

Interview with Mr Hudson, plus



LS2 talks to STEPHEN K AMOS

# LEEDS STUDENT

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## MP's anger over Taps attack



### Protest arrests

LS News Team

Three Leeds University students were arrested in connection with a climate protest at Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, *Leeds Student* has learnt.

Police tactics were again called into question as a student was severely bitten by a police dog.

Over a thousand protesters, including about 50 from Leeds, descended upon Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire on Saturday 17 October.

The activists were campaigning for the closure of the Ratcliffe coal-fired power station, which emits 12.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, in favour of more environmentally friendly options.

Oonagh Ryder, a second-year Sociology student, was arrested on the Sunday for obstructing police as the protesters were leaving the site.

She explained: "The police wanted to clear us off faster so they were pushing us. I was trying to stop this one particularly violent police officer from pushing our bikes over. I was using my body as a blockade against him, so he decided to arrest me.

"I was taken to the side of the road and pushed down to sit on the floor. I was then put in a van and taken to the police station. They searched my bag and put me in a cell for about six hours. At the time I decided to take a caution as it was for such a minor offence [obstructing a police officer].

"I'm now considering not taking the caution though, due to the fact I couldn't actually have moved forward - there was no possible way for me to have done this. But when I was in a cell I had no witnesses to prove this. So I might challenge it, I'm not sure."

Matt Dunne, a recent graduate, Continued on page 4 >>>

#### Matthew Power

A Leeds MP has expressed his anger over an attack on a Leeds student that left him needing hospital treatment for serious burns.

The Leeds University student, 19, will require ongoing treatment to injuries he received after his sheep fancy dress costume was set on fire during an Otley run pub crawl on Saturday.

Two other students were left with minor burns following the

incident at the Headingley Taps pub, North Lane, with one also requiring treatment at Pinderfields Hospital.

Greg Mulholland MP for Leeds North West said: "People have the right to go out and enjoy themselves without fear of being attacked.

"Everyone's thoughts are with the young man involved and his friends. I hope his injuries are not as serious as first thought."

*Leeds Student* understands that the man's upper body was engulfed with flames and he ran out of the bar, catching the two other students

as he went.

A West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson confirmed that they were called to an incident involving two burnt males at 17.46 on Saturday. A fire investigation is still ongoing.

The student's injuries are not believed to be life threatening and is in a stable condition in hospital.

A University of Leeds spokesperson confirmed that two of the injured men are studying at the university.

Two men, aged 33 and 38, from Portsmouth, were arrested after the incident.

The 33-year-old was later released without charge and West Yorkshire Police released the 38-year-old on bail pending further enquiries.

Onlooker Sarah Grindall said: "On Saturday in the middle of an Otley run, I happened to stumble across a scene of chaos outside the The Headingley Taps. Due to the number of police cars and ambulances I assumed there had just been a drunken fight, but the arrival of a fire engine made everything seem slightly more serious."

# Leeds Student

Leeds Student is the voice of the students of the University of Leeds. But we always need writers, photographers and designers. We want you to join us.

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Image: Luke Farookhi



Sketch, like the rest of Leeds, has got his gloves on this week, but there's been a good few things for Sketch to get warm with excitement about.

With RAG calendar 2010 photo shoots looming, the prospect of nakedness has caused uproar among the new media minions.

Suggestions that LSTV and LSRFM should share a month have been greeted with outrage from one party who boasted that their members are far too attractive to pose naked with their competitors.

Rumours are abound that *The Sanctuary* will also share this fated month, a particularly

unsavoury thought for everyone involved.

Whatever happens, let's just hope that gymnastics take part once more.

In other news, as we all saw the Aditour tent was a huge success. Other major sporting brands are surely queuing up to take advantage of the buzz that has been created.

I can't wait for the LeCoqtour to come and clog up my picnic area for several days.

Meanwhile, two fearless *Leeds Student* editors went

missing this week whilst 'observing' events outside the BBC Television Centre on Thursday evening.

Certain online footage manipulated events to show one editor actively protesting, something that has been viciously denied.

The subject of Thursday's protest, Nick Griffin, is a former Oxbridge boxing blue, so to come back to the gloves, let's hope they were off. That is, if our editors ever want to make it back.

## Want more from LS?

# Leeds Student Online

Get your opinion heard and vote in our two Big Debates: from News this week, *'Should we support the striking binmen?'* and from Sport, *'Is Formula 1 safe?'*

Want to write for double-award nominated student media? We are currently looking for new talent to blog, tweet, make podcasts and keep the site up-to-date.

Email [website@leedsstudent.org](mailto:website@leedsstudent.org) to get involved.

If you've got more to say, then comment away!

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# Green Streets clean up at awards



NO RUBBISH AWARD: Green Streets receive their award from newsreader Dermot Murnaghan

Photo: Courtesy of Green Streets

Laura Mackenzie

**A Leeds student-led volunteering project has won 'Best Community Recycling Initiative' at the National Recycling Awards.**

The Green Streets initiative successfully diverted 21 tonnes of reusable items from landfill sites.

The group focuses on the changeover that occurs at the end of every academic year, collecting unwanted items from students moving out of halls of residence and private rented accommodation and then redistributing them amongst homeless shelters, hostels and other charities in the local community.

Last year a record number of collections were made, with donations up by 260 per cent from the following year.

Green Streets Projects Co-ordinator Kim Cooper put the initiative's success down to the hard work of its volunteers: "The award is testament to the hard work and physical effort of the project's volunteers. Last year a total of over 1,000 hours of volunteer time was put in, the majority of which was from

students. The project has grown dramatically in the last year and has only had a positive impact on all those involved."

Over the past year the project has expanded under the leadership of Kim and now works closely with Partnership Project and Leave Leeds Tidy as well as numerous other organisations, including Leeds Metropolitan University Students' Union, Unipol, Landlord Association, Hyde Park Neighbourhood Policing Team and Leeds City Council.

As well as the obvious environmental and charitable benefits, Green Streets also aims at improving the image and reputation of students and on strengthening relations between students and locals.

Kim believes the introduction of volunteers from the wider community has done much to turn around the increasingly bad reputation of students in Leeds: "This has greatly reduced the bad public perception of students being wasteful and messy as well as helping to improve student-community relationships."

Items collected last year included 1,297 pairs of shoes, four christmas trees and three blow up sofas.

## Feeling L.O.S.T?

Marcus Chippindale

Inspired by a trip to Canada, a group of Leeds students have set up a new society hoping to bridge the gap between home and international students.

Sarah Griffin and four other students met during their year abroad and decided to set up the Leeds Outdoor Social and Trips society (L.O.S.T).

The society aims to give students the opportunity to take part in "random outdoor activities" that are dictated by what members want to do.

Griffin, L.O.S.T President, said: "In Canada they had an outdoor club that was for international and home students and we realised that it was something Leeds didn't have."

Unhappy with the restrictive nature of many societies, the group wanted something that will encourage all students to take part.

"We wanted it to be a society for random outdoor activities that you could try, not necessarily be any good at and maybe hate, but then you wouldn't have to do that same activity again," said Griffin.

The aim is that this will make the society seem less exclusive and allow more exchange students to have the same experience the founders had in Canada.

In addition to numerous socials, the group are also planning events such as a camping trip and mountain boarding.

L.O.S.T is one of several recently approved societies, including Aikido, Psychiatry and Folk. LUU Activities Officer Josh Landy thinks that this is a sign that societies are becoming a more important part of student life.

"We are delighted to see that the amount of money generated from society memberships is up over £20,000 on this time last year and we look forward to seeing this figure continue to rise during the year," said Landy.



FIRED UP: The L.O.S.T team in action

Photo: Courtesy of L.O.S.T

## Emily cool over success

Amy Nickell

**A Leeds Business Management student has been named The Barclays Woman of the Year for 2009.**

Emily Cummins, 22, an Enterprise Scholar in her final year of her degree, has invented a fridge that requires neither electricity nor solar panels but relies on evaporation to cool medicines and other small items.

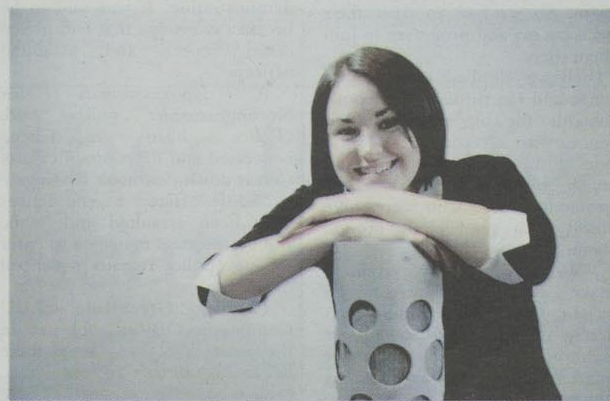
The fridge maintains a completely dry inner chamber so that filthy water can still be used to 'power' the fridge without contaminating its contents. Emily hopes her fridge will one day compete with electric ones.

Emily said: "I feel extremely overwhelmed. It is such a huge honour to receive the award and it was a complete surprise when I found out!

"Maureen Lipman nominated me for it, which was wonderful, and some of the previous winners include Sara Payne and Tina Turner. I still can't believe that I share the same award with these amazing women!"

Actor Maureen Lipman heard about Emily's exceptional achievements on Radio 4 and put her name forward for the Woman of the Year award, given annually to 'exceptional and selfless women who, with determination and vision, have made an impact on the lives of many.'

"Emily thinks broadly, perseveres, and uses her persistence



COOL IDEA: Emily shows off her fridge (above), Emily visits children in Africa

Photos: Courtesy of Emily Cummins

and her ambition to succeed against the odds. She makes her thoughts into deeds and her deeds into life-saving products. I can't wait to meet



this twenty-two year old that has already changed the way thousands of people live...for the better," said

Lipman.

Winners of The Women of the Year Awards are selected by a diverse cross-section of women represented on the nominating council, consisting of prominent figures from the arts, media, science, politics and other major fields.

Professor Richard Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise, Knowledge Transfer and International Strategy at the University of Leeds, stated: "Emily is a creative thinker who combines a back-to-basics approach with a high level of compassion for people. The university warmly congratulates Emily on her success."

Emily has won many prestigious awards before this. In 2008 she was awarded Cosmopolitan magazine's Ultimate Save-The-Planet Pioneer and was named a Future 100 Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

# Protest: injuries and arrests

was also arrested for assaulting an officer and a dog. Both he and Ryder have since been released. Overall, at least 80 protesters were arrested during the weekend.

## Bitten

Laura MacFarlane-Shopes, former Leeds University Union (LUU) Communication and Internal Affairs officer and current University of Leeds student, was attacked by a police dog as she tried to protect protesters from the police.

The police have told the press: "Dogs have remained on their leads at all times. If people have received dog bites, that's regrettable, but dogs are a legitimate way of helping to maintain order."

But Leeds students present at the demonstration have reported that dogs were let free.

Laura reported that she was "petrified" during the incident. She told *Leeds Student*: "I couldn't get back and join the rest of the group as they were in the woods and there was a police line in between where I was camping and the rest of the swoopers, so I waited outside and they came back round and then we rejoined them. So we had to trust their decision making processes to join them there."

"Then we climbed over a little fence and ran through the woods towards the big power station fence, with electric lines. I was one of the blockers, so I wasn't trying to get in; I was just protecting those who were. We stood in a semi circle around them."

"We have a buddy system to make sure that everyone is alright. One of my buddies was acting as support for the people trying to get in, so the police started grabbing him and pushing him to the ground. I was trying to pull him out when someone shouted "police dogs" and two horses came galloping down from the edge of the woods with the dogs."

"I wasn't fleeing, as I didn't want to turn my back to them. The police have them on a short leash, so they control where they are going. They allowed the dog to jump up onto me. So then I did run. One of my housemates was there too so she held my hand and we ran off."

