words/ alexandra haddock & jamal yusuf lyn



photos/ ali hung, richard smith, sarah green, alex purdie  
models/ tom pyddie, vicky ellis, sarah quarten, alice malkin

Tom wears shirt, PISCADOR at Debenhams, 28, Chinos, Hackett London 49.99, Bow Tie, Eton London, 29.99, dinner jacket, models own.

Sarah wears dress, Topshop, 40, shoes Faith, 30

Vicky wears dress, Hentalls, 40, shoes Carvela, 40

Alice wears dress, Zara, 50, shoes, Faith, 40

# YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL (AND LOOK GOOD TOO)

## NOT SO BLACK AND WHITE FOR THE BOYS

The summer ball is the perfect opportunity to peacock\*. Too many play it safe when they see 'black tie' on a party invitation.

Indeed the classic look is timeless and risk free, but if ever there was a time to be a little too jazzy and get away with it, your university summer ball is it.

Accessorising is a great way to loosen up your look. A pocket square can formalise a black tie outfit and can also have the exact opposite effect.

Why not take the opportunity to incorporate some stripes, polka dots or even tartan into your outfit. Just try to avoid pattern clashes with your dickie-bow, also would scrap the cummerbund if you are planning on dressing down.

If you're planning on wearing in a new tux then consider a few options. Don't reach straight for black.

The midnight blue tuxedo was originally worn when the Edison light bulb replaced the candle, and black looked slightly green under the basic artificial light.

Velvet is another perfectly

acceptable way of standing out. If the idea of a full tux is intimidating then try a velvet bow tie. On the subject of ties, do not arrive at the ball with yours draped round your neck. Yes it will make you look like 007 but be patient. Wait until later in the evening to unleash this lady-killer.

If you want to rent a Dinner Jacket then Moss Bros is probably your best bet. If you want to buy one then M&S have all the classic styles you could want. Have a browse round the vintage shops in Leeds before splashing the cash or if you're skint. You never know what you might find.

We recommend Piscador dress shirts, available at Debenhams. The classic version modelled this week is very similar to the Turnbull & Asser evening shirt worn by Daniel Craig in Casino Royale, but more affordable on a student budget!

\*PEACOCK - verb: to dress in loud clothing or with flashy accoutrements in order to get attention from women.

words/ tom purdie

## CONTEMPORARY IDEAS FOR THE GIRLS

Summer ball fashion for girls generally means one thing, it's all about the dress. High street, vintage, designer- the price tag is irrelevant. What really matters is that your love for your dress is equal to its practicality- you will after all be partying for at least 6 hours or so, and will essentially be in a field. Added to this are the joys of the ever unpredictable British weather- all white may not be the best way to go. Alcohol is also going to be one of the main ingredients of your night which means all varieties of spillages are going to be coming your way. From wine to puke, nobody wants their dress ruined by unavoidable accidents- best stick to the easily dry cleanable dresses. However, this does not in any way limit your choice- dresses in all shapes and forms are out there. Here is a hot list for the best dress styles out there:

**SEQUINS**- Nothing says a ball like a bit of razzle dazzle. Sarah shows how you can do sequins subtly and elegantly but for a more dramatic effect- try a dress heavily comprised of sequins. Just hold back on the bold accessories.

**BLACK AND WHITE** For a classic look

why not go for the two colours that go best together. As Alice demonstrates, black and white gives an elegant, sophisticated feel. Polka dots are also another route you can go down to combine the two.

**BE BOLD**- The spring/ summer 2009 runways were awash with neon colours paired together. From tangerine and fuchsia pink to electric blue and highlighter yellow. Try fuchsia or canary yellow paired with neutral accessories.

**ALTERNATIVE** Girls shouldn't just be limited to dresses. High waisted skirts can look just as lovely; or for those of you daring enough why not try a tailored suit with this season's harem pants. Of course, nothing goes better with dresses than sky high heels; but remember that you will be on your feet for a good number of hours. Don't make the same mistake I made first year when my friend accidentally stamped on my foot with her heel and reduced me to a hobbling, barefoot mess for the rest of the evening- bring a pair of flats with you.

words/ anna temby



## WE'LL HOLD YOUR BALLS! AT THE MET, LEEDS

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- 6 bottles of beer per table
- DJ

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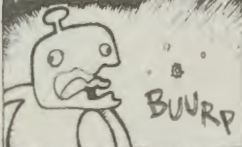
## COCOON IN THE PARK with SVEN VATH/

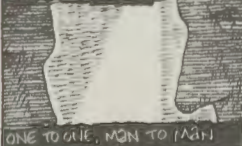
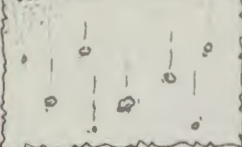
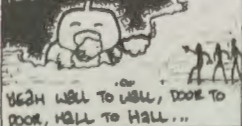
PREVIEW - LS CLUBS EVENT OF THE SUMMER

Temple Newsam | Leeds 27.6


 cocoonclub system.

**Rapture Part 4**  
 JON HORNER

 THEN, WHEN THERE'S NO  
 MORE CARS...

 YOU GO OUT AT NIGHT AND  
 EAT UP BARS WHERE THE  
 PEOPLE MEET...

 FACE TO FACE, DANCE  
 CHEEK TO CHEEK

 DANCE TOE TO TOE  
 DON'T MOVE TOO SLOW

 'CAUSE THE MAN FROM MARS  
 IS THROUGH WITH CARS,  
 HE'S LEAVING MARS...


RAPTURE, BE PURE

 TAKE A TOUR, THROUGH  
 THE SEWER

 DON'T STRETCH YOUR LEGS, POINT 2  
 TROIN! YOU'LL BE SINGIN IN THE RAIN!

Sven Vath can only be described as a master of modern dance music – a true leader of the party scene. Whilst not new to his trade, Vath is amongst a small group of DJs who stand at the pinnacle of sound-creation. Those who recently ventured to London to witness his set at Matter claimed that the night made them 'hear music in a whole new way'. And such reports do not come from club virgins, rather they are from the mouths of people who have chased the scene worldwide to bring some of the finest electronic acts to Leeds in the last decade. Sven is a serious DJ.

It is only natural that Sven, one of the World's best DJs, lets his Cocoon nights be run from Leeds best club, Mint. Mint is one of those clubs that gets it just right. Great door staff, a punchy Funktion-1 Soundsystem, a lights show only rivaled by Watergate in Berlin and a team of staff ensuring names like Loco Dice, Richie Hawtin and a just-announced System night featuring Cassy and Pedro (30th of May) play in our city, makes for a phenomenal night out. System (Mint)

have booked Sven Vath once more, this time to play in the beautiful settings of Temple Newsam in Leeds on the 27th June to bring the joint venture Cocoon System. Set in the grounds of a 450 year old mansion house, the festival site is an area of outstanding natural beauty surrounded by forests and a lake and will be open from midday until eleven. Not happy with just playing himself, Sven is bringing with him Luciano, Steve Bug and Adam Shelton. Luciano himself is an incredible DJ that is often viewed as one of the demi-gods that will soon be propelled to superstardom. His rare appearance adds an extra draw to an event that will feature dancers and a full lighting show.

Rather than have an event stuffed with mediocre filler, the promoters aim to give all the DJs (including the man himself) an extended set to do what they do best



 Wire

A list like this wouldn't be complete without a little homage to Wire. Far from slowing down in their amount of quality bookings in this run up to the end of term, there are 3 nights that you should think about queuing down to:

## NIGHT ONE

Subdub presents Exodus at Wire Friday May 22 10pm-4am

Subdub brings the welcome return of 2562, Cyrus and RSD to Leeds alongside up and coming producer and DJ Jack Sparrow, who is fresh from a Mala-invited set at the legendary DMZ night in London.

2562 (Tectonic)  
 Cyrus (Tectonic)  
 Red (Punch Drunk / Tectonic / Earwax)  
 Henry G (Gangsta Boogie)  
 Jack Sparrow (Earwax/Tectonic/Contagious)  
 Exodus (Subdub)  
 Signus (Radio Frequency)  
 Hosted By MC Farze  
 Sound on the night by the Central B&Z Symbiosis Sound Systems

Tickets £7 / MOTD. Tickets - Tribe, Jumbo & Crash

## NIGHT TWO

Momentum – Friday 29th May – 10pm-6am

Leeds' underground drum and bass smasher returns for another instalment this time featuring the talents of none other than Marcus Intalex.

Marcus Intalex (Soul:R / Metalheadz) Techno > Dnb Set  
 Lenzmen (Metalheadz / Shogun / Critical)  
 Julien (Samurai) Alternative Set  
 3rd Generation Digital  
 Subvert  
 Joga  
 MCJC

Supported with a ton of extra bass from the Central B&Z Soundsystem

£5 before 12 / £6 members / £7 normal entrance

## NIGHT THREE

Ruffage – 3rd Birthday – Wednesday 3rd June – 10pm-4am

It is hard to believe Ruffage is three years old already. From humble beginnings, Ruffage is now a serious contender in the Leeds club market. They have managed to book Peverelist to return to the North for only his second performance in Leeds. His productions are peerless in their effortless originality, attracting support not only from the dubstep scene but also from house and techno heads such as Shed, Ricardo Villalobos and Pole.

Peverelist (Punch Drunk / Tectonic)  
 L.D. [Hyperdub / Transition Studios]  
 Ramadanman b2b Ben UFO [Hessle Audio / SoulJazz]  
 Signus [Ruffage]  
 £5 before 11. £6 after.

words/ cryptic pete



relentlessly work a crowd. Voted as best northern event by DJ magazine, this is not only the biggest event that Leeds will see all Summer, but the biggest Summer event in the whole north of England.

It is advisable to book these tickets soon, as the demand has already been huge! Tickets are a bargain at £35 and can be bought online from Resident Advisor and wegotickets.com and in Leeds from Crash & Jumbo Records.

words/ sam donnison

**COMPETITION!**

Cocoon System has kindly donated 100 tickets to the event for this event to Leeds Student. To enter to win a prize simply email your full name, email address and mobile number to: [clarenz@themintclub.com](mailto:clarenz@themintclub.com)

**EVENTS AT WIRE/**

# UNOFFICIAL BALL AFTER PARTY/

PREVIEW

The Faversham 06.06.09 - Barn Unit Room

## THE SUMMER BALL AFTER PARTY



On the night of the Friday June 5 every student is going to be partying in Leeds. Why? Well the day officially marks the end of term and there's also the biggest student Summer Ball in the country going on. Some people like to party, and then some people REALLY like to party. To accommodate for the latter grouping (and to be honest, if it's your last night out in Leeds, if you gonna go out, why not go ALL out), all of Leeds' most infamous party crews have collaborated to bring you a special event that Leeds has never been seen before.

Brought to you by the people behind HANG THE DJI, ASYLUM, MYSTIC BREW, VAGABONDZ, NEW BOHEMIA, CENTRAL BEATZ, HEADS UP! and BIGGER THAN BARRY is the AFTERPARTY 3-9am (Saturday morning) at the Faversham.

The ONLY party to hit after the Ball will have 3 rooms of groundbreaking, underground fresh-to-death music to keep you partying until the early hours.

ROOM 1 - Hosted by Vagabondz, New Bohemia, Central Beatz  
Music Policy D&B, Hip Hop, Dubstep, Dub,

Roots, Reggae

CONSERVATORY Hosted by Heads Up! and Bigger the Barry  
Music Policy Grime, Garage, Techno, Indie, Bassline and Ghetto-House  
GIMP ROOM Hosted By Asylum, Hang the Dji and Mystic Brew  
Music Policy - House, Disco, Electro and the finest underground dance music.

Tickets are selling extremely well for this event already (after 2 days onsale) it is looking likely that it will sell out. The only way to guarantee entry is to buy a ticket

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE ARK RECEPTION UPSTAIRS IN THE UNION FOR £5

and also available from:

Ticketweb.com // Jumbo // Hukaz // Student Union (ARK) // Sam (07921705953) //

Don't be square. One last rave.

words/cryptic pete

# VICE STAG AND DAGGER FESTIVAL/

PREVIEW

Various venues across Leeds

Sometimes an event is put on where you can't help but feel the organizers are spoiling you a little. Such events usually pack in a slab of quality music into a short space of time. If you're luckier still, they do it for as cheap as possible, saving us punters a few more pounds for alcoholic accompaniments that day. Afterwards in your daze you look back and think 'how could something have been that good?'

The upcoming Stag and Dagger festival on Friday May 22 is one such event. Started in 2008 in London's east-end by the uber-cool Vice magazine, S&D has now extended to take the festival on the road to Leeds and Glasgow. This year, Vice have teamed up with Adventures In the Beatroot Field, Margaret and The Iron Wagon to bring you more bands and DJs. Instrumental in bringing it all together has been one of Leeds' un-sung heroes, Ash who has also been responsible for dozens of gigs in Leeds and the ever-popular Nastyfest series. But enough of the sponsors when there are musical delights to discuss. A handful of the acts playing (at time of press, more TBC) are:

ABE VIGODA, CASIOKIDS, CASPER C (BLOGGERS DELIGHT), COLD WAR KIDS, CRYSTAL ANTLERS, HEADS UP, KING CRBOSOTE, LOVEFOXX (CSS DJ SET), THE MAB SHI, JUMDANCE, RAISED BY WOLVES, SKULL JUICE, TOMB CREW, TWILIGHT SA, VIVIAN GIRLS, YOUTH ATTACK, WHITE DENIM, WINTERSLEEP

The event starts at 6pm across the following venues in LEEDS: The Faversham, TJ's Liberal Club, Upstairs at The Library, The Packhorse, Brudenell Social Club, Joseph's Well, Nation of Shopkeepers, with the after-party being held at the Faversham to the daylight hours.