Her experience has, however, not put Laura off future action: "I was pretty angry and upset. There was a medic outside who took a look at my arm. It is mostly bruising so there is not a lot that you can do really. They cleaned the cuts and put a bandage on it."

"I really didn't want to get back into the crowds as I didn't

want to get pushed around. If I'd been caught in a crowd the pain would have been too much."

"There was no safe space to go so I went to where we had a sound system and people dressed up as clowns and just had a dance!

## Overall success

"Looking at the overall picture it was definitely successful. There were so many people from Leeds it was unbelievable. I'm really proud of Leeds."

Chief Inspector Linda McCarthy, of Nottinghamshire Police, said that the injuries to protesters were "regrettable" but blamed protesters' "reckless" behaviour rather than the action of the police.

## Police officer injured

During the protest a police officer was airlifted to hospital with suspected head injuries but was later released. Two other officers also needed to be treated for minor injuries, Nottinghamshire police said.

The main group of protesters had gathered at the front gate where there was a peaceful demonstration. It was said to be breakaway groups that had pulled down fences and assaulted officers.

A spokeswoman for Nottinghamshire police said: "Police have experienced concerted and determined efforts to tear down perimeter fencing."

"Some officers at the fences have been assaulted and, while some protesters managed to enter the site, police remain in control of the site."

Hannah Greenslade, LUU Community Officer, took part in the protests. She explained there were four blocks of protesters, each with different aims: "I was part of the 'Take back the power bloc,'" she said.

According to The Great Climate Swoops FAQ sheet this group's aim was to "Get to the control room and take back the power."

## Protest organisation

A second group, 'False Solutions,' was also tasked with gaining access to the site. Their mission was to: "Get to the coal pile and expose the false solutions."

Greenslade said: "The bike block played a really important part, they really kept up the morale of everyone and they were also able to obstruct some of the police cars and add an extra dimension to it as well."

"While we were all on foot the police had dogs and horses,

which can be incredibly intimidating, so for us to have the bikes there it made everyone feel a lot safer when they could be in the way," she continued.

Protesters were issued with maps of the surrounding area before the Swoop. These showed the lay-out of the plant itself, along with locations of fencing and road entrances to the site.

Legal information was also supplied on the sheets, with advice on what to do if arrested, as well as numbers of solicitors and the Climate Camp Arrestee Support group.

When asked if this was something that they would look to do more in the future, Greenslade said: "The dog issue is a difficult one because, no matter what you plan, if a dog gets set on you, you just have to turn and run. It's very hard to deal with."

"There are things you can do, people are talking about getting really high pitched whistles that only dogs can hear. But we hadn't thought about that before the protest and some people got really badly hurt by police dogs, especially one which was let off its leash, which is incredibly bad practice by the police. They should never be let off a leash."

When asked to comment on Nottinghamshire Police's statement that dogs have remained on their leads at all times, Hannah said: "That it is categorically incorrect. I wasn't in the group involved but I will definitely be encouraging those who were there to file a complaint as it is incredibly dangerous."



**BITTEN:** Student left with dog's canine scars Photo: Virginia Newman

LS ONLINE



[www.leedsstudent.org](http://www.leedsstudent.org)

Go to *Leeds Student* online to watch videos from the protests.

# Protest: police stopped student attending

“They took my mobile and went through all my text messages”

Virginia Newman

**Guy Mitchell, a third year Politics and South East Asian Studies student, was arrested on Wednesday October 14, three days before the Ratcliffe-on-Soar protest was set to take place, on the grounds of conspiring to commit criminal damage during the protest.**

He was held in a police cell for 21 hours and questioned by police who had travelled up from Nottingham.

Speaking to *Leeds Student*, Mitchell explained: “I was walking home from Common Place, a social centre in Leeds, after a meeting about the plans for the climate swoop.

“I was on Commercial Street when a black car pulled up next to me and a woman stuck her head out the window and said ‘excuse me mate’ and I stopped because I thought they were asking for directions.

“They both got out and asked

me my name, showed ID and were in plain, dark clothes, and said they were police officers. They said ‘what’s your name?’ and I said ‘I don’t have to give you my name.’

“They said ‘OK get in the car, you’re under arrest.’ They tapped me down and took everything out - my wallet, everything. They put handcuffs on me and drove off. As they were driving off the man in the car said, ‘You’re wanted by Nottinghamshire police. You’re under arrest for conspiracy to commit criminal damage at a Nottinghamshire power station.’”

Mitchell was held for 21 hours at Leeds Bridewell, a complex of cells in Leeds. He was in ‘communicado’ - meaning that no one had to be informed about his arrest until the next morning when Nottinghamshire police arrived to question him.

The police bailed Mitchell until the following Saturday at 1pm, the same time as the protest was due to start.

He described the experience at the police station: “It’s just horrible having to be with police officers for

21 hours. You have a right to a warm, lit police cell but it was cold and pretty horrible. I had a notebook with me and in it was mostly Climate Camp stuff, and also some lecture notes and Union Council notes. I had an hour and a half interview where they went through my notebook and asked me questions about everything in it.”

Police searched Mitchell’s student home and went through all his possessions, questioning him on his notes from the climate swoop meeting. Mitchell, however, gave a ‘no comment’ interview based on general legal advice given by the climate camp legal team to activists.

Mitchell added: “They took my computer, all my credit cards and debit cards and my driving license from my wallet, and when they searched my room and communal they took my passport. So I have no way to get money now, I have to borrow off mates.

“They took my mobile and went through all my text messages and asked me about every single text message. I just said ‘no comment

to everything.”

Mitchell is currently on unconditional bail until November 16. Mitchell said that he hadn’t intended on committing criminal damage and when questioned he said: “Technically breaking through a fence would have been criminal damage, yes. But I wasn’t conspiring to commit any criminal damage. But then you have Kingsnorth six, who were charged with criminal damage but were given a lawful excuse as they tried to prevent climate change. So it’s pre-empting something which might come up in court, it’s really bizarre. But I wasn’t conspiring to commit criminal damage.”

It is unknown as yet why Mitchell was targeted by Nottinghamshire police. He commented: “I was the only person who left that meeting on my own and they didn’t know where I lived, so I think they were just waiting for people, as there were other people due to go to the meeting who didn’t go.

“I think they’ve been doing stuff to other activists. Someone who’s

in the international working group with me was on their way to Copenhagen and was arrested under the terrorism act for going to Copenhagen to meet some other activists.”

Mitchell has, however, not been deterred from future actions: “It did definitely faze me. When back at home afterwards I thought: I don’t want to live in a country where police can just pick you up off the street in a black car and hold you for a day, take a day out of your life and not tell anyone.

“That really hit me emotionally afterwards. I don’t think overall it’s put me off, though. The problem’s still there but being held for 21 hours isn’t anything compared to having your home flooded or your crops failing, or the other effects climate change will cause and is already causing to the 300,000 people who die of climate change every year.

“The injustice is still there. I think when you come into conflict with the powers that be it doesn’t end the necessity of that cause.”

# Missing student’s father flies to Cambodia to renew search

Dafydd Pritchard

**The father of a Leeds University student who disappeared five years ago has flown to Cambodia to renew his search for information.**

Eddie Gibson had been in Cambodia for two weeks when he went missing on 24 October 2004, a week before he was due to fly back home.

The 22-year-old, originally from Hove, was in the Far East as part of his Asia Pacific course.

And with the fifth anniversary of Eddie’s disappearance approaching, his father Mike has returned to the capital city, Phnom Penh.

He said: “As long as there’s some hope we’re determined to find out what happened to Eddie.”

Speaking to the BBC, he added: “It’s unfinished business as far as we’re concerned.

“We do want to find out what happened to Eddie, he’s our son.

Five years have gone by and we just won’t give up until we find out.

“We do cope, and we get on with our lives. We’ve got two lovely other sons, but Eddie will always be in our minds.

“The scenario is that Eddie almost certainly is not alive. You never give up total hope that we could be wrong.

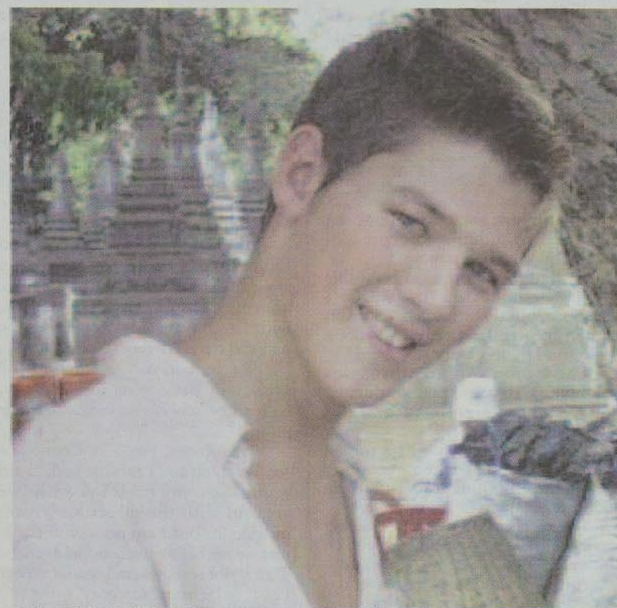
“We have had a lot of inquiries, ongoing inquiries, into his disappearance and some of them do point to the fact that he may have been murdered out in Phnom Penh.

“We hope not, and we are determined not to let it go.”

Mike’s return to Cambodia is the latest attempt in a long and complex search for his son.

In December 2005, a documentary, ‘Lost: The Eddie Gibson Story’, was aired on Sky News, and in 2006, Sussex Police detectives went to Cambodia to assist with the investigation.

But the Gibson family have heard nothing from Eddie since he



STILL MISSING: Eddie disappeared in 2004

sent an email to his mother a fortnight into his time in Cambodia, saying that he planned to fly home from Thailand a week later.

With the Meredith Kercher murder trial set to be concluded next month, the fifth anniversary of Eddie’s disappearance has again raised concerns at the University about years abroad and Erasmus schemes.

Rhidian Boobier, a second year French and Italian student, said that such events have influenced students’ opinions about spending a year abroad.

“I would have reservations about going to Cambodia because I don’t know much about the country. Having spent time in Europe, however, I feel a lot more comfortable about the prospect of spending a year in France or Italy.

“Both cases (Kercher and Gibson) obviously make you consider potential safety issues but they wouldn’t necessarily stop me from going abroad.”

# Loan "shambles" inquiry

Dominic Scott  
Tim Boden

After processing problems led to tens of thousands of students still waiting to receive their student loans well into the first weeks of term, Higher Education Minister David Lammy has ordered an emergency review of the Student Loans Company (SLC).

As *Leeds Student* reported last week, technical difficulties led to as many as 175,000 students still waiting for their loans, in some cases being forced to rely on emergency handouts from their universities.

The student loan application process was centralised this year and faulty new scanning equipment has been blamed for the delays, forcing the company to process applications manually.

The record numbers of students applying to study at university this year have added to the stretched finance body's troubles and students have had to cope with requests from the SLC

for repeat applications because of mislaid documents.

Deputy Chief Executive Derek Ross of the SLC has described the document losses as "a bit like losing your car keys, you think you have lost them but they are in the house somewhere. It became easier to say to students could you send them [the documents] in again because they became lost in the system."

Lib Dem MP Stephen Williams called for an apology and the withdrawal of these comments, saying that it was "absolutely vital" that this case be taken seriously and lessons learned to avoid a repeat of the situation next year.

Conservative MPs have called the case "a shambles" and demanded a response, accusing ministers of "trying to avoid responsibility" by "hiding behind the Student Loans Company".

The response has been the calling in of two experts - London South Bank University vice-chancellor Deian Hopkins and HM Customs and Revenue's Bernadette Kenny - to examine the situation.