Get your tickets priced at £15 from [www.staganddagger.com](http://www.staganddagger.com)

Its all very coincidental that such a road-show comes to Leeds as the following night sees the public opening of a unique new pub, NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS. Nation of Shopkeepers is brought to you by the people behind North London institution the Lock Tavern, as well as the Amersham Arms in New Cross, Bungalows and Bears in Sheffield and Start the Bus in Bristol. Taking over Grade II listed building that is currently The Courtyard (thank fuck!), the venue will feature a wide, irregular array of live music events, DJ nights, and everything either side. It opens on Saturday 23rd and keeping the party going will be:

Sat May 23 - Opening Night  
LOVEFOXX (CSS DJ SET) and friends

Sun May 24  
NATHAN FAKE (BORDERS COMMUNITY)

Who could ask for more. Viva Nation of Shopkeepers.

words/sam donnison



Comp:

NEW BO!

NEW BOHEMIA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS LARGEST EVER COMPETITION IN ASSOCIATION WITH LEEDS STUDENT.

This prize includes:

- 1) Free entry (+1) to every New Bohemia event on Friday at the Faversham.
- 2) Free entry (+1) to every New Bohemia event run in conjunction with LUU (approx 3 a term).
- 3) A pair of tickets to Exodus Festival in Petrcane, Croatia
- 4) A whole load of First Word, Ninja Tune and Tru Thoughts goodies.

THE PRIZES TOTAL OVER £1000!

To win this prize, simply send your name and phone number to [Sam.clubs@leedsstudent.org](mailto:Sam.clubs@leedsstudent.org).

It's that easy.

Exodus to Croatia 2009  
11th - 13th September

SOUNDWAVE  
FESTIVAL LEEDS

Preview:

Moustache

Nights out aren't always just about the biggest raves, it's about those unpretentious evenings of party anthems. Moustache seems to do that every Tuesday at The Subculture and it sells super cheap booze as well! All for £2 NUS - bargain.



## FILM /

## The best been and gone:

**Rachel Getting Married.** This floated quietly through cinemas in March of this year. Bypassing the larger cinema chains, this fantastic film failed to garner the attention it rightly deserved. Starring Ann Hathaway as an ex-addict who returns home for her sister's wedding, this film marked a change in the already booming career of the young actress. No longer was she simply a chick-flick star, but an accomplished dramatic actress.

**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.** Winning the Marmite film award of 2009. Movie goes either loved or hated this film. As if people didn't have enough reasons to be jealous of Brad Pitt, in this film he actually ages backwards. With a running time of almost three hours, some complained they wish they could age backwards so they could erase that film. However, the film was still able to earn a shed load of awards and make gazillions at the box office.

**Slumdog Millionaire.** It would be hard to make a list of the top films this year without mentioning the gigantic success that is

**Slumdog Millionaire.** Danny Boyle originally had concerns that they wouldn't be able to sell this film to a studio. Thank god they did as this film stole the hearts of everyone who watched it. It's fair to say that of all the kids in Skins, the lanky Asian one who got naked all the time is not really who people would expect to be in an Oscar winning film.

## The best still to come:

**Dorian Gray.** This timeless Oscar Wilde fable is set to grace our screens in the autumn with an impressive collection of British talent including Colin Firth and Emilia Fox. Ben Barnes (Prince Caspian) plays the dissipated fop with the magical portrait. Let's hope Oliver Parker (director of 2002's *Importance of Being Ernest* and recent success *St. Trinian's*) does this English classic some justice.

**Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince.** You're

never too old to love a bit of Harry Potter and with the young actors improving with each film, the sixth instalment looks set to be the best yet. Now filmed partially in 3-D, fans will be able to immerse themselves further into the darkest film so far of the franchise. With the death of a rather important wizarding figure – oh bugger the hidden message, you've

all read it anyway – Dumbledore this may be another film where a box of tissues could be handy.

**Bruno.** (pictured) Laughter is returning to the cinema if the 'wonderful' form of Austrian gay fashion reporter Bruno. In a similar vein to Borat, Sacha Baron Cohen's newest character travels around America generally making everyone from homophobic conservatives to white trash single mothers look ridiculous. If the trailer is anything to go from, Bruno will be an hysterical film which people will be quoting from until Baron Cohen brings out an even better creation.

words/ fiona lamont & david hayes

## ART SHOWS /

## The best been and gone:

**Against Nature: The Hybrid Forms of Modern Sculpture** How natural is nature? This Henry Moore Institute exhibition explored the hybridisation of all that is God-given and that which is man-made, man-muddled and man morphed. 100 years of sculptural hybridisation were spanned with famous pieces from Hans Arp, Umberto Boccioni and Louise Bourgeois, along with many previously unseen works. An exhibition of juxtapositions – the famous and the unfamiliar; the old and new. The interesting positioning of the sculptures shed new light on classical precedents.

**William Turner: Watercolour Masterpieces of the Northern Landscape** Ongoing exhibition at Temple Newsam House bringing Turner and other heavyweights in landscape watercolour back to the North. Turner has often been celebrated for his paintings of Venice, but the North of England was an inspiration for him, especially Otley, which he returned to time and time again. Although the Temple Newsam is a fair trek, the exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to see works from the likes of Turner, Cotman and Girtin. *Until 19th July.*

## The best still to come:

Postmodern, Britart, cork dissecting, shark embalming extraordinaire Damien Hirst is going back to his roots, with an exhibition at his old stomping ground, the Leeds College of Art and Design. Pop across the road from campus to check out his latest work and engage in the ongoing debate on contemporary art: Is it Art or is it bullshit? *Until 8th June*

**Gay Icons:** This exhibition, opening at the National Portrait gallery, races through the past one hundred years of gay, social and cultural history, with portraits ranging from Quentin Crisp and Harvey Milk to Will Young and the Village People. *2nd July - 18th October*

The glorious Tate Modern conjures up yet another gem with an exhibition dedicated to 'Futurism'. This art movement, innovated by the Italian poet Marinetti, shortly before the outbreak of the First World War, engages with the dynamic power of modernity and technology, rejecting the classical traditions of renaissance art. Highlights of the exhibition include sculptures and paintings by Picasso and Duchamp. *12th June - September*

future words/ carmen mccullough  
past words/ nali sivathanan

## FESTIVALS /

Festivals reign supreme - the summer equivalent of Christmas, they're what you've been waiting and wishing for all year. And the arts has their fair share of them - whether it be a Glasto-style Latitude fest in July, a teatro-comic-dance-extravaganza that is the Edinburgh Fringe in August, or (closer to home) Leeds uni's own Barefoot in the Park Poetry Festival in June...

**The Fringe.** Imagine Edinburgh city centre overrun with kilt-wearing bagpipemen, cheered on by a crowd, and making an almighty ruckus. Nothing out of the ordinary? Well then, now picture Edinburgh city centre overrun with men and women dressed in nu-nu outfits and men in costume, singing in harmony, while men all in black perform comedy routines, passersby are pelted with flyers by man-sized bananas, AND kilt-wearing bagpipe men are surrounded by a massive cheering crowd. And that's just the promotion.

For the main event, think thousands of performances at hundreds of venues, from theatres to tiny tea rooms, all taking place in a month of arts-fuelled insanity. Glorious. Participants vary from students to devoted theatre companies, and LUU's own Theatre Group are taking up two productions for the



photo/ suse davis crook

trillionth year running. So book a megabus seat for a pound, a hostel bed for under twenty quid, and set aside time to seriously indulge.

**Latitude** is a unique festival and particularly popular amongst undergrads at top universities – for it magically balances big acts and woodland rave parties bizarrely with intellectualism: lakeside poetry events and big author book-signings.

The atmosphere is the friendliest of any UK festival, with lots of families buying day tickets, and all set around the woods of a private estate in Suffolk. This year's headliners are Pet Shop Boys, Grace Jones and Nick Cave. Other popular acts on the line-up this year are Bat For Lashes, Passion Pit and White Lies. Bookworms – check out readings from Brian Patten, Jackie Kay and Simon Armitage. Comedy fans – Shappi Khorsandi, Jack Whitehall, Mark Lamarr and Robin Ince.

**Barefoot In The Park.** One of the few events to happen right here in Hyde Park, and it's beautiful and free. Barefoot is a day-long poetry festival, a mixture of story-tellers, acoustic musicians, and some rockstars of the spoken word world. Picture lying back with a flask and some cake, letting acutely chosen words drift across the air, poetry brushing the tips of your hair in the gentle summer breeze, and when it all finishes you're only 3 minutes away from the pub. Bliss.

words/vicky ellis & jack cullen

## UNION /

## The best been and gone:

**Cinderella Uncut** (pictured) LUU's first student pantomime delighted and excited audiences with a modern outlook on "Cinderella." Written by a group of undergraduates, it put smiles on everyone's faces with its wit, fair share of sexual innuendos and great acting cast.

**A Street Car Named Desire** - TG's production of the Tennessee-Williams classic delivered a compelling evening of intense, powerful drama. A brilliant acting cast, especially Skye Stoppani as Blanche, Huw Beynon as Stanley and Lucy Wells' as Stella, all of whom did great justice to the play.

## The best still to come:

**Alice in Wonderland:** Alice in Wonderland...? Think again. Alice in a nightclub...? Spot on. From Ravenrock, the creators of the sell-out show, *Dracula*, comes another Total Theatre adaptation of a popular classic. Combining Acting, Dance, Puppetry and an original dance sound track; 'Alice' will be another explosive spectacle with Ravenrock's signature dark twist. *20th-23rd May 7.30pm Stage@Leeds Sat matinee 2.30pm*

words/ charlotte gill



photo/ dan wheeler

# THEATRE /

## The best been and gone:

**Othello** (West Yorkshire Playhouse) Yeah, yeah. Lenny Henry doing Shakespeare. We get it. While the comedian-turned-thespian just about managed to live up to all of the hype, the real treat here was Conrad Nelson's scheming, morally and physically contorted Iago. Almost singlehandedly, it was his relentless stalking and manipulation which made the Playhouse's wide stage feel so small and claustrophobic, making the eventual tragedy as inevitable as, say, a Vicar of Dibley Christmas special.

**The Hounding of David Oluwale** (WYP) Juggling themes of place and displacement, justice, family love and institutional hate within the city, credit goes to Oladipo Agboluaje for managing to just about contain this true story of a Nigerian immigrant's 1969 murder at the hands of Leeds policemen. Far from being a straightforward retelling of a murky episode in the city's history, the production was brave and innovative in its

weaving together of urban realism and Oluwale's chilling, from-beyond-the-grave narration. Performances were phenomenal (particularly Daniel Francis in the title role), with the bleak northern, urban landscape looming over the story as a character in itself.

**Mine** (WYP) A well-off couple are happy with their newly adopted daughter. But soon the peace of their middle-class family life is disrupted by the arrival of the girl's mum – a drug addict working as a prostitute. Here, images of parenthood and childhood cleverly became caught up together in the ghostly character of the adoptive mum's 'inner child' who hauntingly appears to her throughout – an innovative presentation executed well through lighting and video.



photo/ catherine ashmore

# OPERA /

## The best been and gone:

**The Magic Flute**. LUU's Opera Soc performed Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with magnificent results. Focusing on themes of enlightenment and freemasonry, they aimed to modernise the production with a 'Mighty Boosh' touch. Scott Penn and Julia Bower particularly excelled in their roles and left the audience reeling for more.

**The Convicts' Opera**. Ok, so this may not be an opera in the traditional sense but it says opera in the title so it works. Stephen Jeffrey's adaptation of John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* at WYP was overshadowed slightly by Lenny Henry's residency as Othello. However, this play was an interesting take on an original opera. Exchanging the traditional arias for more modern tunes such as The Proclaimers' 500 miles, 'served in once again modernising the play for a younger audience.

**Don Carlos** – (pictured) Still playing at the Grand Theatre, this Opera North production of Verdi's classic is a triumph. Sung in English, with a cast of outstanding singers, this has received a number of glowing reviews. Julian Gavin and Jane Dutton both sing with amazing talent, bringing out their characters' true emotions. It may not have the 'youth' appeal, but this opera sticks to its roots and comes out on top.



photo/ clive barda

## The best still to come:

**Paradise Moscow**. Another Opera North production, this is a version of Cheryomushki, Shostakovich's forgotten 'opera' – a fast-paced, light-hearted musical that sends the audience out into the street humming a rousing chorus of 'Cheryomushki!' Paradise Moscow mixes realism and fantasy, romance and villainy, in a comedy satire. The music goes from wildly tuneful dance music to lyrical ballads and all points in between.  
19 May & 26 June 7.15pm Grand Theatre

**The Abduction From the Seraglio**. Opera North continue their season with Mozart's comic opera. Mozart's music is full of drama, beauty and youthful energy. In this new production, sung in English, director Tim Hopkins gives a modern interpretation to the story that was originally set in 18th century Turkey. This comic tale explores tensions and misunderstandings that can arise when one culture collides with another.  
20, 22 May, 23rd, 25, 27 June 7.15pm Grand Theatre

**The Weatherman**. To mark the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, a new chamber opera by composer Paul Clark and librettist John Binias will be at the Howard Assembly Room. The opera follows the story of the relationship between Captain Robert Fitzroy and Charles Darwin during their epic, five-year circumnavigation of the globe.  
17th & 18th July 8pm Howard Assembly Room

words/ fiona lamont

## The best still to come:

**His Dark Materials** (pictured: Lyra with Iorek Brynson) Philip Pullman's trilogy is magically recreated on stage once more in this new, two-part touring adaptation. With 25 puppets, 25 members of the acting company playing over 70 characters, and 100 costumes all sewn and created by a team of 7 people (including 8 fake fur coats for the polar bears) this is a massive-scale production. It's set to look glorious too, with 307 props, 2 pairs of fake breasts, 2 pairs of fake hands complete with chopped off finger, and approximately 960 fairy lights used...  
28th May- 20th June WYP

**Bedroom Farce** I had a hard time understanding the short summary of this spaghetti plot, but this looks like it could be a lot of fun. The gist – "four couples, only three bedrooms" – suggests a cheeky romp and between-the-sheets politics, (unless you're watching a Louis Theroux documentary, in which case it means overweight couples who like swinging).  
6th June - 4th July 7.45pm WYP

**A Night Less Ordinary**. Remember: To those of us lucky enough to be under 26, "A Night Less Ordinary" is handing out FREE tickets for theatre showings all over the country (London included). Be sure to make the most of it! Visit [anightlessordinary.org.uk](http://anightlessordinary.org.uk) for details.

words/matt hutchinson

# THE BEST OF THE REST /

## The best still to come:

**Eternal Light**. Possibly the best way to truly celebrate the end of exams, after a relaxed day in the park, go to see the Rambert Dance Company, coming to Leeds for only three nights at the start of June. This dazzlingly talented creative force first came to my attention as a result of their collaboration with costume-designer Stephen Jones, who has designed outfits for Marilyn Manson concerts, Goldfrapp album covers and Gwen Stefani music videos. Mark Baldwin creates his second major show for Rambert called *Eternal Light*. Don't miss the opportunity to see it here in Leeds. The dancers are simply incredible and the sheer energy of any Rambert production is enough to inspire you for a whole summer.  
4th-6th June Leeds Grand Theatre 7.30pm & Sat matinee 2.30pm

**In the Mood for Love**. A multi-award winning romantic drama, evoking dream-like sensuality and an unusually powerful synthesis of imaginative music and minimal dialogue. Directed by Wong Kai Nai, the film is set in Hong Kong in 1962, and tells the story of the developing relationship between a lonely secretary and a newspaper editor.  
28 May 8pm Howard Assembly Room

**Oh What A Lovely War**. Royal Academy of Music's final performance includes 3 Leeds Uni graduates in this stage musical about WW1. Hot talent from tip-top, up and coming performers.  
25th-28th June 7.30pm, Sir Jack Lyons Theatre, Royal Academy of Music

words/ jack cullen

# THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

## THEATRE REVIEW

Seven Arts Centre

13/05 15/05



The thought of an existence without men can sometimes seem tempting. However, TG's production of Lorca's play *The House of Bernarda Alba*, effectively take this notion one step further, to present the dire consequences of a world where men are strictly forbidden. Set in the 1930's, *The House of Bernarda Alba* follows the lives of a tyrannical mother, Bernarda Alba and her five daughters, who have suffered from a domineering lack of contact with the opposite sex throughout their lives. Following the death of their father, Bernarda imposes a period of mourning on the house which is to last eight years.

The play follows the repressed lust and passion of the five girls, as the eldest daughter prepares to marry. The plot begins to unravel when the youngest daughter starts a clandestine affair with her older sister's fiancé, monitored jealously by her other sisters, with tragic consequences.

For those of us with a greater appetite for sausage, this ban on men might sound hellish. Indeed, the play evokes a sense of imprisonment and oppression masterfully, with a stellar cast directed by Nathan Wood and Rachel Ashwanden. Roxy Faridany provides some much needed comic relief, as the tragedy unfolds, pitting herself against the disturbingly unsettling Bernarda, played by Imogen Turner. The five daughters are equally successful in exuding the jealousy and overbearing lust of repressed youth, contrasted with the terrifying insanity of their imprisoned grandmother.

The distinct lack of male actors heightens the sense of forbidden passion, and we become fully immersed in the matriarchal world of an obsessive, tyrannical mother. The setting of the play adds to this sense of confinement. The white walls are stifling and the birdcage hung from the ceiling is symbolic of the entrapped lifestyle of each girl.

Much of the audience will have left the performance with a greater sense of gratitude to their own mothers and perhaps a newfound doubt in former "nerves of steel". This is surely testament to the spine tingling success of the play.

words/ shirin marker

## Orientalising the Orient

### BOOKS COMMENT

Adreyo Sen explores how India is presented in fiction

One of my undergraduate English courses, a seminar called Sympathetic Ink, amused me greatly. The authors wrote about an India that didn't exist – complete with flying carpets, dark intrigue and dancing nautch girls.

In an Archie's comic, deliciously snotty Veronica Lodge flirts with a bejeweled young rajah complete with an elephant. The comic was published in the 90s when rajahs were more or less extinct and elephants existed only in the zoos or the jungles.

In *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, three priests with magical powers and a Bond-like penchant for disguise come to England to take back the gem stolen from their temple. Not only do they kill and loot with finesse, they speak excellent English!

The most annoying misrepresentations of India are by Indian film makers catering to a Western audience. In Mira Nair's film adaptation of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, clerks' offices and officer enclaves were replaced by vast expanses of sand and garish women dancing to the tunes of film music.

Bollywood made my classmates believe that all Indians are stinking rich, live in mansions, dance around bar poles and fight daily with their mothers-in-law.

According to the novel, Indian exports to England were chivalrous magicians, voluptuous slaves, magnificently cruel aristocrats and, oh yes, oily clerks. A nubile

maiden slave dancer is chained by a monarch in the masque scene in *Vanity Fair* and a cruel magician in Gaskell's provincial *Cranford* is believed to spirit away pianos and savings from the houses of unsuspecting spinsters. A magnificently angry sage condemns a young English blood to perpetual penury in *Lalla Rookh*. In *Kim* is the superb English invention: the docile babu, the Westernized, slightly ridiculous Indian who finishes his sentences with an 'old boy' and asks for your 'good name'.

What's potentially dangerous about these



same demographic, namely budget travellers on longer trips attempting to spin a small amount of cash out for as long as possible, each takes its own distinctive approach. Most travellers will use one or the other, and are liable to have any number of inventive reasons for their preference. So what is all the fuss about? The *Rough Guide to Central America on a Budget* provides a great deal of background information to know-before-you-go, and it is presented in a witty, informative and enjoyable style (along with a few iconic photos at the start to get your imagination running wild). It begins by covering comprehensively the basics of culture, health and safety, history and etiquette so that before you even begin planning the specifics of your trip, you have a good idea of what to expect from the places you will be visiting. It is in the main body of the guide, with location-specific information on sightseeing, hotels,

books is that their (hopefully) gentle readers thoroughly misconceive Indians. And when they do encounter them in real life, they are unable to fit them into their pre-set category. The poor 'other' becomes doubly mysterious and is unable to satisfy the demands to see his pet elephant.

Of course, the Orient is equally guilty of fetishising the Occident. In James Clavell's *Taiwan*, Third Toiletmaid Fung is entranced by her hotel's Californian guest and her, err... umm... pubes. Nicknamed Golden Pubes, this poor woman is unaware that she is the subject of the lustful fantasies of the entire hotel staff.

The English woman fares badly in books about pre-independence India by Indian writers. She is portrayed as a pushover who can easily be conned by any handsome Indian man. In the Indian independence struggle series *Gaatha* a married English woman lusts after the exceptional testimonials of her husband's secretary and ends her life as one of his many abused mistresses. In Bhisam Sahni's *Tamas*, the collector's bored wife who lies on the sofa in her housecoat all day long seduces the gardener and has a child by him. Ditto in Ruth Praver *Jhabwalla's Heat and Dust*.

Now I really must see what my pet elephant is up to.

words/ adreyo sen

## Rough Guide to Central America on a Budget

### REVIEW



Being an avid user of the *Lonely Planet* guidebooks when exploring pastures new, switching to the *Rough Guide* in planning a trip to Central America was an interesting experience. Whilst these two giants of the independent travel sector both cater to largely the

same demographic, namely budget travellers on longer trips attempting to spin a small amount of cash out for as long as possible, each takes its own distinctive approach. Most travellers will use one or the other, and are liable to have any number of inventive reasons for their preference. So what is all the fuss about? The *Rough Guide to Central America on a Budget* provides a great deal of background information to know-before-you-go, and it is presented in a witty, informative and enjoyable style (along with a few iconic photos at the start to get your imagination running wild). It begins by covering comprehensively the basics of culture, health and safety, history and etiquette so that before you even begin planning the specifics of your trip, you have a good idea of what to expect from the places you will be visiting. It is in the main body of the guide, with location-specific information on sightseeing, hotels,

exhilaration of finally getting a lift, thanks to the kindness of strangers.

For those who haven't, let me fill you in. Hitchhiking is nothing like the films with Rutger Hauer/Sean Bean. I'm 99.999% sure of that. It's an adventure and a half and you meet the most interesting folk.

Joe Mack's *1968 and I'm Hitchhiking Through Europe* is an excellent account of hitchhiking as a 21-year-old and is littered with fascinating encounters that actually happened from riding with political prisoners to Slovenian monks. Mack keeps pace throughout, and opens to you the unknown.

Given that the critical event during this period is the Vietnam War, American opinion in Europe isn't exactly the most welcoming,

yet Mack offers some interesting perspectives and experiences. The very fact that he essentially offers two accounts – one, of his eclectic travels, and two – his disillusionment of America, highlights the escapist ideals that echo Kerouac. There is a constant debate between politics and society everywhere he goes, which is insightful given the whole Cold War backdrop where apparently you couldn't even trust your allies.

Hitchhiking culture today has an extremely misconceived view of knife-wielding maniacs; however, if you want to get a taste of a time when people were genuinely trusting, this is it.

words/ ali hung

## Spain

### FIVE OF THE BEST

Spain is officially the number one holiday destination for British tourists. You're probably going there this summer, aren't you? Read up on where you're going and earn that sangria. ¡Olé!

#### Tales of the Alhambra

Washington Irving  
Imprisoned lives, headless horses, dashing Moors and sexy guitar music: Irving's short stories evoke ancient, exotic Granada with a large helping of fairytale and a spoonful of history lesson.

#### Homage to Catalonia

George Orwell  
In 1936 Orwell set off to fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War, living in trenches, fighting on the front line, and very nearly getting himself killed. An interesting insider's perspective on political idealism and disillusionment in Spain.

#### Ghosts of Spain

Giles Tremlett  
In a bold attempt to understand the modern Spaniard, Tremlett investigates themes as diverse as Basque terrorism, the roadside sex industry, prison flamenco competitions, and the notorious 'Costa del Crime'.

#### The Shadow of the Wind

Carlos Ruiz Zafón  
Novelist Ruiz Zafón is possibly Spain's third finest export, after Rioja and siestas. In 1940s Barcelona, ten-year-old Daniel is taken to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. He becomes obsessed with as certain book he finds there, and discovers frightening similarities between himself and the author.

#### Living Over Lemons

Chris Stewart  
Ex-rockstar goes to live on rundown farm on isolated Andalusian mountainside, makes friends with local peasants and oddballs, and acquires some sheep. It's now a standard formula, but charming nonetheless.

words/ rebecca miles



## 1968 and I'm Hitchhiking Through Europe

### REVIEW

Joe Mack

Some of you who've done the RAG Morocco/Paris/Amsterdam Charity Hitchhike knows the kind of experience you get. The weird but thoroughly amazing banter with drivers, the seemingly endless wait in the sun/wind/rain...and the





# To gig or not to gig

Paddy Considine is famous for his powerful portrayals in front of a camera. Now he's turned his attention to performing on stage with his new band. He talks to LS2 about their struggles for credibility, music videos and inhibitions (or lack of).

**B**efore I had a band I called myself Riding the Low," Paddy Considine grows in his elusive midlands accent, explaining the genesis of his recently-formed group's moniker. For a man who made his name in film - perhaps most famously as Richard in Shane Meadows' 2005 classic, *Dead Man's Shoes* - this switch to music will come as a surprise to many. Yet Considine is at pains to impress that the area of artistic expression to which he has now turned his focus was within him all along. "I was bought a guitar about 15 years ago and I just started writing songs. I didn't know how to play guitar but I learnt and ended up writing about 50 different songs and sketches, different bits and pieces. Now I'm at a point where I just wanna do what the hell I want."

History is littered with actors who've turned musicians with just as many singer/songwriters making the reverse journey; from Russell Crowe's 30 Odd Foot of Grunts to Keanu Reeves' Dogstar and back again with Madonna's numerous cinematic attempts. For the most part these film/music translations are failed - or at least short of the heights climbed in the initial profession - with only a few maintaining credibility in each domain. With this less than successful track record behind others like him, Considine reckons he's fighting a battle for proper recognition.

"People come to these shows and think, 'Oh it's Paddy Considine. It's the guy from *Dead Man's Shoes*, let's go,'" he says. "Let's be honest, actors who say they're in bands, you know, nine times outta ten the band ain't good."

While the motivation for people to attend RTL's musical performances may be rooted in Considine's success as an actor - and not how the band would essentially want to attract fans - it unavoidably grants them a ready-made following nonetheless. But is this predicament a gift - with a level of interest acquired before any songs are played - or a curse - with a stigma attached from the off that is always difficult to get away from?

"It's inevitable people do come along for that reason," Considine concedes. "I'd be lying if I said people didn't come through the door at first and think, 'Here's the guy, will you sign this? Can I get an autograph?' We've done a gig before and someone used a picture from *Dead Man's Shoes* on a poster. I said, 'Dude, you gotta get rid of that picture because it's the wrong message: we're a band. Don't kinda use that film angle because it's non-existent when we play and sing all together,'" he says before struggling to

verbalise the difficulty of coming to terms with some of the crowd's pre-gig expectations. "There's quite a satisfaction... It's like they're all dumbfounded when they say, 'We didn't expect it to be'... I honestly don't think they expect it to be any good; they think it's gonna be crap!"

It seems quality is the only way to persuade observers of his authenticity and generate a more genuine backing. "Now we're getting a following cause people are getting past that thing of it's an actor in a band they actually just think, 'Fuckin' hell, we really like these songs.'"