An internal review has also been

ordered at the Student Loans Company, but it is hoped external expertise will help shed extra light on the situation.

Lammy has issued an apology to all those affected by the situation, stating that the problems "had a profoundly

regrettable effect on individual students and their families" and that he hoped the review would "provide a frank assessment of what went wrong and a series of thorough proposals for the future."



**SKINT:** Many students started the new term without their loans  
Photo: Rachel Wyncoll

## Round two for Council elections



**BALLOT:** Union Council elections took place this week  
Photo: Riyad Cajee

Geoff Archer

This week's Union Council elections have been left in tatters after three positions were left without any candidates.

There will now be another round of elections to fill all five places.

Voting has been taking place in Leeds University Union (LUU) this week to appoint the positions on the Student Union's Council.

The by-election has not, however, gone fully according to plan, as there were only candidates for two of the five positions available.

LUU Democracy Coordinator Clare Hartley said: "We had nine candidates for the positions of first year rep, however no candidates for the other three positions."

"However, there are students who want to stand for these three positions, who had been in touch with CDS before the nomination deadline, who for one reason or another missed the deadline. As such, Steering Committee will be

recommending to Union Council to run another by-election."

The five positions sought after are two First Year Representative positions, a Student Parent Assembly Convenor, a Mature and Part-time Students Assembly Convenor and a Disabled Students Assembly Chair.

Members of this union body are elected by students to represent them and set LUU policy.

Most of the 32 positions available were filled earlier in March's elections, but this week's by-election aimed to give first year students a voice on Union Council.

The Union Council discusses issues as diverse as societies' activities, academic tutors and climate change.

The Union implements a robust policy of fairness when accepting candidates' nominations to ensure fairness at all levels.

The next Union Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th November.

Any LUU member can attend a meeting to voice their opinion or ask questions but only the elected representatives can vote.

## Student survey results below average

Marcus Chippindale

The University of Leeds has come below the national average for assessment and feedback in the National Student Survey (NSS).

The NSS is an annual census of students in their final year of a course leading to undergraduate credits or qualifications across the UK.

The university finished above the average overall score, but the results for assessment and feedback have caused some concern.

Mike Gladstone, LUU Education Officer said: "This year's NSS scores are consistent with, but not a huge improvement on, last year's results, with Leeds's averages reflecting the national trends in most cases."

"We remain too far behind the average in assessment and feedback, with some schools scoring extremely poorly."

Vivian Jones, Pro Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning said: "I am reasonably comfortable with where we are and with the direction we are moving in. But I am not comfortable that we are below the national average. That is not somewhere I would expect Leeds to be in any category"

The outcome of the survey is evidence that there is still plenty that

can be done to improve the university's reputation, nationally and internationally.

"There are, I think, some very basic areas that we just have to get right. We need to make sure that we are consistent across the university and when we say that we are going to return work to students within a certain time that we stick to it," said Jones.

She continued: "I don't see why we can't lead in research and teaching, some of our best schools are leaders in both. My feeling is that this is something that we can't make any excuses about."

Gladstone stated: "The university has ambitious aims to improve these scores and they will have to take major steps to do so."

The University has invested a great deal in the new VLE and the Leeds for Life programme in recent years in the hope that these will significantly enhance the student experience.

Jones commented: "We have always been committed to the student experience and students after they graduate and Leeds for Life just helps us to focus on this."

"All students across the university have the opportunity to benefit from not only personal tutoring system, but also the other opportunities that Leeds for Life offers."

## Leeds students come out of their Shell

Hannah Crichton-Smith

Two students went head-to-head in the finals of The UK's Most Enterprising Student competition last week.

Leeds University students Charlotte Fayle and Jonathan Hutchinson had already triumphed in the Shell Step Regional Finals.

They both went on to the finals in London to compete for the title of "The UK's Most Enterprising Student", of which Charlotte was crowned.

James Smith, Chairman of Shell UK, said: "Work experience can help students stand out in the job market. Charlotte and Jonathan have clearly made the most of this chance. Their go-ahead style on their projects have been good for them and their host businesses. We wish them the best of luck with their future career."

The Shell Step placement programme provides undergraduates and recent graduates with relevant and meaningful work experience through tailored eight week placements with small and medium-sized businesses across the UK.

Charlotte, 21, won the award for her outstanding achievement whilst on a work placement with RCE Services, a local electrical contractor. She went on to develop an energy reduction service which is set to generate a £300,000 turnover for the company.

The Biology student said: "I'm over the moon to have won this award from Shell. I had no experience before I did the placement and never thought I would have achieved what I did."

Jonathan, 22, was also named runner-up in the National Finals having undertaken an energy efficiency review at Peter Ramsey & Sons, a local timber manufacturing company.

Robert Cardis, Managing Director of RCE Services UK Ltd, said: "The Shell Step placement far exceeded our expectations and we're delighted that Charlotte has been recognised for the fantastic contribution she made to the business."

The University of Leeds Careers Centre manages the scheme in West and North Yorkshire.

Bob Gilworth, Director of the Careers Centre, said: "We were delighted to get two Leeds students through to the national final, and overjoyed that they took first and second places. As far as we know, this is the first time that a single University has provided both the national winner and runner-up in the same year."

Hannah Gilmartin, President of Leeds University Enterprise Society said: "Enterprise and entrepreneurship is all about being active and making your own opportunities. This is a fantastic achievement and shows we have so many creative, positive and driven students at Leeds."

# Student's 20,000 child porn images "beggar belief"



Jess Elliott  
Victoria Littler

**A music student has been jailed for 12 months after downloading over 20,000 indecent images of children.**

Police found 20,528 pornographic images of children between the age of six and 10 on the laptop of Benjamin McKenzie, 24, after he took it in to a Leeds computer store to be fixed.

619 images fell in to the most serious level of child pornography and five involved activities with adults or animals. 42 moving images were also found on the laptop.

The owner of the computer repair store found the indecent images on McKenzie's computer after fixing problems with the machine.

He immediately alerted police who arrested the postgraduate student, originally from New Zealand, when he returned to collect the laptop in October last year.

McKenzie, of Carr Mills, Buslingthorpe Lane, Buslingthorpe, was jailed for 12 months at Leeds Crown Court and ordered to sign the sex

offenders register for 10 years.

Judge Geoffrey Marson QC, said: "Today is a great day of shame for you and your family but that pales into insignificance when set against the abuse to which these young children have been subjected.

"One cannot imagine the torture and anguish they have suffered.

"You don't appear to understand that in downloading these images as you did you contributed to the abuse of those young children.

"There are not only still images, there are moving images as well – some of which I have seen and beggar description."

Both parents of McKenzie flew from New Zealand to be in court to hear their son admit to 23 charges of possessing indecent images.

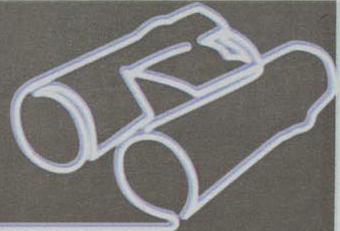
Ian Alexandra, mitigating, said: "Much of the punishment for the defendant is the fact that his habits and hobby have been exposed to the public spotlight and there's the inevitable shame that goes with it.

"He's a young man who's clearly talented, a loner, very quiet, very private, very shy and he has very limited social skills."

**GUILTY:** Benjamin McKenzie was told he will spend 12 months in jail by a judge at Leeds Crown Court

Photo: Richard Smith

## Campus Watch



Louisa Orchard

### Sheffield

**A drunken male student urinated over a World War One memorial in the centre of Sheffield last weekend.**

Philip Laing, 19, a Sheffield Hallam University Sports Psychology student, was seen to stumble up to the memorial and urinate over the poppy wreaths and assembled tributes placed there.

Laing was among 2,000 students who were taking part in the controversial Carnage bar crawl last weekend and performed

the act in front of his friends and fellow carnage participants.

Despite the extreme drunkenness of passers by, event security was eventually notified and the memorial was cleaned.

Residents of Sheffield responded with outrage. John Levers, the descendant of a World War One soldier, stated: "He should be made to clean the streets of Sheffield or do some kind of community service."

Laing has since apologised for his actions: I am sincerely sorry for my behaviour. I didn't realise how much alcohol I had consumed that night and also hadn't eaten since lunchtime," he said.

### De Montfort

**A student has been granted permission to carry on living in a hut on a Leicester field.**

Will Renner, 31, has lived in his small hut on his father's field for four years but was told last August that he must apply for planning permission if he wanted to carry on living there.

Will was told he would have to dismantle the wood structure if the planning application was turned down.

However, planning officers approved the application last week.

Will said: "The future of my home has been in the balance for a

while now and I must say it's a relief to finally be told that I can stay.

"I love living here and I honestly can't think of anything I would change about my way of life – except maybe the dash to the outside shower on a freezing morning."

### London

**An investigation has been launched after homophobic comments appeared on a website created by three Goldsmiths University students.**

The site was designed as a forum to discuss how to usurp Goldsmiths SU Campaigns and

Communications officer Jennifer Jones from her position within the University.

However the comments posted on the website took on an abusive nature, one said: "Burn Jennifer jones! dyke bitch."

In a message sent to the former SU President of Goldsmiths by Peter Moore, a creator of the website the same sentiment is said: "shame we can't just set fire to her like the old days."

The severity of the abuse prompted an internal investigation which condemned the website as 'a systematic and sustained form of victimisation.'

Despite this conclusion a new external investigation has now been launched.

## -Student attacked-

**As students we get used to abuse from members of the public calling us lazy, loud and drunk.**

Even though this may well be true in some cases, it doesn't justify the sort of incident that occurred at the Headingley Taps this week when a student dressed as a sheep was set on fire.

Students should be able to go out and enjoy themselves with their friends and not have to worry about being physically harmed by someone who doesn't approve. The student involved was lucky to escape the incident without any more serious injuries than he did, and while the person

who set him alight probably didn't intend to cause major damage, this does not excuse the action.

If students started going around setting people's clothes on fire and tripping over grannies the local community would be up in arms.

Furthermore, anyone who has walked past Oceana or TigerTiger late on a Friday night will know that students are not the only ones who drink around here: it is completely unreasonable for students to be the victims of acts of violence just because we, too, want to have a good time.

## -Another climate protest-

**On Saturday a number of Leeds University students headed to Nottinghamshire to protest at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station.**

One policeman had to be airlifted to hospital with injuries and protesters claim officers illegally let their dogs off leads. Some demonstrators have the bite marks to show for it.

There will, undoubtedly, be protesters that will complain about the injuries they sustained at the demo and if dogs were, in fact, let off leads then there should be a full-scale inquiry.

It seems as though the environmental groups involved succeeded in attracting national media coverage. However, was this for the right reasons?

News agencies concentrated on the fact that over 80 protesters were arrested and did not consider what they were campaigning for. The groups continue to give themselves a

bad name by using violence as a way of expressing their views and do not help themselves as police will expect violence at similar future events.

Leeds University Union's (LUU) resident protester Guy Mitchell had his room searched last week before the protest and was arrested and released on bail, preventing him from travelling to the demo in Nottinghamshire.

Either the police had some very substantial evidence that Mitchell was going to cause extensive damage or his reputation finally caught up with him and police used him as an example to send out a message to the other demonstrators.

Protesters have obviously felt the need to hold protests to make their opinions heard. Despite this, can they justify such a violent protest and were they waiting for police to make one wrong move?

## -Elections-

**Very few students care to vote in LUU elections and referendums, but this week that select few almost didn't have anyone to vote for.**

It is difficult not to question the credibility of Union politics at the best of times, but when not one person runs for three of the five available positions the situation becomes a joke.

LUU had hoped that this by-election would encourage more first year students to get involved, but the attempt has clearly not worked. The average student,

never mind the average fresher, has far better things to do than run for a lowly position on Union Council.