Hailing from Burton-upon-Trent in Staffs, Considine made his name through a string of stirring - and at times disturbing - performances in highly-acclaimed movies. He starred as an Irish immigrant in 2002's Oscar-nominated *In America*; a psychotic killing-machine out to avenge his retarded brother in Meadows' *Dead Man's Shoes* (which Considine co-wrote); and a more-again Christian in the 2004 film, *My Summer of Love*, which was set and filmed

## If Riding the Low took off tomorrow, I would have no regrets about never making a film ever again

entirely in West Yorkshire. He has also appeared as a Guardian journalist in Hollywood blockbuster *The Bourne Ultimatum*, as a comically inept small-town cop in *Hot Fuzz*; and interestingly, due to its musical significance, as Rob Gretton, Joy Division/New Order's manager in the fantastically trippy *24 Hour Party People*. This year he played the detective in charge of the 1980s hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper in the grim *Red Riding* trilogy. It was a performance that sent a chill down the spine of anyone who lived in Leeds at the time.

At various times in his career Considine has also starred in a handful of music videos, most notably for the Arctic Monkeys' track *Leave Before the Lights Come On* and Coldplay's single *God Put A Smile Upon Your Face*. According to

the actor these ventures came at a time when he hadn't worked for a while and was "skint, sitting around doing nothing." While these projects came about through circumstance and weren't linked to his own musical efforts they still publicised his involvement with the industry. So, now that he could be required for his own band's videos soon, what is their music like?

"I just think it's quite immediate," Considine states laconically. "We come from that 90s indie rock place. It is lo-fi but it's not kind of twee. What we are basically is a rock 'n' roll band. Chris [Baldwin, guitar] likes *The Smashing Pumpkins* and Justin [Chambers, drums] likes *Metallica*. All these influences seem to come in the room and, I don't know, it seems to work."

Considine says the initial spark of creation came from listening to American indie rock band Guided By Voices. "I really started to get into [songwriter] Robert Pollard's work. That was really the main inspiration for me getting up and wanting to start a band. It was like the punk thing. In '77 when people were saying, 'Man, I can be in a band. I don't have to have been playing guitar for years and know all the scales.' It gives you the courage to get off your ass and go and do something."

As well as starting the band, Considine christened it. In fact the name can be seen as a symbol of relief from his films, borne out of a reaction against his acting career yet inextricably entwined with it.

"The name is from a fantastic book about Lee Marvin, written by his wife," Considine says. "Marvin was an amazing, amazing actor. Reading it I found I was having similar symptoms to him. He would do a movie and when he finished he'd find it quite difficult to get back into normal life. Just because of the characters, just because film sets are not very normal environments to be in - it's quite concentrated. You're under the microscope for a couple of months and the rest of the world don't exist. We're got people around you all day then all of a sudden you go from that to being back at home again. You're relieved but somehow there's an adjustment period where you start to feel a little

depressed.

"I got it really bad after doing my first film, *Romeo Brass* [in 1999]. I remember reading this book and Lee Marvin having this same thing. He was talking to his psychiatrist who said, 'You should call that period in your life 'riding the low'. It's when you should go out and do the things you wanna do. I just remember reading it and going, 'That's the name of my band', despite not having one at the time."

Considine seems fuelled by a desire to spread his talents, unfettered, across a variety of platforms, with originality and creativity being the driving factors. Yet this uninhibited abandon is something that, for him, public stereotypes can limit.

"I think there's too much pressure on people; there's too many restrictions. It's only other's cynicism that doesn't allow for people like myself to say, 'I wanna write this year. I wanna direct. I'm gonna be in a band.' I think people kinda see it like all this stuff's done on whimsy. Riding the Low's a part of everything. It's a part of anything I've ever done, anything I've ever written or anything I'm ever about to direct," he explains before adding categorically: "If Riding the Low took off tomorrow, I would have no regrets about never making a film ever again."

It's intriguing to contemplate the comparisons between acting for a director in front of a lens and delivering a song on stage to a crowd of revellers. Each is a performance requiring varying degrees of persona and characterisation. For someone who has done both, is there any overlap between the two?

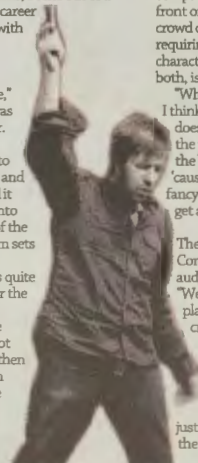
"When I act I try and find something truthful. I think that's the only thing that overlaps. It doesn't always make for spectacular acting all the time but it's truthful. It's the same with the band. We're not bullshitting; we're there 'cause we mean it. I'm not in a band because I fancy bein' a rock star for the weekend and I get an ego buzz. It needs to be done."

Riding the Low come to Leeds to play The Cockpit on Saturday May 30 and Considine is anticipating a dued-up audience.

"We're really looking forward to it. We've played a few times up in the North and the crowds have never had any inhibitions.

We're hoping Leeds is the same." Could he see himself making a living from gigging? "We'd love to play these songs to big audiences if they caught on; selling out is a teenage notion. We just wanna be a band. We've just gotta roll the dice on it a bit and see where it goes."

words/ laurie whitwell



# 'I loved filming in Hyde Park'

LS2 grabbed Lucy Davis, star of the Office, for a quick chat as she came to Leeds to open the new *Virgin Media* store. She is eager to chat about her new tv programme, *Married, Single, Other* and fills us in on her comedy history, some gossip on Ricky Gervais and how glad she is to be back in the country.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Lucy alongside Simon Pegg in *Shaun of the Dead*; as Dawn in the award-winning *The Office*; and with our two TV eds in Leeds



**So you are filming a new programme in Leeds called *Married, Single, Other*. Could you tell us a bit about it?**

It is a comedy-drama, which is comprised of six one hour episodes. It is written by Peter Souter. His words are very lyrical and follow a pattern which makes you enjoy saying them. Declan Lowney is the director, who also worked on *Father Ted* so I was very pleased to be working with him. The producer is Andy Harries who produced *Cold Feet* so overall it was a great team to be working with.

**And what is your character like?**

I'm the 'other' part of three couples who all fall under the categories of 'Married, Single, Other'. My partner Eddie is played

by Shaun Dooley, and Eddie and Issy have been together for 16 years. They have kids but she is set against getting married, although they are a great couple; probably the strongest couple. There is a good mixture of drama and comedy and the director knows when not to be too romanticised. I'm enjoying working on it and being back in England.

**How do you like Leeds as a city, working and living here?**

I don't know the city but I'm getting to know it more now. I loved filming in Hyde Park and the Victoria Quarter - there are some great shops.

**A lot of our readers will know you best**

**as Dawn from *The Office*, what was it like working on such a successful comedy?**

We had no idea how successful it would be, but everyone was really nice and really funny. I kept thinking I would be fired as I'm awful at not laughing. It is a comedy so I excused myself by saying that must mean it's funny. Ricky [Gervais] would always try and put you off your lines. For example, I can remember one scene where he was sitting at his desk and I had to open the drawer next to him and every time I did there was a new, fresh, obscene drawing, they were extremely detailed, it would have taken an artist months! I kept trying to blur my eyes so I didn't have to see them. I'm sad the programme ended but

felt it was at the right time.

**Do you watch the American equivalent of *The Office*?**

Yes, they are on their 4th season now with 22 episodes per season! I am a fan, Jenna Fischer who plays the equivalent of Dawn actually came to my wedding. Steve Carell is hilarious, he has such a funny but vulnerable face, this means although his character is a knob but you can't dislike him. This is very rare in an actor; he is very talented.

**You obviously have a love of comedy, are you influenced by your father? (Comedian Jasper Carrott)**

Obviously I watched him so I watched

comedy but my parents kept us out of the media so we had a very normal upbringing. Even now however, I prefer watching comedy. I have a short attention span so I find it easier to get into. I love programmes like *The Vicar of Dibley*, *Father Ted*, *Only Fools and Horses*, *Peep Show*, *Flight of the Concorde* and *Frasier*.

**What other programmes are you enjoying at the moment?**  
I am catching up with *30 Rock* and I am

can remember one scene where Ricky was sitting at his desk and I had to open the drawer next to him and every time I did there was a new, fresh, obscene drawing.

also watching *The Inbetweeners* and *The IT Crowd*. I have *TiVo* where I live in America, which is like *Sky Plus* here, and I am recording *Dr Phil*, *Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares* and lots of food programmes.

**Are there any comedy icons you would like to work with?**

I have been really lucky as I have got to work with Matthew Perry and Gary Shandling (who plays Larry Sanders) and then I would love to work with Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin. As an actress I'd love to work with Ashley Jensen because we are good friends.

**Finally, why are you supporting *Virgin Media*?**

It appeals to me because I am rubbish with technology and here everything is under one roof. I would not want to go to multiple stores if I was moving apartments and here they also let you try things out in the store so someone can actually show you how to use things.



## TV summer highlights

**Rupert Everett in Search of Byron Channel 4:** July  
Maybe English students get a bit more excited about this sort of thing than most normal human beings, but even so, this should be great viewing. Lord Byron is one of history's most seductively romantic figures – poet, sexual adventurer, revolutionary soldier – Shakespeare, Russell Brand and Che Guevara rolled into one. This series sees actor and rather obvious Byron enthusiast Rupert Everett, touring through the shining landscapes of the Mediterranean that Byron made his home, tracing the footsteps and imaginings of the poet. Nearly 200 years after his death, Lord Byron can still cause a stir it seems.

**Desperate Romantics BBC2:** July  
Maybe Art students get a bit more excited about this sort of thing than most normal human beings, but even so...hold on a minute we've been here before. Judging by the title this drama series about the scandalous activities of the Pre-Raphaelite Painters is aiming to be 'Desperate Housewives', but set in Victorian

England and with more swooning and less Eva Longoria. Hmm... Rafe Spall and Tom Hollander star. Tom Hollander by the way, seems to star in every period drama going. This may have something to do with the fact that he looks like every painting of a prominent Victorian you've ever seen.

**Mrs Mandela BBC4:** July  
Winnie Madikizela-Mandela – one-time anti-apartheid campaigner, now prominent South African politician, yet still, ironically, most famous for being Nelson Mandela's ex-wife – as the title of this historical drama series suggests. We can trust the people at BBC4 to make a fair and balanced of a complex and difficult life. Madikizela-Mandela is as reviled by some as she is worshipped by many. This series explains why. The excellent Sophie Okonedo takes on the title role, one that will require all the talent and sensitivity she can muster to do it justice. Should be a good, uncompromising look at an extraordinary woman and an even more extraordinary history.

words/ charlie cooper

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## Jam-lovers and Domesticity

**O**n toast, in sandwiches...I don't know what it is about jam. I just love it.' Thus spoke the fashionably clad young male to his group of friends, all of whom replied in the affirmative that, yes, they too loved jam. Oh, the joy of overheard conversations. Not long ago I was lucky enough to hear a harrowing story between two friends of one's experience of those men at the car-boot sale who were selling meat. Excellent.

There is something about eavesdropping that is inherent in all of us. Whether you think you are a nosy person or not, as soon as you overhear the words 'naked' or 'illegal' your interest will immediately be piqued. Whoever said that when you listen to other people talking you will never hear anything good has clearly not spent enough time pretending to listen to their iPod on public transport, whilst at the same time taking a lot of interest in the couple's domestic in front. He certainly looks sorry to you, but can she ever trust him again? As a nation obsessed with soap operas and reality TV, it can hardly be surprising that we are all very interested in the gossip we can hear for free. No, it doesn't matter that you don't know them; a good ten minutes of people-watching and you'll feel like you're practically family considering some of the things they have decided to tell the entire train.

However, the more I seem to learn about other people's lives through the stories I listen to, the more I wonder about the kind of things I must be broadcasting about myself without realising it. Granted, I pride myself on the fact that I

Oh, the joy of overheard conversations

have never had a full scale argument with anyone in a public space, but I cannot say with conviction that I've never relayed an embarrassing story to a friend in circumstances that were far from private. Isn't it those morning-after-the-night-before conversations that we all most enjoy hearing? I remember with clarity my naive sixth-form days when I would spend many bus journeys to college with my friend Phil, taking turns in telling each other stories that would invariably begin with "So this one time, when I was totally wasted...". The image of myself as I must have appeared to the rest of my fellow commuters is unpleasant to say the least.

So, before I judge those arguing couples or jam-lovers that I encounter, I think I might consider turning my iPod back up, and just hope that they haven't been listening to me.

words/robbyn law



## That's not my name

**I**wrote an article in this section of the newspaper a couple of months back on punk rock and my bitter disappointment in its current state of affairs. It may have shown a certain society in a negative light and controversy surrounded it in the following edition. Words such as 'narrow minded' 'simplistic' 'uninformed' and 'stereotypical' were just some of the accusations that came my way, names were mentioned but thankfully nobody's mother was dragged into the conflict. However, it was the last quoted lexical item that got me thinking recently (when I really should be concentrating on deadlines and revision for impending exams): if my article on Punk Rock was considered a bit radical and simplistic, then allow me to stay true to form and challenge the stereotype of challenging stereotypes.

I am X because I am not Y

Generally stereotypes are regarded as a negative way of living your life. If someone decides to place that nametag on you then you can guarantee that it is not a good thing. Similarly the person saying it to you will be uttering it in a pompous and all-knowing voice that suggests that they are better than you because they aren't stereotypical. However, what I want to suggest is that stereotypes aren't a bad thing at all. They are actually quite good. Quite essential. In fact, they are quite necessary to most people's perceptions of themselves as an individual. Stereotypes are not to be ignored.

Stereotypes are essential to our everyday lives because we constantly measure ourselves by them. For better or for worse, when we are confronted with a stereotype, on the street or on the TV, how well or poorly we conform to it is how we identify ourselves. I am X because I am not Y. We define ourselves through what we are not. All of those people that have shunned Burberry, Adidas and gold chains because Chavs started wearing them. All of those people who sneer at Ugg boots, denim skirts, intentional bed hair and nondescript hoodies with a nickname on the back. And one particular friend back home who hates camp homosexuals despite being gay himself; you should all be thankful that these stereotypes exist, because they allow us to take one look at them and do something completely the opposite.

So the next time you catch someone being stereotypical, just remember that having them around is helping you be just that bit more individual, or stereotypical...depending on how many people you influence.

words/matthew allinson



## Fuck you, Jonathan from Spotify

**T**here it is. You can feel it coming. You're happily listening to your favourite band, but as their best song comes to a close, fading out like a happy childhood memory, you get the fear. Call it a sixth sense: the hairs rise on the back of your neck and you get a chill down your spine. Then it happens: the split-second pause. Followed by that gaspful duh-duh-duh-de-duh ring. And then, the moronic voice booms: "HIIIIII! I'm Jonathan from Spotify!"

£\$%&\*££\$! (roughly translates as 'fiddlesticks') Who are you? Jonathan, who apparently is now my friend, given his buddy-buddy persona, has a Mormon-esque air about him that stalks my ears. The same applies to that sultry temptress called Roberta.

"Everyone loves music. Especially in the bedroom..." Actually, my friends love their music uninterrupted. You can't peer-pressure me that easily - I've fallen for this trick before music in the bedroom? You crazy, crazy fiends.

Now, don't get me wrong. I love Spotify - a million songs at my fingertips, and it's free! (Well, financially anyways.) However, I feel there is a higher cost as my steely reserve is being worn down faster than a Czech prostitute, given this onslaught of overchummy banter. It's like the friendly hobo on Millennium Square who wants money, but does so by trying to seduce me with ravishing tales of his golden adventures across far and mysterious lands in years gone by. It's more epic than the ending of Return of the King.

I'm extremely baffled by adverts not getting to the point (if someone can explain to me why a perfume jumping into the ocean has anything to do with perfume fragrances, please let me know) or worse, telling me about things that I already have.

For example: toothpaste. Is there ever a time you're watching one of those adverts, and you think, "Shit, this is amazing - that's what I need! All this time I've been using sand to brush my teeth! Wait, darling! Have you heard of this product? It keeps clean and whitens your teeth! It's called, toooothhh... tooooth... wait, what is it again - ah yeah, that's it - toothpaste!"

Yes, we can be a rather apathetic society at times, but I'm pretty sure we're not that dumb. Not yet anyways.

And can the BBC and newspapers please stop "twittering" (yes it's a word, now, deal with it) me updates about the lives of Jordon and Peter Andre. I know these are the pillars of society, and that their love must be celebrated since it's more fairytale than Disney could ever think up, but I just can't relate to them.

Not going to get ahead of myself here, but I'm not a witless buffoon and my breasts definitely aren't worth more than a fiver. Not even close.

I'll think I'll hibernate from commercialism now with its crazy ideas.

Ali Hung, who is by coincidence the Photo Editor to this publication, endorses Leeds Student - please pick up a copy. Ali Hung also endorses a job - If you are an employer looking for a charismatic and youthful graduate, please contact Ali Hung - he will be available from this June indefinitely.

words/ali hung

damage," Sam informs me.

Of course that is not the only issue here. Marijuana is being genetically modified these days with chemicals to boost the THC content of a plant. THC is a mild form of acid and experts believe it to be the problem linking marijuana and mental health issues, such as paranoid schizophrenia.

"Whether or not you believe the experts on the link between mental illness and smoking weed, one negative that made me quit was the fact that smoking takes away your motivation to do anything... You can sit around being bored on weed and not mind. But when you're bored you should be learning a new skill or something," Sam says.

Sam told me he had grown up a bit now and did not touch the stuff anymore. He was setting up a company abroad and was off to Vietnam the very next day after our meeting. Before I met Sam though, I had met another guy named Ben who had started taking drugs when he came to University, mainly down to all his new friends doing it:

"I had never done anything except try some weed with friends before University. But when I came to uni, most of the people I became friends with did drugs nearly every weekend... we did ecstasy, MDMA, cocaine, mushrooms, ketamine, GHB and smoked weed."

Ben is a 22 year old from Manchester and graduated last year with a degree in Business and Mathematics. He seemed very chirpy and a cheerful kind of guy. Six months previously, though, it was a different story:

"I had issues with drugs. I grew a psychological dependence on drugs and alcohol, and I lost friends over it," he explains, his cheery demeanour slipping away as he recalled past memories. "It got to a point where I was sitting in my friend's house watching TV, just the two of us. I couldn't get hold of any weed so I got some pills (ecstasy) instead. I basically did three pills to myself in front of the TV while my mate sat and watched it... This kind of behaviour saw me alienated from my friends, which then saw me get into a state of depression and on to a downward spiral of more drug use."

Ben told me he had never done anything as hard as heroin, but he knew he'd had problems and did something before it was "too late." He now has a job and had been travelling in South East Asia whilst planning a road trip across the United States.

For me, meeting Ben had reinforced the message the government puts out there with its Talk to Frank campaign. I have always been a bit suspicious about what the government tells us about drugs, as there can be a smidge of over-hype on the negative aspects. For example, while interviewing Sam and Ben, I asked them what they thought of the new Frank advert on smoking cannabis and they both said that it was complete scare mongering: "It's just a government tactic to scare people off of weed. If smoking weed was that horrible, why do so many people smoke it?" Sam remarks.

Nonetheless, I had also met Ben who had become depressed because he had abused drugs. "I nearly did not pass my degree because of drugs", Ben had told me earlier, looking almost ashamed.

I felt sorry for Ben, it seemed he had made a big mistake in his life and wished he could go back and change it. After meeting Ben, I was informed of a group of Civil Engineer students who were taking Ritalin to help them with their studies. I had read in an article that some students were taking certain drugs to help them focus longer, including speed and cocaine.

They did not want to be named through fear of repercussions, so I have named them Danny, Joe, Jonny and Sally. We met on a sunny day in St. George's Fields: "We are just really stressed out with coursework and

upcoming exams at the mo. We are all in our last year and want to do well", Sally explains. I asked where they got hold of this drug, as its distribution is quite controlled. "Joe's girlfriend has ADHD so we get it from her", explains Danny. They all laugh as Joe gives out a big grin.

"It helps you focus for longer periods of time and we're not the only ones doing it either, there are few other people I know who do it too", Danny tells me. I asked if it could be compared to an athlete taking steroids to enhance their performance before a race, and therefore be cheating. They stop to think, then Sally pipes up, "Yeah, I guess it could, but we feel under so much pressure, especially me, as I am a woman going into a male dominated profession, I feel I need a little more help."

Earlier this year, I came across an article on The Times Online website about an academic calling for students being allowed access to such drugs as Ritalin to help them improve their brain power. Professor John

I know students who have dealt weed for extra spending money

Harris, of the University of Manchester, talks about different studies which have proven that they do improve academic performance. He was quoted as saying: "There was now a sizeable body of evidence to show that stimulants such as Ritalin, Provigil and Adderall significantly improve concentration and performance and their side effects were proportional to their benefits."

Such an attitude could never really come to fruition. Two of the side effects, nervousness and insomnia, are just what a student wouldn't need at a time near exam periods and coursework deadlines. Plus, if students were taking it, what about those who were allergic or suffered from the side effects - would that mean they would just have to be left behind?

Overall, the impact of drugs on student life varies depending on the individual. The negative effects should not be forgotten. The dangers of an unmonitored scene, where you don't know what you're getting involved in, is nothing to be taken lightly. Plus, where does all that money go? There will be students who will want to experiment with drugs and experience the sensation from doing so. Surely there's better ways to spend your time than taking so-called 'recreational' drugs though. After all, who wants to wake up one day aged 30 and realise they've done nothing with their life except smoke weed and watch re-runs of Family Guy?

For advice about drugs and information on how to come off them visit the Talk to Frank website [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com).

John Dean

\*Names have been changed for anonymity



Photo (far left): Melissa Black  
Photo (above and above left): John Puddiphatt

# “Engage and expose”

Banner-waving will get us nowhere. The way to combat the BNP is a political debate that will expose their unworkable policies



**James Legge**  
Second Year Philosopher  
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There is a certain mawkishness in the political air at the moment. A mawkishness of fear and consternation. Far from the splendour of the Houses of Parliament, in the places where real people live, there are the portents of significant and dangerous change. Amid the paranoid hysteria of an establishment trying to silence dangerous religious leaders with one hand and far-right parties with the other – and not knowing which one to dislike more – the BNP, clearly the most popular of the far-right parties, have made real electoral gains across the country's local councils. But with the local and European elections looming, those on the moral

crusade against Nick Griffin's party have only mustered an offensive of sensationalist quotes and name-calling. Yes, the posters which denounce the BNP as “fascist” and which take things party members have said out of context make great reading for those who already understand what a terrible party this is, but are wholly ineffective when it comes to the people who might actually vote for them come June.

This tactic shows a great misunderstanding of just how appealing the BNP are to lots of people around the country. There are people in the more deprived areas of Britain who are suffering greatly because of the economic downturn, who see a corrupt parliament with nobody currently in government or opposition with the will to affect real change for them. Not only that, but there are certain pockets within the news media in which the belief that most crime is committed by immigrants and non-whites is actively propagated.

And that is why, to these people, the BNP can seem to be exactly what this country needs. Their left-wing social policies: large increases in state pensions; more money for the NHS; improved worker protection and state ownership of key industries, as well as their obvious “re-patriation” of all immigrants and descendants thereof, all appeal to the people described above, to whom less foreigners

“stealing their jobs and causing crime” and more state provisions which affect them directly sound brilliant – so brilliant that it makes one wonder why the government aren't offering this.

So when we go banning them from speaking publicly or use vague pejoratives like “fascist”,

A no-platform stance denies our right to reply

we're helping their cause. When we take a no-platform stance in universities and political or civic events, we not only deny them the right to speak, but we deny ourselves the right of reply. That is a missed opportunity because most of their policies are unaffordable, economically unsound, or just plain distasteful (did I mention that they would also bring back capital and corporal punishment?). The fact is that these policies won't stand up to proper scrutiny. If one were to simply stand Nick Griffin on a podium and ask how he thinks the removal of our

immigrant population from the country would benefit us during the current economic crisis, and had him debate the topic with others better-versed in the field of economics, then we could expose the party's failings and lack of credibility on real issues. If this kind of approach were taken across the media spectrum then their popularity and subsequently the likelihood of any electoral success would be greatly diminished.

As for putting up signs carrying allegations of fascism, the only response which this is likely to bring about in someone swayed by BNP policies is “so what?”. The fact is that many people like fascism if they think it can help them as an individual. That's how fascists get into power. Banning around these terms, which few people actually understand, does nothing to undermine their credibility as perceived by those who might vote for them.

And so a new plan of attack is required in the fight against the BNP. Instead of preaching to the converted in a tone of righteous indignation we must, as a whole nation, unite against racism and prejudice, whilst adopting an ethos of “engage and expose” in which we take seriously the appeal of the supposed far-right to many voters, as well as respecting their right to free speech, and allow them platform, only to show how ghastrly a country run by them would be.

# House of common thieves

Revelations of MPs exploitative expenses claims casts the integrity of our elected representatives into doubt



**Sam Leach**  
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Gordon Brown smiled an awkward smile as he announced (to a largely inattentive YouTube audience) that he was to clean up the murky matter of MP's expenses once and for all. It was a forced smile: a wafer thin mask of bonhomie, created by a desperate politician and an attentive PR man; an insufficient attempt to hide the haggard complexion of a Prime Minister a long way up an irreversibly shitty creek. It was an incredibly short-sighted judgement call; a U-turn in legislative procedure from the man who came into premiership with a promise to observe convention and announce policies in the House of Commons before anywhere else.

Even without the benefit of hindsight, it

should have been clear that an issue so close to ministers' own pockets should have been breached under more sympathetic conditions, so the backlash from MPs across the political spectrum has been hardly surprising. And yet, despite the angry fallout and behind the grotesque, laboured pleasantries, Brown actually made a very good point: that MP's expense payments should be based on how much time they actually spend in the Commons.

His proposals of ‘a flat rate daily allowance’, available only to ministers not ‘in travelling distance of Westminster’ make sound, logical sense. Expenses are not a bolt-on, free-gift salary extension; they are an allowance for extra costs incurred during work. The list of ludicrous claims subsequently published by The Telegraph

A brazen and cynical exploitation of the public purse

paints a vivid picture of a system being abused in a manner which is grossly offensive to a country feeling the pinch of a global recession.

No claim seems to have been too big, or too small. At one end of the scale, Alistair Darling is renting out his second home (paid for by the taxpayer) at a profit, while at the other end, an ex-Tory MP even claimed back money spent on tampons for his wife.

The list is too long and too nauseatingly odious to detail further here. A quick read of it is enough to anger even the most generously spirited member of the electorate. There can be very little defence of the actions of many of these MPs. The details which have come to light expose a system which is at best woefully under-controlled and at worst, a brazen and cynical exploitation of the national purse.

But there is a more shameful side to this, far more appalling than the culture of embezzlement in the Commons, far worse than Hazel Blears' two televisions. The vociferous backlash from parliament against Gordon Brown's YouTube announcement was a stark indicator of the pulp-like moral fibre in government.

It came loudly and quickly, not just from the opposition, but from within Brown's own party – at all levels. The mass rebellion, which stymied Brown's plan at the vote, was an appalling display of shallow greed and pathetic self preservation from a party who

The integrity of our MPs has come under the spotlight

have so spectacularly failed to stand up for their beliefs in the past.

Almost every promised rebellion has ended with victory for the cabinet and their obliging whips – but now, with MP's income at stake, things would be different. Seeing the people who backed down on the Iraq war stand up and fight for their own money is a grotesque demonstration of the ethical vacuum in the commons. The integrity of our elected representatives has come under the spotlight and, for many, it doesn't look good.

Of course, not all politicians are swindling cowards; a great many of them are of the utmost integrity. But the damage done by those who aren't has left a cloud of shame which has eroded an already fragile relationship between the people and the politicians.

# The year in Comment

Nine months, two semesters, a changed world. Comment looks back at the big stories our writers have covered this year

The world in May 2009 is a quite different place to the world in September 2008.

Arriving in Leeds last September, some of us for the first time, some returning from a long, careless summer away, none of us can have appreciated that we were on the brink of such a turbulent time.