It may have helped if people had actually known that there was a vote going on, but it seems that LUU cared so much about these elections that they decided not to make it common public knowledge. It therefore comes as no surprise that so few people took an interest in the first of many unconvincing attempts at generating interest in student politics this year.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When reading recent issues of *Leeds Student*, I have noticed an overwhelming amount of spelling and grammar mistakes, which I feel makes a mockery of the University and it's (sic) students.

Reading such things in Issue 2, like 'Should sundebds be allowed in the Union building?' (pg 9) and 'At present she is living on just one bowel of cereal' (pg 12) makes me feel that it's necessary to bring this to your attention. Imagine if an outsider or a parent were to pick up an issue of the newspaper and find all these embarrassing mistakes? (sic)

The University is aiming to be within the top 50 universities in the world, but with students that can't even spell, that target seems impossible.

Next time, make use of spell check, or even better, get students who actually know how to spell to write your articles.

Melisa Guler

Dear Editor,

At a time when unions up and down the country are protesting in their droves (as reported in *Leeds Student* last week), I feel a little bit of perspective is required.

As citizens of Leeds are well aware, strike action affects all; more often than not in a negative way. Mountains of rubbish are a common sight around this city and the strikes of the bin men are responsible for an increased risk in public health.

Now the union representing Royal Mail employees has decided to hold national strikes. Obviously this will not only cause great inconvenience, but also huge losses from mail-order companies like Amazon. These clients will move their business elsewhere, in favour of couriers like UPS and Parcel Express. The Post Office is the next Great British institution on its last legs, and this union madness could be one of the final nails in the coffin.

During a recession, everybody in the world is tightening the purse strings. Like it or not, regardless of your occupation, nobody is immune. Trade Unions do not deserve exceptional treatment and should accept that they must make the same cutbacks as the rest of us. Give them too much strength over this country and expect another winter of discontent.

Yours faithfully,

Rupert Smithwick-Hammondson

2nd Year Drama Student

Dear Editor,

Upon reading the article entitled 'Club night slagged off' in last week's issue of the paper I was shocked to read the comments of one Filth employee. The representative in question was quoted as saying 'we've just come back from Ibiza and a lot of the nights are called something similar, over there it's normal. But over here some people take it the wrong way'.

Not unreasonably, I think, I found myself at a loss as to exactly how I might take the entitling of a club night as a 'Slut Party' in the 'right' way. Filth's employee goes on to state that the title of the evening is aimed at achieving a certain shock factor. The transparency of this claim is obvious: shocking potential clubbers is unlikely to get them to pay the £5 entry fee. The implication that they might quite easily stumble into a one-night stand may well.

Presumably the 'right' way to take the misogynistic slogan also involves receiving it light heartedly - a bit of fun. I can't help but wonder how the trivialisation of prostitution is in any way a joking matter. To exploit something as degrading and despicable as prostitution for means of advertising is nothing short of shameful.

Yours,

Shirley Knott

Want your opinion to be printed in Leeds Student? Send us your letters to editor@leedsstudent.org





# the big debate:

## Like the Strike?

We've all seen the wheelie-bins piling high and the litter in the streets; we're all scared that if we walk through a back entry we'll get bitten by a rat and get bubonic plague. With Leeds' binmen on strike and no sign of their return before Christmas, this week we ask:

**Should we support the striking binmen?**

Yes

Mark Searwards

Five thousand pounds! What could you do with that? Perhaps that is the amount of alcohol you have consumed thus far this semester? Or even the amount of take-away food you've eaten. But to some of the striking bin men of Leeds it is how much they are expected to surrender, per year, in exchange for more working hours and fewer holiday privileges.

Our Tory-Lib Dem Council has tried to shield this under the guise of an 'equality re-grading scheme.' And with that fancy jargon comes no compromises, no compensation, and no negotiation. Just a full crackdown on the pay of some of the least appreciated workers in our community. The council insists this is in the aim of equality but when you consider that nearly every other council in the country were able to avoid this debacle, this makes no sense.

So, should the bin men just roll over and take this kicking? Of course they bloody shouldn't - no one in their situation should or would. Slashing their pay by thirty per cent in one foul swoop is, quite simply, unacceptable. Striking is the only way in which they can protect their incomes - forcing an unwilling and relentless council to negotiate.

Now it has been suggested that these individuals should be grateful for employment at all, given the current climate. However, recession or not, no one in modern Britain should be subject to such an attack from their own bosses. No bin man should merely be grateful for employment under a council which takes with one hand and demands with the other.

Residents on the other hand have complained about the rubbish mounting in the streets, cursing the bin men as they slide along the path atop yesterday's banana skin. But as we struggle to weave through these litter-filled streets, the bin men fight with the only weapon they have. They cannot be expected to simply accept the cards they have been dealt. With families to support, from single parents trying to make it through to Christmas as well as the extended families supporting elderly relatives, the cuts our council are trying to impose could devastate communities in a way that far surpasses the mere accumulation of rubbish. Inconvenience to us is no reason to condemn the strike.



And as the rubbish piles up, you might wonder if some of those council bigwigs would be prepared to accept such pay cuts. Sure, they'd argue they have tough jobs and it must get stressful commanding things from above in those ivory towers. However when we realise that Paul Rogerson, chief executive, earns more than our Prime Minister (Paul earns a wage of £192,000) we can begin to sympathise with the bin men's tactics. This sympathy stretches further still when we discover that the council's top earners, in favour of slashing wages by a third, are fighting to keep their salaries intact, which can be up to ten times that of a bin man.

What's more, with such people in high office there are those in the city who have argued that it is futile to strike and that the pay cut is inevitable. Well, if the bin men had done nothing they would have received exactly that in return. However, by striking, the council have been forced to enter negotiations to avoid such a harsh reduction in pay. Even as this was written, there are rumours of a proposed deal being made by the council involving a much smaller cut of around £200 per annum, though with 'increased productivity'. Regardless of what deal, if any, comes out of these negotiations, the bin men will be in a better position - because they chose to act.

They don't fight for higher salaries, better working conditions or shiny new trucks; they just want to ensure they keep their income at the same level it is now. They are in a battle with a ruthless and somewhat unforgiving council that demands more work for substantially less pay. They struggle against a council run by those on high incomes and with little tolerance for the idea that they themselves should take a smaller slice of the pie. Striking is one of the last weapons left in the arsenal of the bin men. Such action has demonstrated the solidarity between the workers and if the council leaders refuse to clean up their act, the bin men have every right to avoid cleaning the streets.

**Results from last week's poll:**  
**Have the Tories really changed?**

**Yes: 33%**

**No: 67%**

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



Luke Farookhi

No

Jack Choppin



Well the winter's almost upon us, time to embrace the cold, the premature setting of the sun and of course the inevitable news footage of strikers in woollen hats gathered around a fire. It seems strikes are an annual thing, and of course with the British government and other organisations (hands up Vice Chancellor Arthur) making cuts to survive, the strikes were bound to come thick and fast. Strikes are a vital weapon in a union's arsenal when trying to get fair treatment of its members, but it is also a brilliant way of exploiting a government in a position of weakness. So with the latter in mind, let's consider the question: Can the refuse workers of Leeds really justify their strike?

The fact that the world, and especially Britain, is struggling in the current economic collapse is no big secret. But the bin men of Leeds have clearly not been keeping an eye on the headlines. Pay cuts are expected and have become the norm in workplaces across Europe and America, in fact getting away with just a pay cut could be deemed pretty lucky. Yet these bin men think they shouldn't have to suffer the same problems that millions across Britain alone have been dealing with for the past 13 months. If the council has found a way of reducing its budget and the refuse department can trim down then why shouldn't it? Any compromise on this would be an insult to the rest of us living with the gloom of the economic climate. An even bigger worry is what other sectors the council would cut back on if these strikers got their way - schools maybe? I can imagine it now, "I'm sorry Mrs Milton your child can't have a free education, the bin men of Leeds need to pay for their Sky Sports subscriptions."

It's normal to read that workers are striking due to pay cuts and feel a pang of sympathy, but when you really look at the figures, do these men deserve our sympathy? The union figure of a £6,000 loss per man is exaggerated, with the average

wage loss actually at £3,000. And with wages currently as high as £18,000 for a job that requires the minimum of training or skill, isn't any feeling of sympathy massively misplaced? I'm sure it's hard adjusting to a new budget, but it doesn't give cause to create a city oozing with last month's garbage, and with their current pay protection, the bin men would have 13 months to prepare for the cuts anyway.

The infuriating aspect of this strike is its timing. Waiting until just before the students returned to begin the strike was no coincidence, and the Union's arrogant assumption that this will help them gain public support is even more infuriating still. Of course if you let rubbish pile up in the streets you are going to create unrest in the city. Who isn't annoyed about having old teabags and rotting chicken bones accompanying their morning walk to lectures? But the disgruntled students of Leeds shouldn't aim their annoyance at the council, this time it's the greedy union members that should bear the brunt of public opinion.

Just before you go to throw another black bin bag onto the ever expanding mountain of waste at the front of your house you should consider this; if a group of upper middle class civil servants went on strike, would they expect public support? The fact is that the bin men think being working class means they will automatically gain the support from the common man and this just isn't the case any more. It's every man for himself out there, people are too worried about their own financial problems to worry about other people's so the bin men have really misjudged this one.

So let's not be foolish and support the bin men's over ambitious demands, let's just hope they get back to work soon so that half eaten pizza will stop haunting your front gate, and let's concentrate on supporting the up-and-coming postal strike instead, because let's face it, a few months without bills on the door mat would be much more pleasant than a few months with empty cans on the door step.

# A new deal for the arts

The days of diamond-encrusted skulls are over - new initiative galvanises efforts to bring art back to the common man



**Guy Sewell**  
Third Year Philosophy  
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On the 15 September 2008 (the same day as the collapse of the Lehman Brothers Empire), Sotheby's auction of 218 items by Damien Hirst titled 'Beautiful inside My Head Forever' raised £111 million. This was ten times higher than the existing Sotheby's record for a single artist sale. There was a belief at the time that Hirst's business colleagues had 'propped up' the sale prices, making purchases or bids which accounted for over half of the £70.5 million spent on the first sale day.

In our time of recession, this kind of art world is no more. The collapse of the financial markets has meant art is no longer the subject of hoarding by speculators. Works of art are no longer a status, or lifestyle symbols. As a result we have seen the closure and collapse of many galleries, all too many of them the independent gems that grace our cities. Art is no longer a commodity. It is ready to return to an expression of the common man. It can become the means of translating our time. Art has always adapted and flourished in times of dread and angst. It is up to

government to nurture this creativity, to provide support to instigate its creation. It is not a case of artists relying on handouts from the state. The economist John Maynard Keynes believed the artist 'walks where the breath of the spirit blows him (and) leads the rest of us into fresh pastures'. Government should be not be asking 'What can we do for artists?' but 'What can artists do for us?'

Art has always adapted and flourished in times of dread and angst

The need for this intervention has created 'A New Deal of the Mind' (ANDM). ANDM is a coalition of artists and entrepreneurs who recognize the value - economically, socially and culturally - of

Britain's creative talent. It is inspired by the cultural programmes of President Roosevelt's 1930s Second New Deal, led by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA paid artists a wage in exchange for socially useful work. It commissioned over 5,000 artists who produced 108,000 easel paintings, 12,000 pieces of sculpture, many thousand murals, and prints and posters numbering in the millions. It was instrumental in the development of Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Wilhelm de Kooning.

ANDM's first initiative proposes the reworking of the Enterprise Allowance Scheme (EAS), introduced by Margaret Thatcher in 1983. The EAS gave people £40 a week to start up a business. It allowed people to come off the dole and forge an identity as an artist or entrepreneur. In 1986, 65% of those 'start ups' were still in business - and employing other people - in music, fashion, advertising, art, theatre and design.

The second initiative would be an introduction of 'Future Jobs Fund' hubs across Britain in art and heritage institutions, such as museums and libraries, and in the commercial sector. The hubs would provide meaningful interventions for artists by offering funded placements. The placements would be divided between creative graduates and unemployed young people. Running parallel to the hubs would be creative 'Pop-up' centres. Using empty or disused

The creative sector is at the forefront of British enterprise

buildings, these centres would offer studio, rehearsal and gallery spaces for young artists and musicians and drop-in centres for designers. It will also provide employment and business advice for graduates and innovators, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and University Career Services.

ANDM is still a charity in its elementary stages. For it not to expand would be a detriment to all levels of society. In a post-industrial Britain, the creative sector is at the forefront of British enterprise. To quote Harry Hopkins (founder of the WPA), 'give a man dole, and you save his body but destroy his spirit. Give him a job and you save both body and spirit'. If A New Deal of The Mind does not receive the respect and funding it deserves, we risk losing a generation of talent and intellectual capital.

# Grow up and get real

The recent bout of student-led protests have been childish at best, violent and costly at worst



**Matthew Power**  
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This week students from the University of Leeds descended on the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire to protest against the coal industry.

The cost of the demonstration to police reached £600,000 and an officer had to be airlifted to hospital due to head injuries that he sustained at the hands of these violent demonstrators.

Yet the protesters wasted no time in appealing for sympathy when they received bruising from police dog bites.

The fact that they pulled down a fence and intended to enter private property to disrupt the power station's operation seems to have totally slipped their mind. There are videos of protesters scratching and swiping at the hands of guards as they tried to cut a rope pulling down the fence.

It beggars belief that these people complain about police brutality during a violent protest in which a police officer was injured. Police dogs are used as a back-up and although they shouldn't have been allowed off their leads, we continue to dwell

on the idea of police brutality instead of the law breaking of the aggressive demonstrators.

The fact that members of our union were involved in these acts of violence is embarrassing. Indeed, a member of our own student executive was involved. Luckily, the executives do not hold positions of high enough responsibility for this to have an effect on other Leeds students.

It incenses me that these protesters continue to break the law by causing damage to private property and yet do not receive a suitable punishment.

The protesters responsible for the Stansted Airport disruption in December were ordered to complete community service for charities that they would have done voluntary work for anyway. Some good hard graft in a coal power plant or an airport may have been a more suitable punishment. They continue to break the law but courts continue to issue them with lame punishments.

This week's Ratcliffe demonstration is just the latest violent protest that has involved Leeds students and disgraced the name of our university and union.

On September 27 a number of students took part in a demonstration against arms manufacturer BAE systems.

Equipment was stolen from the BAE careers stand in Parkinson Court. This is not productive in any way but just a mere

irritation. Each individual should have been arrested for theft. It is clear that these individuals have nothing productive to do in their lives.

Protesters from the University of Leeds demonstrated against the potential Leeds Bradford airport expansion in April. Luckily, it seems the expansion, which could see the airport double in size, will still go ahead.

Latest figures show that there are

We continue to dwell on police brutality instead of the law breaking of protesters

currently 14,165 unemployed people in Leeds. The new Leeds Bradford airport expansion will create 2,000 new jobs. This could potentially create a job for one in seven of those unemployed in Leeds.

Who do these childish protesters think they are, to deprive locals of this vast amount of new jobs during a recession?

It's clear to me that they have never had to worry about working and living in the real world.

In this week's instalment of this protest frenzy, campaigners are heading to London, hoping to stop the British National Party appearing on BBC Question Time.

Firstly, how these students afford to travel the length of the country to participate in protests is beyond me - especially considering they don't seem to be able to buy some new shoes or get a hair cut.

Secondly, and more importantly, it offends me that these protesters believe I do not have the intelligence to listen to what the BNP has to say for myself. What right do they have in a democratic society to stop a political party (which received 6.26 per cent of the national vote in the 2009 European elections) from appearing on a televised debate? I do not condone the BNP's racist ideas but we have a duty to listen to every side of the story.

Once again we can turn to the words of Evelyn Beatrice Hall paraphrasing the ideas of Voltaire in the 1906 biography *The Friends of Voltaire*:

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it".

# Rotten at the core

A Conservative victory is not a foregone conclusion - if people base votes on core values, the Tories will always come up short



**Lucy Snow**  
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There seems to be a sense of resigned despair currently running through the liberal-minded student body - the Tories are coming and there's nothing we can do but whine about it, so that everyone knows we are definitely massive socialists. Poll results imply that a Tory take-over is imminent, but the only way to combat this conclusion is with votes - a near revolutionary idea to some. I have met so many students, including those who study the subject, with no political allegiance at all. The perceived homogenisation of the main parties is left people apathetic and disaffected.

Perhaps this is understandable. As one keen Guardian blogger writes: "the Tories will win, the poor will get poorer, and there will likely be riots in the streets. If by some dark miracle New Labour wins, the poor will get poorer and there will be riots in the streets. What a meaningful choice we have". People would rather spoil their ballot papers - or just not turn up - than give their vote to a real contender. What will this achieve? Of course there needs to be governmental and voting reform, but effective politics also needs dynamism, it needs parties and it needs votes. Surely the apparent merging of domestic party

policies means we should 'go back to basics' and base our vote on the core values that once defined the two main opposing sides.

There is a modern tendency to underplay the importance of ideology. It is undeniable that the parties are no longer polarised, no longer appeal to separate sections of a clear cut social cleavage. But when grave situations arise - an epochal economic crisis for instance - we must choose one policy course or the other. In such situations we should base our allegiance on the different ideologies that drive these apparently similar policies. Even if you view New Labour merely as the lesser of two evils - not quite so many Oxbridge fops, merely apologists for the city bonus mentality rather than actual subscribers - a vote in their favour is essential. The financial situation may have been aggravated by the current cabinet, but it was born from the ingraining of the 'greed is good' mentality of the previous Conservative government.

So, rather than complain about everyone being crap ('politics is corrupt so I won't bother') why not decide on the fundamentals - do you believe in individualism or collectivism? Do you believe in patronage or meritocracy? Do we want a charming Etonian in charge, whose original entry to the Conservative party was dependent on a call from his uncle at the Palace? The Bullingdon club's spending cuts disproportionately affecting social services and benefits for the most vulnerable? However stagnant the current government may seem, surely it is better than this grim prospect.



"The Tories are coming!"  
by Luke Farookhi

# Media Revolution

Ofcom claims modern media will lead to social alienation and the end of the family - wasn't TV supposed to do that twenty years ago?



**Edward Dodson**  
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Ofcom, the media and communications research centre, recently published figures which painted a media-enhanced picture of modern life, one in which social networking has begun to replace TV watching. The family, these figures were used to argue, is being torn apart by the age of media options; no longer does the family gather around the TV to watch their chosen entertainment. Instead they are to be found doing separate things in separate rooms. This modernity, which it seems to me we are meant to condemn, is simply a truth of our age and a way in which we have changed - it is something to be acknowledged and perhaps analysed, but not derided.

I remember as a child the fretful arguments against the television and its fragmenting effect of the family dynamic. 'TV dinners' had stopped the family meal, which was integral to a secure upbringing. No longer did we sit around the table discussing this and that - indeed we no longer communicated with our parents at all. We would, as a result, fail to learn right and wrong. The TV, we were told, reduced social interaction, as children would spend time indoors watching mindless

cartoons, no longer going out exploring and doing, well, whatever it was children did before TV.

So now it seems rather strange and somewhat hypocritical to hear from the media again (albeit from different reporters) that we should now actually lament the loss of the family gathered round the TV.

This is, of course, a classic case of conservative inability to adapt to the modern age and the interests, actions and dynamic of the new, youthful generation. This is a perpetual paradigm. What is new and exciting to young people comes as a shock to older generations. From pop music to free love, computer games and the TV, the adults argue against, blame, vilify and fight the influence of

**This is a classic case of conservative inability to adapt to the modern age**

things which are new and different. Ultimately, however, to no avail. One cannot prevent the desires of the young. They will become the new adult, working population and bring their new dynamics with them. Eventually the older generation is forced to accept modernity; it becomes a part of life that is no longer a problem but a contemporary truth.

It is of course understandable to feel nostalgia. How many times have children had to hold back vomit at the phrase 'Back in my day...', followed by a list of all that was better about the world and why we should feel guilty about ourselves and our friends for the way we do things differently? The reality is that it wasn't better 'in my day' - it was the same if not worse.

Where would we be without the 60s Cultural Revolution? Answer: in a more racist, sexist and ultimately less liberal society, without the heroes of music to admire and inspire, without the Beatles to listen to, without the poetic voices of Bob Dylan and Allen Ginsberg? Yes, much of this is based on conjecture but the point remains - youthful change impacted on the world. We cannot know the precise impacts but few would want to remain in the less egalitarian elitist age that older generations herald as 'in my day'.

The advent of social networking does not mean the end of TV-watching, or, more importantly, the end of the family. It means increased communication with friends, leading to higher social abilities; an essential asset for

the workplace and one's general happiness. Maybe the familial influence will diminish somewhat but why is this a problem? The insanity intense familial contact can create may be reduced and instead of being forced to be with family, one will choose to be - defusing all sorts of resentments.

**Things weren't better 'in my day' - they were the same or worse**

Meanwhile, the loss of *Eastenders* as a pastime (quite why we should consider this some kind of vaguely useful, educational or important family event is beyond me) is not a tragedy but a part of modernity. Now children, for better or worse, will contact their friends and search the net - who knows what for but they will probably pick up information along the way more useful than that gained from the average soap opera.

# Postal workers follow in binmen's footsteps

Just seven weeks after Leeds' refuse collectors began indefinite union action in protest at Council pay cuts, the Communications Workers Union (CWU) announced that they too would be going on strike.

Members voted three to one in support of industrial action after Royal Mail rejected their latest set of proposals regarding pay and working conditions. The Government has refused to intervene in the matter despite the fact it is the sole shareholder of Royal Mail.

On Wednesday, the day before strike action was due to take place, CWU Deputy General Secretary Dave Ward said: "We're very disappointed that despite extensive talks with the Royal Mail, the company has dismissed our offers to resolve the dispute."

With bins already overflowing and the streets of Leeds awash with debris there were concerns that added strike action would create chaos but LUU Communications Officer Jak Codd predicted that it would be business as usual for the student union, saying, "Most of our correspondence is done via email

anyway so I can't see it causing too many problems".

However, there remained concerns for dissertation students awaiting reading materials and first years awaiting loan documentation from Student Finance England. Jak Codd advised: "We are concerned that the postal strike

"We are concerned that the postal strike may affect students who are still waiting for their student loan certification."

may affect students waiting for important documentation such as their student loan certification. If any students are having issues then they should come and see the Student Advice Centre in the Union for free, impartial advice."

On October 16 the University

posted a statement on Campusweb confirming that incoming mail could be affected by the strikes: "Expected incoming university mail delivered by Royal Mail will be delayed although all attempts will be made by them to continue our normal collection times for the outgoing mail processed by the mailroom."

"As part of the Leeds University Mail Service contingency plans, any urgent documents or parcels requiring delivery on these dates can be sent by alternative approved university carriers."

The dispute follows controversial Government plans to reform the Royal Mail that would see the postal service privatised. With the number of deliveries currently falling at a rate of 10 per cent a year, the present system is proving inefficient and the Government is arguing that a more streamlined approach needs to be adopted.

Colin Stanbridge, Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce, claimed that the strikers were "shooting themselves in the foot", commenting that the longer the strikes continue the harder the Royal Mail would be

hit.

On Wednesday night CWU confirmed that it would be carrying out two days of strikes, beginning the following day and ending on Friday October 23. On day one of the action it was expected that mail centre workers and drivers would strike, with delivery and collection workers following suit the next day.