To illustrate how much has changed, consider that, back in September, George W. Bush was still in the White House, politics was dully predictable, the world economy was still growing and you could still buy Pick'n'Mix at Woolworths.

There's even been new words added to our vocabulary. We wouldn't have understood what it meant to be 'credit-crunched' in September. We do now.

With the media playing the ever-present role it does in today's society it is perhaps not surprising that, when the world changes these days, it does so very self-consciously. Even the usually staid, non-committal BBC ran an advert for their G20 coverage to the musical accompaniment of Bob Dylan's 'The Times They Are A'Changin'.

In so doing they were indulging in a widespread tendency to look back to the Sixties to give meaning to our own time. The Sixties, when people cared and believed the world could change. One of the common complaints of politically-minded students before 2008, was that no-one cared anymore – where was the spirit of the Sixties, or even the anger of the Seventies? People, young people first among them, seemed to have forgotten the part they could play in responding to and opposing the people in power.

But as old certainties have collapsed since September, so too has the assumption that change only comes from above.

All year Leeds students have filled these pages with their responses to and opinions on the defining events of this turbulent time. Meanwhile individuals and societies from across the University have exercised the political muscle of the student population in a way reminiscent of nothing less than the 1960s.

Meanwhile the political landscape looks more open and unpredictable than it has for many years. The new choices and challenges this will present will define politics and people's lives for a generation.

There's no need to wish it was the Sixties anymore. What's going on right now is proving even more interesting.



Unbridled free-market economics has brought about a financial collapse that will be felt by ordinary people throughout the world.

Charles Cooper, Oct 3 2008

The election of Barack Obama is certainly a giant leap for mankind, and one which should inspire us.

Alex Smith, Nov 14 2008



As the white phosphorous smoke begins to settle in the Gaza Strip, popular opinion throughout the world has turned against Israel.

Lawrence Carter, Jan 30 2009



Protesters were showing no resistance and chanting "this is not a riot." They were charged by police

Paul Haydon, May 1 2009



April: The G20 summit. Police brutality responsible for many injuries and the death of Ian Tomlinson.

# Bruised Hearts

Where do you turn when the love of your life becomes a threat?



Both women and men can suffer from domestic abuse

Photo: Sarah Greene

Two women will die a week in the UK at the hands of their partners

partner and walk away, as this will resolve the problem, but it is never that simple. There are many reasons why they might not be able to leave whether it is shame; fear; finance; isolation; nowhere to go; low self-esteem or even love. Often this fear is well founded as women are at their greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or in the first few months after leaving their partner. Once somebody has lived with the abuse, it becomes very hard for them to break the cycle of behaviour which is why it is so important to implement accessible options and support for those who want to make a change. The government needs to focus on creating resources that will help make a safe transformation such as money, housing, help with moving, transport, ongoing protection from the police, legal support to protect the victim, a guaranteed income and emotional support. If a woman or man is not sure that these will be available to them it may prevent them, from leaving. We need practical support for those who are in an abusive relationship and tougher custodial sentencing for the perpetrator, especially if they are a repeat offender. The government's involvement in discussing the options available in the campaign to resolve the issue of domestic abuse is positive, but there is a long way to go before a satisfactory and successful solution is found. Until then, I hope that they can see the failings in their weak suggestions to date.

Info/Advice:

0808 2000 247 Freephone 24 hour national domestic violence helpline

Broken Rainbow Helpline: 0845 260 4460 LGBT domestic violence

Men's Adviceline: 0808 801 0327

Respect: 0845 122 8609 Perpetrators who want help.

Charlotte Stedman

Women should be warned about their boyfriends' violent past: this is the government's answer to domestic abuse but is the perpetrators' register just another gimmick? In proposals published by the Home Office, ministers are supporting the creation of a register for convicted domestic abusers, as part of a plan to allow potential future victims to be warned of any possible danger. However, the plans to combat domestic violence were condemned by campaigners from the charity *Refuge* as utterly 'useless' since they amounted to 'talking tough and doing little'. A crucial criticism of the register is its ineffectiveness in dealing with the majority of domestic violence across the UK as it remains, mostly, unreported and concealed. The police dealt with over 13 million calls involving complaints of domestic violence last year and yet figures show that only 49,732 cases actually reached court and of those only 68 percent resulted in a conviction. With two women dying a week in the UK at the hands of their partners, a much

more effective and comprehensive solution to the ongoing problem of domestic abuse is desperately needed.

The *Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy* has been launched in London, which hopes to create national debate and discussion in how we can unite in challenging the attitudes that allow abuse to linger in modern society. Domestic abuse is defined as 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse whether it is psychological, physical, sexual or emotional' within an intimate relationship. One episode that has been made into worldwide news that seems to meet this criterion is the Rhianna and Chris Brown incident. However, this demonstrates that appearances can be deceptive; you cannot have any preconceived notions about what an abusive relationship looks like as research shows that one in four women in their lifetimes, regardless of age, social class, race, disability, sexuality or lifestyle will become a victim.

Although gender is described as a 'significant risk factor', as women are more likely to experience interpersonal violence than men, the British Crime Survey in 2005 estimated that of the 15 million incidents of domestic violence that year, two and a half million were against men: a considerable percentage. It is important for the public to recognise that men also suffer at the hands of their partner. In actuality this female on male abuse can often be harder to deal with as men are less likely to admit to their sufferings or to ask for help. Similarly, society tends to classify the abuse as less-serious which demeans the severity of the problem.

Every situation is unique but there are some common factors that link the experience of an abusive relationship, and acknowledging these factors is an important step in preventing and stopping the abuse. Often the severity escalates over time from destructive criticism and verbal abuse to pressure tactics, disrespect, isolation, harassment,

threats, sexual violence, physical harm and denial. As strong independent women at university it is easy to think 'it will never happen to me', but studies have shown that women aged 16-30 are those at the greatest risk of finding themselves within an abusive relationship. And even if you have not directly experienced domestic violence, take a look around as 75-80 percent of abuse takes place in front of children, which means that Leeds University will be home to students who have been affected by the emotional and physical strain of living with domestic violence. There is often a feeling of responsibility or guilt for not stopping these events which, combined with the secrecy of it all, can place a huge strain on any individual. This is why it is important to talk about your experiences whether it is with a friend, help group or councillor: emotional abuse is just as damaging and there is nothing to be ashamed of.

People often argue that the victim should just leave their



# LS Sport

## COMMENT

### THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

0

Millwall fans staying in Leeds for the weekend.

749

Number of Alan Shearer-related tattoos drawn this week by Newcastle-based body artists.

### PUNDIT WATCH



"If this West Indies team went to Mexico, they would catch absolutely nothing!"

Michael Holding bemoans the West Indies' inability to hold onto their catches during their recent defeat to England.

## A foundation for a bright future

Setting down to write your last ever Leeds Student Sport comment, you suddenly become very aware of your own mortality.

You also become acutely aware of the pressure on you to produce a half-decent piece of prose.

Your thoughts become dominated by what topic to address. Should I discuss the impending exodus of Ferrari and Renault from F1? What about Manchester United and their victory over Wigan to all but guarantee the Premier League title?

Maybe, it should be why points deductions are actually fair and just and how it infuriates you that some sports fans simply cannot understand this?

Instead, your thoughts turn to what it was you set out to achieve two years ago, and so you settle on the issue of Leeds University sport.

The highlight of the season's calendar has always been the Varsity showdown with the Met at the start of the year. Each October the hoards of green-clad competitors have faced off against

that horrible purple tribe from down the road, and every year in the aftermath we have to spin a positive headline out of what looks like a terribly one-sided scoreline.

But as you ponder this, you remember something that was said to you earlier this week by John Robinson, the new LUU Sports Representative;

"We have a lot of talent and we nurture that talent to the best of our abilities, but a lot of people focus on their education. We do well, but in terms of elite-ness,

we're limited."

And you realise that John has hit the nail on the head.

After this year's Varsity loss, I wrote an article highlighting the way that the Met had actively recruited sporting professionals to swell the ranks and ensure a healthy victory in the annual showdown with their city cousins. What many will not know is that plans to extend the competition to include many more 2nd and 3rd team match-ups were shelved, primarily out of a fear that Leeds Uni would hit back in these contests.

What John says is dead right.

Students come to Leeds University to be just that; students. For 99%, sport is a past-time for which they hold a lot of passion and pour themselves into, but one that when it comes down to it,

remains secondary to their studies.

That is what makes their achievements on the field all the more remarkable. The Varsity result may have been 15-5, but that doesn't tell the whole story. The home side was right there in every contest, with grit, determination and commitment the likes of which I am yet to see in any other sporting arena.

That is how Leeds is able to have teams consistently in the top divisions, and have squads regularly competing in leagues out of their depth. And those qualities filter throughout every level, which is exactly the reason why the Met didn't want to face our 2nd and 3rd teams; because Leeds' strength in depth is immense.

So as I sign-off for the final time, here's to the future of Leeds University sport. It has been a pleasure to cover you these last few years, and I am sure all who compete in Leeds colours remember the qualities that the shirt embodies.

Owen Bradley



### You wouldn't like these when they're angry

The ongoing Test match between England and the West Indies has apparently gained grudge match status because of the 'feud' between the captains, Andrew Strauss and Chris Gayle.

Their exchange about the importance of Test and Twenty20 cricket has been referred to by certain sections of the media as a "row" but, in reality, it brings rifts into disrepute.

For a sport so richly endowed with fiery verbal duels, cricket's recent so-called confrontation between the skippers is made to look like little more than a mild disagreement between two elderly women about the state of Ben Fogle's hair.

To justify the tag of 'feud', Strauss and Gayle could do worse than consult a handful of former professionals.

Australian wicket-keeper Ian Healy, for example, had a colourful relationship with Sri Lanka's Arjuna Ranatunga.

After hearing Ranatunga call for a runner, Healy opposed in a less than polite manner: "You don't get a runner for being an overweight, unfit, fat cunt!"

If this is a little rude for Durham

graduate Strauss, he could take heed from England flop James Ormond, who replied to a jibe from Mark Waugh (the legendary Steve Waugh's brother) by saying, "at least I'm the best player in my family."

The tepidity of the Strauss-Gayle exchange does at least deflect some attention from the 'war' of words between Sir Alex Ferguson and Rafael Benitez.

Benitez had the audacity to suggest that Manchester United are treated favourably by the F.A., while Ferguson said, well, nothing.

If suggesting that United are "nervous" about Liverpool's title bid qualifies as mind games, it seems that Benitez may need to reassess what he believes to be a rift. Maybe he can ask Strauss.

Dafydd Pritchard



The clearly seething Andrew Strauss

### Defending fans' right to be blissfully ignorant

As part of the student demographic, most readers of Leeds Student will be familiar with the suspect haircuts and unnervingly tight shorts of the 80's, only via the nostalgic reminiscences of older generations.

In recent years though the beautiful game has been cultivated into a different animal, not least because of the influence of modern technology. Few of us would still abide by Grandad's mantra that the 'wireless' is adequate, when we can happily sit around admiring Cristiano Ronaldo's delicate quiff in crystal clear detail on Sky Sport's HD football coverage.

Recently The Guardian advanced the matchday experience even further by introducing their Chalkboards facility online. Essentially, the utility provides fans with access to the kind of expert kit used by high budget tabloids to produce plush looking diagrams, replete with multicoloured arrows, explaining exactly why player X went wrong on Saturday.

Catering to the 'Football Manager' addict in all of us, the hi-tech gimmick offers fans a tantalising chance to analyse the underlying factors behind their sides ailing performances. The

opportunity to prove once and for all that Didier Zokora is indeed crap – if you don't believe me try analysing his performance yourself.

Something doesn't feel quite right though. Being a football fan is about being irrational, not calculated – Travelling 400 miles to a nondescript town on a Tuesday to see your team lose 1-0, buying the club shirt because this year it is red with white stripes instead of white with red stripes.

When it comes to analysing my team's latest drubbing I feel the same. There's something satisfying about enjoying a few pre-match beverages, nourishing the mind with a dodgy steak pie, and then abusing a man with years of experience in football because he subs on 'that total waste of space' at full-back when you are already three goals down.

I don't want to know the statistical science behind my side's ineptitude. It's far more satisfying to make a scapegoat of one player and, to the agreement of your fellow supporters, declare him to be utterly useless, rather than be forced to accept that the fans favourite has in fact slung every shot into row-z.

Mike Glenister

# Fighting to represent

**LS Sport** talks to new LUU Sports Representative and outgoing Athletics Captain John Robinson about the past season and his vision for the future

## John Robinson Interview

By **James Cradley**

The rain-drenched figure sat in the Union's Info Point radiates all the calmness of an individual who has recently been voted into office.

"It's been a really successful year. I hope next year is even better."

John Robinson is like most students at Leeds University; he turns up to lectures (most of the time), enjoys a drink (all of the time) and like many spends most of his waking hours involved with activity

groups. Now, he has added the job of Sports Representative to his list of responsibilities.

"I saw Sophie Kirk (out-going

"I saw Sophie Kirk do a great job this year and now she's shown me the ropes."

Sports Rep) do a great job this year and now she's shown me the ropes. I feel that this is the next step along."

Robinson's new task will be to sit on the Activities Assembly alongside reps from other activity areas and provide a political voice for Leeds University Union's sports teams. His other duties will include organising the annual Sports Ball, and working closely with co-ordinator Carl Brown to ensure the smooth-running of the BUCS season.

Having spent the past year as Athletics Captain, Robinson became known as an active member of the Union's regular sports assemblies and – having stood unopposed for



New Sports Representative John Robinson, far right, with the 2008/09 Athletics Committee

the position – it is clear to see the area in which he feels he can make the most impact.

"I think I can bring in a lot more money for the clubs. Limited budget is horrible. At athletics, we get by, but in terms of equipment we've had the same stuff since I arrived. All our money goes on competition and transport. More money means more success in terms of sport."