Royal Mail announced that it would be hiring 30,000 temporary staff to cover strikers, describing the action as "an appalling and unjustified attack on customers".

Dave Ward dismissed this, however, stating: "The Royal Mail has no intention of resolving this

dispute. The company seems intent on sidelining the concerns of postal workers."

CWU General Secretary Bill Hayes has said that he will not rule out further action before Christmas, stating that the CWU and Royal Mail were trying to reach an agreement but that these strikes may not be the last. Dave Ward added: "We are now offering unconditional talks at ACAS next week, as offered many times in the past weeks. We sincerely hope that Royal Mail will take us up on that open offer of unconditional talks."

Lizzy Edmunds and Poppy Rowley

## Did you know there was a postal strike going on?

LS sent its roving reporters out into the student population to find out what you really think about the postal strike...



**Emma Black**  
Third year  
English and Classical Literature

"I was aware that there is a strike happening. It is my birthday on Thursday and my family are worried I won't get my cards! Also, as the treasurer of Theatre Group, I am expecting a few important cheques in the post, specifically some outstanding payments from Edinburgh performances."



**Sarah Hull**  
Second year  
English and French

"It's my Dad's birthday this weekend and the strike will make sending a present and card home especially difficult. I much prefer written letters to emails, it's far more personal. I also appreciate the Government's connection with the Royal Mail, whereas private companies are normally working for profit which, to me, means greater expenses for the public."



**Javier Hassin**  
Third year  
Nano-technology

"I wasn't aware of a postal strike and, to be completely honest, it won't really affect me as I don't generally send or receive mail. I'm not that concerned about the influence of private companies on our mail system; everyone uses email nowadays!"



**Harry Burgess**  
First year  
English and Philosophy

"The postal strike will be irritating as I am expecting some bank details in the post. I use the Royal Mail quite often for sending letters to friends from home. I am slightly worried that private companies, such as TNT might be more expensive. I like the Royal Mail not least because I am a massive fan of Postman Pat..."



You haven't got mail: postal strikes deliver another blow to Leeds' students

Photo by Gael Welstead

EDITOR Virginia Newman ASSOCIATES Dafydd Pritchard, Rob Heath FEATURES Suisse Osbourne, James, Evelyn Pryor-Jones, Adam Richardson, Chris Stevenson OBSERVATIONS, Elie Br...  
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NOISETTES

photo: Sarah Greene

## ...heard too often on campus

With the English language constantly expanding, this week we assess the phrases that we really need, those that we really don't and those that are just plain irritating!

# 1

### 'Darling, let's do coffee/lunch'

Lunch is the best bit of the day. If you haven't formed a luncheon group for planning and discussion, do so immediately. They are very useful and provide an important excuse not to go to the library. Get your cheap sandwich and/or tasty snack, wash it down with a beverage and season with a little in-joke humour. Perfect. Or perhaps, take up that eagerly awaited opportunity to finish the interrupted conversation from earlier. Adjourn important matters to a high-powered board meeting with trusted directors of flirtatious spin on a chilly deckchair at the Terrace. Lunch somehow seems so simple. Coffee, on the other hand, is another matter! If it's boy meets girl, does this constitute casual date or does she say yes just to appease? If it's girl meets boy, is boy sensitive with choice of location or just sleazy and a touch thirsty? Answers on a postcard please.

# 2

### 'That's gash man...'

Offensive to some, banter to others. Suddenly, great, good, bad, crap and bollocks are mundane and predictable. They must be re-fashioned! We must all speak in an innovative, nouveau tongue. So we bring words from home, like 'canny' from Newcastle or 'jokes' from London and 'nang' (less well known, but is retro 90s slang for uber-cool. Fact!). All these words are bare good. Blud. Gash, though, has split the pack. Everything has got a little bit graphic recently.

# 3

### '[awkward pause] You out tonight?'

For the best effect, enter the lecture hall with a partially familiar acquaintance. Greet with enthusiasm and preferably with name (it always helps) and begin chatting. Sit, get out books, perhaps mentioning a few fragments of information on people you have in common. Wait. Remember to wait before deploying in order to achieve maximum effect. There might be something worth listening to! Why crush a perfectly good conversation? When you're absolutely certain the coast is clear, I usually give it an awkward 5-second pause in flow, then release these three words. It adds approximately 30 more seconds to a completely useless conversation. The lecturer begins and you fall silent - all is well.

# 4

### 'South-East Asia? Me too!'

"Thailand, yeah?... Kao San Road? (Sunburnt version of the Otley Road) Oh cool..." Insert inquisitive story about sweaty hostel and fathom common link. "Oh me too!" The familiar awe at just how cheap everything is "out there." The bit I love the most is you travel so far, to bump into someone you know from Leeds, not see much culture but just have have a great massage. The epitome of student life... book your flights now!

# 5

### 'Oh My God! I was sooooo drunk last night!'

Always prefixed with cries to the heavens and with joyful praise to the demi-god: vodka, excitable people (who clearly weren't drunk) drowsy people (who should still be in bed) and annoying people (who tell you they are STILL drunk!) rejoice and sermonise like a verbal breathalyser test. From Postgrad to Fresher, tales from times under a wicked influence populate campus and keep the world on the right axis. It usually throws up a few chances for sheer ridicule like, "who spooned who last night" or "is that another you've lost?" There was this one guy who managed to fall asleep mid-intercourse and I don't think it was the company he was keeping. That is when you know you're really drunk... or forgetting their name in the morning. Ouch!

A foreigner once explained to me that: "no one complains more than the British, but at least they enjoy doing it". I have never heard such an accurate description of our national personality, and here are some reasons why: almost all small talk begins with some kind of grumble. Something positive is no way to begin a conversation with a stranger. Never would you hear somebody say "isn't it lovely that the bus came on time?" unless they were being sarcastic. Likewise with, "what fine weather we have today" and "I really think that things have improved since the last election".

Nothing ever changes in Britain. We are trapped in a horribly moderate state of inaction, and nobody is quite sure what to do with themselves. Imagine a padded room, filled with blindfolded gentlemen in top hats tottering about mumbling formal apologies every time they bump into each other. Each of those men pretty much represents a pressure group, political party or charity organisation in Britain. We get riled up in the boardroom, then send a very polite letter in the post and patiently await a reply. 'Yes that ought to settle things', we think.

Another major cause for complaining in Britain is National Rail. This institution has single handedly generated such a quantity of contempt from the people that use it, that if

I have to say I disagree, I think Britain is constantly changing, just really fucking slowly. One of the things that makes me most proud to be British, and they are few and far between, is the multicultural society we live in. I, like many, am fascinated by the hundreds of cultures and creeds amalgamated together in the melting pot of modern Britain.

Unfortunately, on the flip side of this you don't have to scratch the surface very deeply to find those who still follow the neanderthal way of thinking; those who are still drawing lines in the sand. It never fails to amaze me how rife racism still is in Britain, especially from people the same age as me. If we're meant to be the bright, forward thinking future of this country then we are officially fucked.

It has to be said that racial prejudice seems to be totally removed from intelligence. How Nick Griffin managed to graduate from Oxford University with his difficulties understanding the fundamental truths of the human race I don't know. I came to university hoping to meet like-minded, exciting people with something interesting to say and I'm glad on the most part that I have. In

it were any other country most of its staff would have been ripped to pieces and the stations nationalised. Oh wait, they're already nationalised. The thing is, National Rail has a priceless role for the country. It provides a safe and controlled outlet for millions of people to vent their daily frustrations to a stranger with a badge. Sad as it may seem, this is generally enough to keep a British person satisfied for the rest of the day.

The real problem is, although we hate to admit it, everything in Britain is kind of OK. Granted, there are lots of things still to sort out, but as things are Britain has a lot going for it as a country. Perhaps we need a couple of droughts, a foreign invasion (shut up now BNP I mean a REAL one) or an epidemic to occur for everyone to suddenly realise that ten minutes waiting for a bus to work isn't quite as bad as walking all day to get a glass of water, filling in a tax return is a lot better than not having a government, and you can't really complain about National Rail's sandwiches if you were pathetic enough to spend £4 buying one in the first place.

Will Coldwell

amongst the nostalgic conversations of childhood TV (for the record I never was a fan of *The Raccoons*) and swapping of bizarre sex anecdotes, I've had some seriously eye-opening, horizon-widening conversations. Sadly however, even at our age, I've been unfortunate enough to encounter the odd nutter who gets a little bit crazy when they find out I'm Jewish.

I find stereotypes about Jews pretty funny because if they're to be believed then I must be the worst Jew ever. I wish it were true that Jews are good with money because I can't remember the last time my bank balance didn't have a minus sign in front of it. I can and have always taken this kind of racial 'banter' with jest, but deep down it worries me a little that people think it's cool and edgy to push it, when really it's about as old-fashioned a way of thinking as you can get. The holocaust was just over 60 years ago, slavery was abolished just over 150 years ago: shouldn't we be moving away from this shit, not back-tracking already?

Toby Ginsberg



Toby



Will

## Going UP

**Honest postmen**  
Me - 'Hows it going?'  
Postman - 'Shit'

**Binmen**  
Deservedly winning the strike. Once again Leeds City Council has been shown to be consistently full of shit.

**Days not leaving the house**  
It beats washing your clothes, or your hair, or your body, or having people tell you that you smell.

## Going DOWN

**Old age**  
What's happening to me? I used to be able to go out four times a week, now I spend my Saturday nights curled up with a cup of Horlicks in front of Doc Martin.

**My neighbours' taste in music**  
I'm a fan of innovative electronic music but that shit is too much, it sounds like someone bum-fucking a Sega Megadrive.

**Cluster computer poachers**  
I'm going to start bringing a baseball bat to the library.



## Food

### Steak in red wine

I can see you all shuddering at the thought of spending lots of money on steak, but actually in Morrison's, it's not that hideously bank-breaking, and, of course, bloody delicious.

This is a quick and easy recipe my grandma gave my dad, and as a result Saturday steak nights are my favourite night at home.

This is to serve one: multiply the amounts for more

Steak (size to taste)  
Red wine (about 100ml)  
Garlic (one section of a bulb)  
Butter (around 5g)  
Chips (amount to taste)

Cook the chips according to instructions and start cooking the steak about 15 minutes before they're done. Slice the garlic into a few pieces.

Melt the butter in a frying pan, then add the garlic and fry it for a minute to release the flavour, introduce the steak and fry it until it's cooked just as you like it. Then season each side with salt and pepper and pour a small amount of water into the pan, not enough to flood the steak, but to create a bit of sauce.

Pour in the wine (to flood the steak) then leave it for two minutes, turn the steak over, wait another two minutes, and ta-dah!

While serving up, leave the sauce in the pan over the heat and it'll make a delicious sauce you can pour over your chips. Serve with other veg if you so desire, but I think classic steak and chips is enough.

### Brownies a la Nigella

I don't mean to brag, but I've been told by many, many a person that these are the best brownies they've ever tasted.

I brought some to halls on the first day of fresher's week and I'm sure it's because of them rather than my lovely sparkling personality that I even have any friends now. I have actually pinched the recipe from my heroine Nigella Lawson, but edited it a bit and made it minimal-washing-up, student style.

Fans of the brownies say they like them because they're so squishy, and this is down to how you cook them. I've also made them as a cake once...

400g plain cooking chocolate  
375g salted butter  
500g caster sugar  
225g plain flour  
6 medium eggs  
Vanilla essence

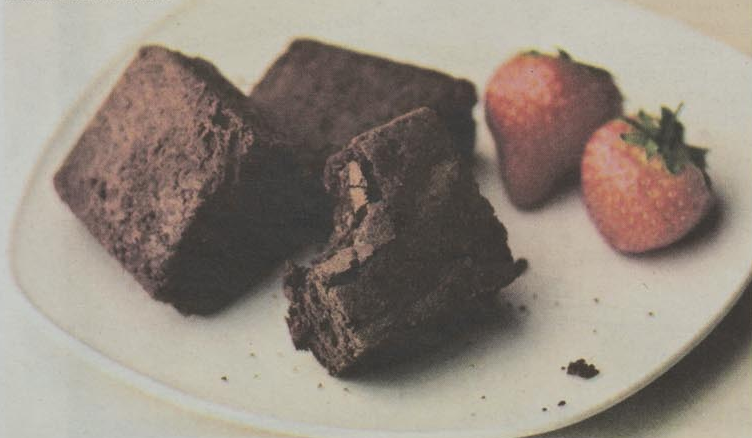
Preheat the oven to 180C and line quite a deep baking tray with greaseproof paper. Melt the butter and chocolate in a bowl - microwaving for about three minutes usually does it. Meanwhile mix the flour, sugar and (beaten) eggs into a quite unattractive looking yellow goop (it'll be ok in the end, trust me).

Stir in the butter/chocolate liquid bit by bit. Once it's all mixed together, add a couple of drops of vanilla essence and stir them in. Pour the mixture into the baking tray and put it in the oven.

Cook it for around half an hour. Now for the most crucial bit: determining the squidgy-ness. After half an hour, test the middle by poking a knife or skewer into it. If it's still gloopy (it probably will be), give it another ten minutes, until the knife doesn't pull out any mess. Take them out of the oven and leave them for about an hour to cool, then cut up and serve!

Words: Victoria Grey

Photo: Richard Smith



## Money



Interest Rates, APR, monthly payments are all things that many students will be surrounded with when they decide to take out a credit card or extend that second overdraft. Then, before you know it, you're taking out credit cards to pay off other credit cards and you're drowning in a sea of payments you can't afford to make.

Year one, it's first term and you're a little low on cash. That accommodation payment has left a rather large, unwanted hole in your student loan so who do we turn to but our good old 'friend', the bank. And we live life, for free, courtesy of Natwest, or Halifax, or Barclay's, on a very generous overdraft, which can be as big as three grand.

When we've maxed that out, we wait for the next student loan to roll in. Then if things get too tight, we turn to our beloved bank for a little more wanted help. Credit Card number one, 'but it's ok, I'll only get a £500 limit and when I can, I'll pay the thing off in full.' That's what we tell ourselves to justify the fact we're not spending 'real' money and it isn't usually how the story ends. That little plastic card is not a key to the money that sits in your bank account, (considering there probably isn't any) it is a very attractive looking starter pack to the world of credit card debt.

We're students, a 'little bit' of debt is expected, the average student studying for three years, will leave with eighteen thousand pounds debt from the Student Loans Company (not to put you off) but the debt that we all really need to avoid is the debt that isn't quite so often discussed, that hidden student debt. Times are hard financially at university and jobs are few and far between, but if it can be avoided (which it usually can) try not to be enticed by low interest rates and large overdraft limits. You will eventually have to pay back that money you're spending and it will come back to bite you.

Many people will leave University with a little more than their degree, they will leave with a severe amount of credit card debt and sometimes even two or three overdrafts, all completely taken up to their limit. The world of debt is far easier to enter than it is to leave so try your hardest to keep away with all those temptations. If you never enter that world of 'invisible money', that the bank just loves to give us, starting your life after university will be far smoother.

Words: Charlotte Walker

Read Charlotte's money blog on our website at:

Europe's biggest car manufacturer, Volkswagen, has said it is planning to purchase 49.9 per cent of the historic, famous and well respected sports car company Porsche by the end of 2009 or early 2010. The price tag is believed to be in the region of 3.9bn Euros, which is equal to that of £3.54bn.

In August 2009 Volkswagen and Porsche had their top executives and marketing directors sit down with the people in charge of the respective finances and agree the proposed details by which VW would merge with its German compatriot by 2011.

VW had been initially looking almost set to buy a 42 per cent stake in Porsche by the end of the current year for 3.3bn Euro; this current deal would finally end months of acrimony between the two firms, perhaps most importantly it will put to rest Porsche's failed efforts to buy VW.

In the past year Porsche managed to build up major debts in their attempt to gain a 51 per cent stake in VW, only to fall short of the required 75 per cent when it could not raise more funds due to the impact of both the global credit crunch and the slump in global car sales.

These two integral parts of the financial sector across the world have caused major changes in proposed business movements within the vehicle industry, although this is arguably the highest profile case both due to the reputation of the companies involved and the sheer volume of money involved.

This takeover also has an almost emotional backlash surrounding it; with Porsche's failure to buy VW saw the firm's former Chief Executive Wendelin Wiedeking and Financial Director Holger Haerter resign this summer. The former having worked as President and Chief Executive since 1993 and started his professional career at the company a decade before that, the part that would be hardest for him to leave behind is surely the fact his contract, signed 14 years ago which states he should have 0.9 per cent of Porsche's annual profit before tax. Meaning in 2007 his estimated earnings were ?72,600,000. Making him Europe's most highly decorated and paid Executive.

Porsche is set to become the 10th brand in the VW family, joining: Audi AG, Bentley Motors Ltd., Bugatti Automobiles S.A.S., Lamborghini S.p.A., SEAT, S.A., Skoda Auto, Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles and Skania AB.

Words: Callum Brown

LS ONLINE



www.leedsstudent.org



# Travel



If you ever travel to the countries of Western Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi) one of the biggest cultural differences you might notice there is the distinctive 'community feel' amongst the people.

Distinct from the crowd. Independently minded. A driven, innovative individual who can think for his/herself. We as students are very aware of the desire to attain this self-advancement in order to achieve in exams, enhance our CVs and progress to rewarding careers.

This is of course partly driven by a natural competitive instinct, but it could be claimed that this instinct has been harnessed as a form of social conditioning too. Educational institutions encourage competition and personal excellence (think back to those sports days, various forms of talent competitions and of course the dreaded exams). I do not condemn this obsession with personal excellence, but I wonder whether in our blind rush to empower ourselves we have constructed a 'Culture of Individualism' that places too much emphasis on the importance of the individual, creating a sub-consciously self-obsessive society.

I spent part of last summer teaching in Kenya, where society is certainly not as individualistic as the Western world. Living and working among Kenyans you quickly understand that community is everything. There, particularly in Mombasa where I was based, it is customary to greet everyone, either by calling to them across the street or by shaking hands. If you see someone you know you stop and talk. After meeting someone for the first time you are immediately considered a friend, and they will honestly remember you as a friend. Forever. Most of them will try to stay in contact – I have had phone-calls and emails from Kenyans to whom I did not have the heart to refuse my contact details, but who are still near strangers to me! Being asked for your email address two minutes after meeting someone was entirely normal.

One of my true friends out there was Mary Kopulo, the founder of one of the

schools that I worked in. Sitting in her house one time (sat on an old sofa suite that looked incongruously huge within her small mud hut) the conversation turned to the differences between the West and African countries. She was shocked to hear that in the West we are often too busy to stop and have long conversations with our acquaintances, that we often go for long periods of time without visiting/contacting our long-distance (or even short-distance) relatives/friends and that we often do not even know all of our neighbours on first name friendly terms.

The lack of traditional religion in the West was an even greater shock to her; spiritual belief of God is firmly embedded in the culture of Kenya. "You seem in the West too busy-busy" she said to me, "In Kenya your family and your neighbours are the most important thing. If you have no time for them you are thought strange. And if people where you come from believe in no God how can they have hope?"

It occurred to me, reflecting upon this conversation afterwards, that the reasons for Western and African differences could almost always be reduced to our culture of Individualism affecting the culture of community. Being part of a close-knit community in Kenya is a survival tactic. In Mombasa's slums people live at such close quarters to one another that, to make things easier, you have to get on with your neighbour. If a family hits hard times it means that there are other families to support them, and there is always a neighbour on hand to look after the children while the parents go out searching for work etc.

Moreover the bonds between people help to make their existence a little brighter. It is a sad fact that here in the West we can afford to let go of community spirit because we are in the comfortable position of being able to look after and prioritise ourselves.

Within that self-prioritisation and breakdown of communities, viewing ourselves as autonomous islands might



also be one of the reasons for the breakdown of our personal relationships. Take divorce for example: divorce rates in the West fluctuate year to year but unfortunately always at a consistently high level. By contrast divorce is hardly a phenomenon in Kenya; it only really occurs within the upper classes and even then it is infrequent. Kenyans cannot afford divorce, not because of extortionate legal fees but because family breakdown brings about severe hardship. Moreover, greater significance is given to the traditional view that in marriage a man and woman are sacredly bound together to become one.

The individualistic culture of the West means that we no longer see marriage as a 'sacrament that cannot be broken'. Indeed we often do not consider the husband and wife as 'one' but as two individuals joined together. Why are we so reluctant to part with our self-concept of being independent individuals in our own right?

We of course have a right to remain our own person, but perhaps this is why breaking bonds of love and loyalty (whether that be to a partner/parent/friend) to follow our own individual paths is always present as a justifiable option? Is it too easy for us to just decide a relationship should end because 'it is not working for me?' Individualism could also be considered a reason for the rise of atheism and agnosticism in the West over the last century. We have the means and the peace of mind to put our faith in ourselves: self-development has led to the development of thinking beyond religious doctrine, which we can live with because we have so much else.

Many of the Kenyans that I met didn't have the means to be able to better themselves or their lives. I felt a sickening tug at my heart at Mary's words 'if people believe in no God, how can they have hope?'. The sad truth is that spirituality is the only comfort left to far too much of Kenya's population. Faith, for people in Kenya, is literally a life force for them, the

only thing keeping many of them going. Yet despite their desperately poor state I couldn't help but feel that Kenyans had somehow found something that the West has forgotten.

They had a community feel which meant that people generally cared for one another. I met individuals who had founded schools, offering free education and even shelter to needy children, running them on virtually no funds; yet the founders themselves had a similar poor background. I met teachers who were dedicated to these schools despite knowing that there was probably no paycheck for them at the end of that month.

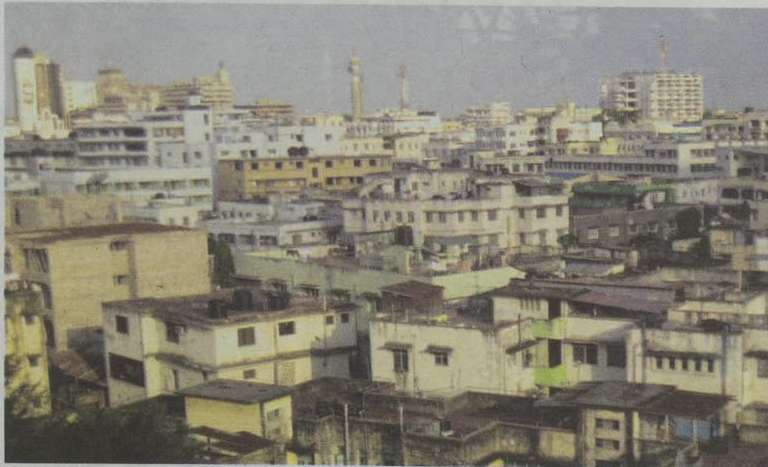
People took a genuine interest in you and new friends were to be made all the time. You felt a general atmosphere of welcome and a willingness to please and assist you.

The West might be richer materially, but I believe the general population of Kenya are richer by far in their appreciation for their fellow human beings. Have we instead damaged our ability to have an intrinsic appreciation for others and lost sight of what it is to have close communities?

Being an individual is no bad thing. Nurture your experiences, your beliefs and goals. Individualism is right in that we should embrace the opportunities we get to better ourselves, in order to offer better things to society.