Since a successful referendum motion in November last year – proposed by Boat Captain Adam Young – the Union's sports teams have been exempt from the current advertising policy, and Robinson believes that decision is crucial for the future of the University's squads.

"With the opportunity to explore everyone, it's great.

"There's a partnership open with Proctor and Gamble but that hasn't been exploited. I'm going to try and re-open that link and do a whitewash with companies. I'm going to speak with Josh Landy and try and open up new avenues for sponsorship."

From his time leading the athletics team, Robinson knows just how difficult finding funding can be. Last year, they received only £1000 of the £2500 they requested from the Union but – despite the black hole in their accounts – the 400m specialist is pleased with his achievements as Captain.

"We've been good this year. The BUCS competitions haven't been great but that's because the standard is so high."

Though the BUCS competition was a disappointment, the team did come a close second at the First Deloitte Northern England University Athletics Championships. The 12 team event was the largest meeting of its kind outside of BUCS this year, and was hosted and organised by Leeds. The club also engineered a switch in training venue after a disagreement with previous landlords, Leeds Met.

"We've set up a link with South Leeds Sports Centre. It's been a great link. We set up a car sharing scheme but again the number of athletes is limited and we can't afford

the minibus."

Unfortunately, transport and venues remain an issue for a team who have seen their membership double over the last year. Luckily for athletics though, Robinson – who along with his committee was nominated for the ARC Award at the recent Riley Awards – won't be completely neglecting his old team as he starts his new post.

"I'm going to be involved. I'm going to dedicate most of my time to this (position as Sports Rep), but I'm responsible for bringing outside money into the club."

As the recession continues to bite and companies reduce spending, Robinson will likely have a tough job on his hands. Despite this though, it's clear that the new Sports Rep will be bringing the same energy to the office that he does to the track.

"I'm going to stay impartial but athletics is close to my heart, I've got a lot of passion for the sport, but in the new role I want to help everyone. I want to bring in as much money as I can, make the best Sports Ball there ever will be, and I believe I can do it."

And luckily for the Union's sports teams, he's probably will.

"I'm going to stay impartial but athletics is close to my heart, but in my new role I want to help everyone. I believe I can do it."

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# the big debate:

Product through business  
Owen Bradley

**D**ebate surrounding the introduction of a quota system to British football have been ongoing throughout Sepp Blatter's term as Fifa President. His most recent "six plus five" proposal was quashed by the European Parliament in 2008.

Regardless of some of the demerits of his presidency, to his credit Blatter has continually highlighted a vital issue to the future of football; the need for greater regulation and protection of domestic player development.

The UK academy system is continuing to produce great talent. Arsenal's Kieran Gibbs recently dominated Ronaldo in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final at Old Trafford. Aston Villa's bright start to the season was due in large-part to the strength of their home-grown contingent. These examples are, however, the exception rather than the rule.

There may well be glimpses of quality coming through, but the number of British players breaking into the top flight is falling and has fallen consistently over recent years.

Over-inflated prices for home-grown players are also becoming an increasing issue. Would you consider paying £3.5 million for an ageing striker who had scored four goals in his previous Premier League season? Probably not, but that's exactly what Aston Villa did for Emile Heskey. Similar outrageous prices have been touted for Marlon King, Dave Kitson, and most young British players automatically carry a higher price tag than their foreign counterparts simply because of the 'local



label. Premier League teams look likely to follow the example of the Football League and demand that four of every match-day squad must be home-grown. There remains issues with their definition of what a 'home-grown' player is; under their definition, Cesc Fabregas would be eligible as one of Arsenal's four. Surely that goes against the spirit of the rule?

The Premier League will not, quite rightly, implement a proper quota system unless it is copied across Europe, and is phased in gradually. Failure to do this would lead to a sudden drop in the quality of competition and, as the footballing world revolves around television revenues, would almost certainly have huge financial implications.

If a quota system were to be introduced it would have to be as part of a raft of world-wide changes to the game at the elite level. The recent example of Federico Macheda at United shows that clubs on the continent and at home need to have their young talent properly protected, to stop top clubs swooping in and cherry-picking talent from other youth set-ups. Legislation would be necessary to stop exciting young footballers playing academies off against each other and manipulating the system for their own gain.

The issue of a salary cap would again need to be examined. Yes, Championship clubs have held discussions this season regarding such a move, but surely Fifa or Uefa should be introducing plans for a world-wide collective bargaining agreement that will give the game the stability it craves?

The stumbling block to all these suggestions will probably be domestic and international law, as was the case with Blatter's proposal, but surely the law-makers must realise that football is not the same as other industries? To preserve the future of football, these changes are needed, and a quota system is as good a place as any to start.

## Does football need a quota system?

Earlier this week Premier League clubs agreed, in principle, to support a quota for home-grown players. With many expressing concerns over the development of players across Europe, LS Sport asks; *Should English football implement a quota system for home-grown players?*

Unraveling the quota system problem  
Joe Hibbert

**T**his week the Premier League buckled to pressure from Uefa and Fifa and announced that it would be seriously considering introducing player quotas, possibly as early as next season. The quotas adopted would not be as extreme as Sepp Blatter's proposals which stipulate that any starting eleven could only have five foreign players (he's looking at you, Mr Wenger). Rather the proposals made by Premier League Chief Exec Richard Scudamore would enforce a 4+4 rule, whereby four players in the squad must have been brought through the ranks at the club and four developed at other clubs in England. A lot less harsh, but as far as I can see, completely unnecessary.

The main argument for the introduction of quotas is that they would improve the quality of English players and thus benefit the national side. But there are clear alternatives to a quota system that would provide the same result. Rather than stifling every club's freedom to select players of its own choosing, why not distribute the Premier League's wealth more evenly across the league and also give money to lower leagues. This money would be used specifically, and for no other purpose, than improving academy facilities.

The Premier League is midway through a three-year television contract that earns the league £2.7 billion. Currently a proportion of the money is distributed according to league positions at the end of the season. Ultimately this means the rich get richer and the teams outside of the Premier League get poorer. Furthermore, it is those teams outside the Premier League that have the largest percentage of home grown players per squad.

Clubs like Crewe, famous for their rich history of player development, could be given a proportion of the TV money specifically to be used for an academy. More English players would come through at lower league clubs and eventually bought by top flight teams for a fee that benefits the club. This is a far more natural and mutually beneficial method of improving the amount of home grown players in England than introducing strict player quotas.

Player quotas will also prove to be yet another limiting factor on managers. There is already a transfer window; player quotas would further restrict managerial decisions. This is fine for the likes of Manchester United who have the pick of home-grown players and large transfer funds to back them up, but for promoted teams it is just another limiting factor that will cause controversy.

Under this proposed system, already over-inflated prices for English players will rise. When something is in demand its price always rises, and in this quota system English players will be very much in demand. This week, Bolton quoted £15 million for Chelsea target Gary Cahill – a player who has never played for the senior England side. Imagine how much he would be worth if he was really in demand.

Much of my gripe with the quota system lies with the man who proposes implementing it. Richard Scudamore has simply agreed to impose this quota system to get the heavy breath of Sepp Blatter off his neck (now there's a delightful image). Scudamore does not act with a desire to do what is right for English football, if he's not attempting to appease Fifa or Uefa he's looking to make money. The Premier League would do far better to look to its Football League Mother for answers to its problems.



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# No money for non-league Funding duel

## Feature

Don Miles

Money in football pools at the top of the food chain and trickles, in many cases unsuccessfully, down through the leagues, with clubs the most in need the last reached. The massive wave of small time football is currently finding itself scrambling for what it can get. While the nation's interest is monopolised by the Premier League, the fact remains that the majority of the football played in England occurs outside of this elite group and is ignored, until something big happens to capture media attention. Rushden and Diamonds' 9-0 drubbing of a Weymouth side made up of youth team players grabbed the nation's interest while the demise of Halifax faced season may have passed many by.

Weymouth is a prime example of the problems facing non-league football. They built themselves, on the investment of a wealthy owner, into a team that was challenging for a play-off spot in the Blue Square Premier two seasons ago. When the money went, they dropped down the division before imploding rather spectacularly just before the afore-mentioned game against Rushden. With debts of around £300,000 (a drop in the ocean to those in the Premiership) they could no longer afford to pay their players insurance for matches and were forced to release the first team and field the youth team.

The number of clubs hitting the front pages of the 'Non League Paper' for the wrong reasons has pretty much kept that publication in business this

season. Weymouth and Northwich are two of the clubs in trouble who have avoided the embarrassment of being publicised. Cambridge and Oxford are the most high profile casualties of rumours surrounding their futures. Cambridge have spent heavily recently to try and return to the Football League, a task that eludes many ex league clubs, with the main story being that they may have exhausted their £1.4million operating budget long before the end of the season. Oxford hit the headlines with rumours of the former top-flight team heading into administration before new owners bought them. The problem for the 'bigger' clubs in the Blue Square Premier becomes the immense difficulty in getting back into the league. They have large stadia, bigger budgets than most, but parachute payments do not last forever.

However, there are some success stories below the media level. AFC Wimbledon, a club born from the controversial formation of MK Dons, have just secured promotion into the Blue Square Premier. This leaves them only two steps away from the club that they replaced in London and one away from a joyous return to the Football League. AFC Telford was formed after Telford United succumbed to financial troubles in

2004. They recently lost in a play-off final against Gateshead for the chance to return to the level below the league. Both clubs regularly see crowds in the thousands, with 'The Dons' hitting 4,000 on several occasions last season. Where these clubs have succeeded, others in the non-league pyramid have found it much harder to attract crowds.

The football in the non-league remains attractive, conference games tend to see a higher standard of football than much of the 'long ball' football played in League Two. Many non-league teams over the years have progressed rapidly up to League One, this season Exeter have continued the trend of Rushden, Doncaster and Carlisle.

Football exists outside the Football League. Unfortunately its very future is uncertain and very little is being done about it.



Max Griggs aka Dr Martens celebrates promotion

## Fencing

Interview: Piers Martin

Michael Glenister

'Crunch empties coffers... Tory sleaze scandal'. There's no doubt about it, cliché-saturated headlines bemoaning the state of the nation have had us under a spell of financial melancholia and paranoia for some time now.

Cutbacks for eight different Olympic sports in December 2008 provoked a similarly sensationalist response. 'En garde, Tessa! How Ms Jewell felled the fencers', read one broadsheet headline.

Five months later and Leeds Student spoke to British Fencing's CEO, Piers Martin, exploring the realities of funding issues in the sport.

'I want to make it quite clear that I'm not criticising our funding providers or the government.

Journalists are calling me up every five minutes asking if I'm annoyed. I've been misquoted so many times', remarked Martin, who felt disappointed by the coverage in the national media: 'we see the money we get as a privilege; not a right'.

He was, however, keen to discuss British Fencing's use of UK Sport funding, which grants governing bodies the flexibility to take four years of funding in a two year, front loaded, payment. 'We received just over a million pounds. We've taken that in a two year period which is a major risk in some ways. We've taken the risk to show what we can achieve in two years. We want to prove that the value for money for the BOA and UK Sport will be much greater with us than for

any other sport out there'.

At present the gamble appears to have been well judged as British Fencing enjoys something of a renaissance following a forty-year drought in results at international level. In the last two years we've had medals at European and World level in both senior and junior competitions and our world ranking has shot up', exclaimed a delighted Martin.

'We've got the world number one

Journalists are calling me up every five minutes. I've been misquoted so many times

foils in Richard Kruse. Lawrence House is not far behind. Our men's foil team are beating people in the top three.'

Martin is confident that British Fencing's recent success will provide a catalyst for an increase in financial support looking forward to the London 2012 Olympics: 'If we don't get any funding beyond what we have then there won't be any World Class funding in years three and four'. Martin continues, 'We are already showing what we can do, so yes, we are absolutely confident'.

# Diamonds labour over birth of the Supporters Trust

## Interview

Don Miles

Rushden and Diamonds epitomise the promise of non-league football and the dangers it faces. Just 12 years after the creation of the football club with the merger of Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds Football Clubs, this small club from Northamptonshire found themselves

playing in the third tier of English football. Their rise had been funded by the wealth of owner Max Griggs who also owns the Dr Martens shoe company. As so often happens in football, the money dried up leaving Griggs in the position where he had to sell the club. Eventually the club was sold to the supporters trust for a pound with funding for the next two seasons.

Upon the handover Helen Thompson, a member of the Trust's board, took over as Managing

Director. This was the first time a football club had been handed over to its supporters trust in British football history. It seemed like the model for football ownership may have been challenged; unfortunately things were never that smooth.

Almost four years later Thompson has taken on the role of Strategic Director at the club, which is no longer owned by the trust. During the supporters' time in charge, the Trust reduced the yearly losses from over

£1.5m to £600,000. The club, however, remained unsustainable until Keith Cousins bought it in 2006.

The club has realised that it is no longer able to survive on football alone and 'sweats' its remaining facilities to maximise income. According to Thompson, her current job sees her 'working on projects such as increasing usage of the Sports Centre, Pre-Olympic Training Centre, Proposed Hotel etc' as methods to increase the income of the football club.

From the beginning, the Trust knew they were undertaking a massive task in owning the club: 'Ever since the Trust took over, it has been a constant effort to reduce costs to an absolute minimum. The budget for the playing staff has been substantially reduced as it is anticipated that there will be less corporate sponsorship'. The club is rumoured to have spent upwards of £35m under Griggs during Brian Talbot's extravagant reign as manager. This was never sustainable, with low-ticket prices also funded by the owners the crowds were not sustained as the club began to descend toward the non-league.

Even after a spending spree in pre-season the club still found itself on unstable ground this season. Thompson states, in the guarded manner she has had to become accustomed to while working in football, that instability has led to many of the players bought in the summer

leaving the club: 'the budget for the playing side of the business has been substantially reduced for the new season'.

Thompson is cautious to answer questions on other clubs in the division because the clubs have to work together. When asked about Rushden's position relative to others, she refused to be drawn into any substantiated opinions: 'I cannot answer for other clubs, but it is going to be a challenge-prudence is the key'. She was not to be pushed into a more in depth answer.

Moving into the future of football the party line is that the club plans for the future is the 'ambition to be successful'. She opens up, however, as the interview closes to give a revealing answer on what she believes the future of non-league football holds: 'Looking forward 10 years, there will be more amateur football clubs at the grass roots level and more amalgamations to sustain the non-league football movement'. This probably reveals how hard running a professional outfit at this level has become, the appointment of Keith Cousins initially to the board of the club, before buying it outright staved off the near threat of Administration for Rushden but other clubs may not be so lucky. The future of non-league football is hard to predict, but Helen Thompson's vision may well be what we see coming in the not too distant future.

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# BUCS 2008/09 Reviewed

James Green

I think the 2008/09 season has been a good one for sport within the University of Leeds. Being a first year, I threw myself into *LS Sport* and found a hot bed of sport talent.

## Game of the Season

**Men's Squash 1sts vs Durham 1sts** 28th January 2009. The most tense and nail-biting game I have covered all season. With the added factor of Durham being very unaccommodating to the Uni side when they tried to rearrange the away leg - causing deduction of points from

the Leeds team - this game had all the ingredients to be exciting, and it did not disappoint.

Going down to the last game of the last match, Uni eventually pulled off an exhilarating 3-2 victory. This is also my game of the season because of the effort put in by all players, every one of whom wanted to win this game.

## Team of the season

**Men's table tennis.** I was lucky enough to see them play their first game of season against the University of Manchester in what was a very close game, ending 9-8 to the University of Leeds.

This was just a precursor for what was a fantastic season for the table tennis team, winning the next five games to win the league and end the league season undefeated. Congratulations to the team: an excellent season.

## Player of the Season

**Philip Hammock** of the Men's Basketball 2nds, mainly for his contribution to the game against Newcastle University 2nds, where the team looked threatening every time he was on the court.

I have not seen another player make such an impact on a game all

season.

## Team to watch for next Season

**Men's fencing 1sts.** When I went to watch them this season I saw a tense encounter, with the Leeds side winning by a point. This was against eventual second-placed team, University of Manchester, with the University of Leeds coming first.

If they can keep hold of the majority of their team and build upon on the work they have done this season, I can see 2009/2010 being a very successful season for the fencing team.

# LS vs LSR: Face-off

## Preview

Graefyd Pritchard

Weetwood will be a cauldron of hostility later today, when the annual *Leeds Student vs LSRfm* football match kicks off at 4pm.

The make-up of LSR's starting eleven has been the subject of much scrutiny recently, as last year's side was somewhat bereft of regular contributors to the station.

Regular DJ Elliott Caw will need to pass a late fitness test to play, but will have Michael Essien on standby. Thierry Henry, meanwhile, will put his breakfast phone-in on hold to take his place on the bench.

LSR, however, have been swift to dispel the notion that their squad will be comprised almost entirely of players without any real affiliation to the radio station.



Ron Manager can't wait for LSV LSR

"To suggest that we'll be fielding a team of fingers is outrageous," said captain Paolo Maldini. "We're all fully-fledged members of the University's second best student media group."

Staying away from controversy, *Leeds Student* are expected to field a side chiefly comprised of *LS Sport* writers and editors, as well as a smattering of other sections' contributors. And, smarting from last year's defeat, they have revenge in mind.

*LS* editor and team captain Laurie Whitwell was in abrasive mood ahead of the game: "If LSR can resist roping in six players from the University's second team, then we have a good chance."

"However, if they persist with a ringer policy, there will be blood," roared a drunken Whitwell, who will be leading the team for a second successive year.

*LS Sport* also spoke with esteemed former player, coach and broadcaster Ron Manager about the match: "Newspaper and the radio, toe-poking and a how's your father? Weetwood on a Friday, isn't it? Mmm. "Ooh yes, jiggers for goalposts? Lovely. Giggys Wiggys on the left, Johnny Foreigner turning on a sixpence? Marvelous."

# Gymnastics fantastic

## Gymnastics

Laura-Marie Black

The BUCS Annual Gymnastics Competition was held at City of Newcastle Gymnastics Academy on May 9th and 10th. Leeds University Gymnastics Club sent in total 13 gymnasts to compete, returning with gold, silver and bronze medals.

The Men's team competed on Saturday, winning A and B team bronze medals. Placing 3rd behind Loughborough and Leeds Met on both occasions. Men's grade two team consisted of Adam Laughton, Sam Routledge, Scott Gebbie, Devin Reilly and Sam Haigh. No individual apparatus medals were given this year but Adam Laughton took home overall gold for the grade 2 Men's Championship.

The Women's A team sadly missed out on a medal placing and came 4th, however the B team placed silver just behind Loughborough. The scores from the women's competition have not yet been released due to computer error on the day. We are not sure who made the A or B team for the women but all should be congratulated on their efforts.



Back-flipping delight: Champion gymnasts, champion trousers.

Photos: Laura-Marie Black

## Squash

Interview: Nigel Howell

James Green

**Q:** How do you think the teams have performed this season? Did they fulfil expectations?

**A:** The women's teams did very well this season. The first team came second in their BUCS premier division final behind a very strong Birmingham Uni team, and the second team came second in their league, and were arguably the strongest team, finishing as runners up in the BUCS cup.

The men's teams weren't as successful with the firsts and thirds being relegated, and the seconds just about staying up. This was definitely not expected - however, next year is potentially going to be one of the most successful years to come in the squash club's history.

**Q:** Who is your player of the season?

**A:** For the men it has to be Tom Lee for his committed and consistent performances all season. For the women, it's Kitty Newsham. She has played a lot of matches this year, performing very well for the first team and getting to the quarter-finals in the BUCS individuals.

**Q:** What was your game of the season?

**A:** It is definitely the men's second team's final game of the season against Durham seconds.

Both teams were fighting for survival with the loser of the contest being relegated. Leeds took a very swift 2-0 lead through wins from Charles White and Rob Weeks.

However, Durham fought back well, with Ric Hollingbery and Tom Lee both losing hardly fought 3-2 matches. The final match saw Paul Kay go on against the Durham number two.

Things didn't start well, with Paul

losing the first two games. However an amazing fight back saw him turn the tie completely and win 3-2, helping the Leeds second team stay up at the expense of Durham's second team.

**Q:** During the season the squash team had to change home venue from the Sports Centre to the Gryphon. Do you think this had an impact on results and performances?

**A:** The new courts definitely took time to get used to. However, after training on them twice a week and playing plenty of matches on them, I can safely say everyone has got used to them. That said, the old courts will be missed!

**Q:** Do you believe the men's thirds will be more competitive next season after being relegated?

**A:** Definitely. Unfortunately due to players from last year graduating and being on placements, it was very difficult to get a strong team out every week. But this division should be much

more suited to this year's third team.

**Q:** What do you think we can expect from the women's seconds after they missed out on promotion by a point this season?

**A:** All we can ask for is exactly the same. The only reason they missed out was due to the team being unable to travel to Newcastle, resulting in them having to forfeit the match (which results in a point deduction).

It is incredibly frustrating since they were easily the strongest team in this division but I believe that promotion is there for the taking for them next year.

**Q:** What are the aims for the teams next season?

**A:** Next season we are looking to get the men's first and second teams promoted. We also want to see our women's seconds get promotion and hopefully the women's firsts can go a step further and win the BUCS premier division.

# LS Sport



## Leeds on the road to glory



Leeds have enjoyed a successful road race season

Photo: Sarah Preece

Photo: Sarah Preece

### Men's Cycling

#### Leeds

Leeds University cycling team looks set to cap off a great year by winning the BUCS National Student Road Race this weekend.

The team of six riders aims to win the race and the team prize, and with a line up of Lee Tunnicliffe, Jack Kirk, Harry King, Michael Dales, Jack Cutsforth and Calum Chamberlain, things are looking good.

The year started off well for the team with a team silver at the National Student Hill Climb.

Out of 150, King was fifth, Kirk sixth, Dales twelfth and Tunnicliffe fifteenth.

This performance signalled a great start to the year.

The mountain bike team strunned the BUCS Mountain Bike

Championships by winning team gold in the XC race.

Chamberlain led the team home with a fifth place finish despite rolling a tyre during the early parts of the race.

At the Team Time Trial, the A team of Tunnicliffe, Dales and King rode a fantastic race to complete the 31 mile course with a time of 1:07.39, beating second place Cambridge by 30 seconds to claim gold for the second year in a row.

The team averaged 28mph as they flew around the course, hitting speeds of up to 35mph on the flat.

At the ten mile National Student Championship, the team came back with a great haul of medals.

King won the event and beat the course record on the way to a personal best for the distance with a time of 20.40.

Tunnicliffe was third with a time of 20.51 and Dales recorded a personal best with a time of 21.48. This performance also won Leeds

"This year has been amazing. Next year, we hope to see a Leeds rider represent team GB at the Student World Cycling Championships."

team gold.

During the week before the National Student 25 Time Trial, the team was named the Deloitte Leeds University sports team of the year, for the second time in the club's eleven-year history.

At the national 25, King won again on a tough and windy course with a time of 55.16. Tunnicliffe finished 6th with a 57.00.

Dales suffered a mechanical problem before the start, and had to abandon his TT bike for Tunnicliffe's road bike.

Sadly the team missed out on a team medal for the first time this year by a minute.

The team heads to the road race on Saturday looking to take the win and round off what has been a very successful season.

Michael Dales, captain of the cycling club, was full of praise for the season's performance.

"This year has been incredible. The most amazing part, from my

point of view, has been the consistency of the riders, performing when they have to and getting the job done every time.

"The team time trial performance from a personal point of view was a great ride.

"We went down the day before, rode the course in training and on the day we had a very fast, smooth ride.

"A special mention must go to Harry King, a double British student champion in the 10 and the 25.

"The focus is now on Saturday, with a very strong team, we have the ability to get another win with a few riders like Tunnicliffe, Kirk and King.

"Next year, we hope to see a Leeds rider go to the Student World Cycling Championships and represent team GB!"

# LEAVE LEEDS TIDY.COM

[www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)

The **Leave Leeds Tidy** website provides loads of info to help you when moving out of your accommodation including a useful checklist; a map of all the bottle banks, Green Streets collection dates and a list of useful services and contacts. Below are top tips to moving out and leaving Leeds tidy. [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)



## TAKE OUT YOUR BLACK BIN!

Put your black bin out the night before a collection and bring it back in the day after. If you leave them out you may be fined up to £75, it annoys local residents, as it makes the streets look cluttered and

messy, and it increases the chance of someone going through your bins. If you're leaving Leeds before bin day you can register with our team of Changeover Wardens and they'll put your bin out and bring it back in for you. Just call **0113 380 1329** to register.

## USE YOUR GREEN BIN

Put all clean tins and cans, non-confidential paper, magazines and card and plastic bottles and bags (marked with numbers 1, 2 & 4)

## VISIT HOUSEHOLD SORTING SITES

If you've got stuff to get rid of and it can't be reused by someone else then take it to one of the local Household Sorting Sites. These sites are available to help you dispose of a wide range of unwanted items in a safe and clean manner. You can recycle most things so take them pre sorted in bags to save time when you get there.

Details of Household Sorting Sites can be found at:

[www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)

## RECYCLE MOBILE PHONES

Visit [www.leedsuniversityunion.astrostudents.com](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.astrostudents.com) for more information. You'll be paid for the value of your phone, and the Volunteering and Community Office at LUU will receive £3 to help community projects like this one.

## BARGAIN HUNT!

If you have stuff to get rid of that someone else might still want why not try to make some cash and sell it at Bargain Hunt! This is a table top sale on Hyde Park (Woodhouse Moor) held every year by CALM (Community Action Leeds Met). Find out more about Bargain Hunt at [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)

## GREEN STREETS

Give any other re-usable, unwanted items to Green Streets. This is a volunteering project run by Leeds students to reduce the amount of re-usable items going to landfill! You will get a collection bag through your letterbox, with information about when it will be collected.

The stuff that is collected is sorted and given away either to local hostels and charities, or to the general public at 'free shops'.

For further information about collections, what can be put inside the bin bags, or when the free shops will be held visit [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com) or call **0113 380 1329**.

## BULKY WASTE

If you've got anything large and not reusable and you're not able to take it to a household sorting site, ring the council Environmental Call Centre on **0113 2224406** for a bulky waste collection. Once you've logged the waste with them they should be able to collect within 2 weeks and you can leave it by your bin to keep the streets tidy.

## GO TO THE BOTTLE BANK

Visit [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com) to see a map of your nearest bottle bank.

## SHRED CONFIDENTIAL PAPERWORK

Take any old confidential paperwork to Leeds University Union or Leeds Metropolitan University (both campuses) reception areas from 11th May. Shredding your paperwork will reduce the chance of someone going through your bin, stealing your identity and making a mess of your street!

## HELP TO LEAVE LEEDS TIDY

Paint your house number on the bins that belong to your household and leave a note on the fridge for the next tenants telling them where the bins are stored and which day is bin day. A template for this can be downloaded at [www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)

There are loads of opportunities to volunteer with Green Streets, from helping to run a free shop to driving a van, to making reusable fashion. It's a great way to make friends and gain experience for your C.V. For more information and to register email [volunteering@luu.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@luu.leeds.ac.uk).



**REMEMBER:** Try to start moving your unwanted belongs out early to clear all your waste before you move out!

**LEAVE  
LEEDS  
TIDY**.COM



## Leave Leeds Tidy is here to help you when moving house over the summer!

Moving house often causes a massive amount of rubbish and chaos on the streets, which contributes to friction between students and more permanent residents. Leaving all this rubbish out is bad for the environment

as loads of useful stuff ends up in landfill, and it puts you at risk from scavengers who look for things to sell - including your identity. Plus, if you leave your house and outdoor areas a mess you're likely to lose your deposit.

[www.leaveleedstidy.com](http://www.leaveleedstidy.com)

please

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