We should remember that so many people all over the world do not have the opportunities or means to progress as we individuals in the West do. Just keep an open mind and take time to appreciate the smaller, simpler things in life and not get caught up in the stressful whirlwind of self-improvement. There is more to life than exams, CVs or a high powered career with that big pay cheque and company car.

Words & Photos: Virginia Beardsall



# FASHION

231009



Teal jumper, H&M, £29.99  
 Double breasted coat, Gap, £89.99  
 Check shirt, Urban Outfitters, £45  
 Tweed blazer, 1971 at Reiss, £195  
 Word trousers, H&M, £19.99



Flannel shirt, 1971 at Reiss, £35  
 Grey cardigan, Urban Outfitters, £35  
 Tweed blazer, 1971 at Reiss, £195  
 Check shirt, COS, £49  
 Plum v-neck, Gap, £6.95

We're in the midst of autumn, and as winter creeps closer you may be tempted to reach for your oversized leavers hoodie, pull on your long-johns and essentially lose all regard for your personal appearance. The chaps are the focus of this weeks shoot. We've tweaked some traditional English styles, and shown how layering, cut and seasonal colours can keep you looking sharp in the cold. If you're down to the dregs of your loan (assuming you've received it!), fear not. Student discounts at Reiss and Gap mean its affordable to prepare yourself for the impending freeze. Gap give a standard 10% discount with a valid NUS card, but from the 2nd-8th of November they are offering an increased 15% discount. There's also a promotional 10% discount on Reiss's 1971 range. Bring a valid NUS card and sign up in store before the 15th of November.

words: Tom Purdie  
 models: Joe Arrajojoye & James Legge  
 photography: Richard Smith & Charlotte Sintrat  
 styling: Tom Purdie & Caitlin Leslie



Grey wool coat, H&M, 49.99  
 Black peacoat, Urban Outfitters, £275  
 Red neck, Uniqlo, £6.99  
 Leeds Uni scarf, Leeds University Union, £27.99

Double breasted coat, Gap, £89.99  
Teal jumper, H&M, £29.99  
Scarf, Renewal at Urban Outfitters



Patterned knit, Urban Outfitters, £90  
Quilted gilet, Reiss, £95



## SINGLES

Grammatics  
'Double Negative'  
Dance to the Radio  
(7)



Grammatics' new single sees the band showing the spark and direction that their album sorely lacked. The same ingredients remain: dancefloor sensibilities, a desire to write clever artpop songs and Owen Brinley's vivid eloquence. On the b-side, Gavron's brooding remix thankfully gives Brinley's voice more room to breathe.

words: Chris Arden

The Bon Bon Club  
'Sex on Fire'  
Rare Breed  
(7)



The all-girl/all-covers Sheffield supergroup's second single is a deadpan D.I.Y. take on Kings of Leon's ubiquitous abomination. It serves two purposes: emphasising just how poor its lyrics are ('Give head while I'm driving' in deed) and, with slinky synths and cooed-harmonies, uncovering its true pop potential. *Très bon.*

words: Alex Wisgard

The Dead Weather  
'I Cut Like a Buffalo'  
Third Man  
(6)



The moody stylish intro to the latest single from Jack White's newest project is promising, but when the song kicks in, it goes nowhere. Alison Mosshart's voice is hidden by the duet's fuzzy murk, but is offset by the band's delightfully scatty gothic funk. It's high impact, but lacks any kind of discernable tune. Not brilliant.

words: Elli Hollington

Biffy Clyro  
'The Captain'  
14th Floor  
(4)



Fans expecting a return to form after the puzzling change in direction of Biffy's last album will be disappointed with 'The Captain'. The chronically over-produced guitars and incongruous trumpets are seemingly here to stay. This single tells the story of a once-bouyant ship that is almost certainly sinking.

words: Simon Rowbotham

Kano  
'Rock N Roller'  
Bigger Picture Music  
(4)



This smacks of desperation - a once credible grime artist frantically trend-hopping. Taking a jealous sideways glance at Tinchy Stryder's success, Kano's gone all pop-trance on us, and with Kanye-inspired autotuned vocals, he's clearly expecting this bandwagon to take him to the Top Ten. It probably will.

words: Will Hutchins

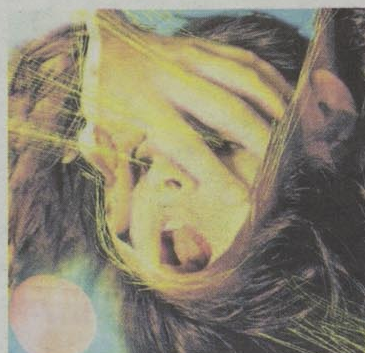
## RECORDS

### The Flaming Lips *Embryonic*

Warner

Long have the Flaming Lips sprayed love and confetti through their Technicolorpsych-rock freak-out-soundscapes. It may be that after a decade of cosmic sugar highs, they've landed on the biggest crash of their entire career. The sweet taste left behind by albums like breakthrough classic *The Soft Bulletin* has turned to bitter dust, spat out over the course of *Embryonic*, a seventy-minute double album.

The record is not without the band's trademark bleeps and sirens; however, especially compared to their misguided last effort *At War with the Mystics*, tracks like opener 'Convinced of the Hex' see these sounds integrating far more effectively with the atmospheric drums and warbling bass lines.



While the album's tone is undeniably more sinister than the rest of their back catalogue - 'The Ego's Last Stand' was inspired by standing on his mother's porch watching a small kitten die - *Embryonic* doesn't lack the hope that they've always given us. 'Evil' reminds us that "People are evil, its true, but on the other side they can be gentle too" - an arguably more heart-warming sentiment than anything proclaimed on their past records' obvious pop singles.

## ALBUM OF THE WEEK

*Embryonic* often sounds like it's scaling up and down some cosmic terrain. There are dark mysterious caverns in the stomping 'Watching the Planets' and sparse deserts in 'Virgo Self-Esteem Broadcast'. The latter is no more than an eerie choir hum and the odd sonar pulse; yet, on repeated listens, you notice the underlying crowd noise and animal howl, and you can see how a three-minute interlude has just shown you a whole world. Then there are the moments of plain insanity, like 'I Can Be a Frog', which sees Karen O imitating all manner of animals much to Wayne Coyne's delight.

But it's the mountainous 'Powerless' that sits at the centre of this world, the album's longest track, with not a second wasted. A swirling wind unleashes guitars, tribal drums and a soft echoing voice, comforting us with the message that "no one is ever really powerless." Such a brilliant result makes you wish this wasn't merely a catharsis for the negative emotion accumulated over the last decade. The Flaming Lips have created *The Soft Bulletin's* evil twin and it's just as brilliant and thrilling as its former self. (9)

words: Reece Stables

## MORE ALBUMS

### COLD CAVE



### Cold Cave

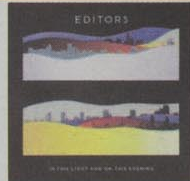
*Love Comes Close*  
Heartworm

This dark electro-pop outfit is the brainchild of Wesley Eisold - famous for a noisy quarrel with the guy from Fall Out Boy about stolen lyrics, eventually settled out of court to Eisold's financial advantage. Despite this album's arrival of three noise-mongers (including ex-members of Xiu Xiu), however, *Love Comes Close* is distinctly polished in comparison to the band's previous output of cassettes, compilations and 12-inches; a pop album to say the least. In fact, when compared to their 2006 compilation *Cremations* (particularly tracks like 'Hummingbirds' and 'Sex Ads'), this full-length is disappointingly tame on the noise front.

Cold Cave bring a fashionable eighties revival sound to the table, but this is painted with their unashamedly gothic prurience and distinctly desolate vocals. There is a tendency toward simplicity and repetition that would irritate, were it not somehow so tragic. The influence of British post-punk is also incredibly clear - a lot of the synth timbres and pacing bring to mind the Cure, definite shades of New Order are heard in the title track, and the voice of the late, great Ian Curtis resounds in decidedly darker moments like 'Heaven Was Full' and 'Hello Rats'.

'Life Magazine' is the prevailing evidence of pop sensibilities, in which Caralee McElroy's vocal echoes relentlessly. Other highlights include the stomping, menacing closer 'I.C.D.K' and lead single 'The Laurels of Erotomania', which jarringly sits a synth ditty frankly reminiscent of 'Funkytown' next to refrain 'I'm going to put you in the hospital'. *Love Comes Close* is as catchy as it is moody, and an easy gateway into the rawer, more harrowing worlds of Prurient and Xiu Xiu. (8)

words: Michael Waters



### Editors

*In This Light and on This Evening*  
Kitchenware

A myth that has been perpetuated in recent interviews is that this is a complete departure from the formula that has seen Editors sell two million copies of their first two albums. This is dispelled approximately 42 seconds into the opening track here. The aggressive synth attack that gets things underway is joined by ominous piano that would not be out of place on 2007's *An End Has a Start*, and this proves to hold true for the entire album. For all the talk of dramatic changes in the band's ethos and outlook, the formula remains unaltered.

However, from a commercial perspective this may well work in the band's favour. First single 'Papillon' is sure to fill the dance-floors of indie joints everywhere with its hummable riff, bounding bassline and New Order-esque snare. When Editors get it right, there are some successful stabs at electronica to be found. 'You Don't Know Love' features a bassline and guitar solo ripped straight from an 80s sci-fi movie, whilst the catchy 'Eat Raw Meat = Blood Drool' goes some way towards redeeming its hideous title.

In a year which has seen Yeah Yeah Yeahs make a successful transition into synth-pop and the Horrors master the art of the long pop song by mining the vaults of krautrock, Editors seem to have attempted both at once. Electronic instruments and some levity when it comes to song length does not constitute a reinvention. This is standard fare for the Birmingham band, and regardless of whether it sells well or not, they need to try harder. (5)

words: Jack Ready



### Mando Diao

*Give Me Fire!*  
Universal

Trench coats have long been a wardrobe staple of the angry young man: in the 60s, Bob Dylan wore his with political disillusionment while twenty years later in Manchester, Ian Curtis wore his with personal tragedy and a brooding stare.

I mention this in conjunction with *Give Me Fire!*'s opener, 'Blue Lining, White Trenchcoat' which, although played with fervour, unfortunately indulges the lyrical clichés which Mando Diao favour.

'Crystal', which is mournful and slow, shows a capacity for variety, although it somehow remains a little samey - essentially a shit version of 'Girlfriend in a Coma', minus the wit and humour which makes a good song something more. Meanwhile, 'Gloria', one of their more adventurous songs, boasts a melodrama that wouldn't sound out of place in *Moulin Rouge*.

What their press release describes as 'blue-eyed garage soul gospel' is sure to get played on the radio and in clubs all over: indeed, they've already been featured on Skins and Fifa 06. However, this radio-friendly sound does not translate well over a whole album and the repetitive structure begins to grate early on; 'High Heels' brings to mind the Pink Panther theme, rendering it instantly irritating.

Mando Diao are a frustrating band; their ability is clear, the songs are catchy and well-performed, but the lyrics are convoluted, repeating the same images and motifs throughout. It reaches the point where you end up wondering if you haven't heard it under some other name already. (5)

words: Sarah Ward



## COLUMN

### MOST HAUNTED



Legend has it that towards the end of his life, Thomas Edison spent his time devising a ghost box that could record the voices of the dead. This invention would be a communion between worlds; mediating ghosts of the past and a living, corporeal present. If Edison failed to complete his project, the phenomena of hauntology has still come to prominence in a culture that is obsessed with revisiting and reinventing the spectre of past times, whilst projecting itself into an apocalyptic future. It was Derrida who first coined the term 'hauntology' in 1993 to describe a Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall: haunted by the failure of the Left, obsessed with nostalgia and futurism and ruled by the simulacrum. Hauntology is the paradoxical state between being and non-being.

Whilst there are certainly many previous instances of hauntological musicians, the founders of the Ghost Box label have worked it into a conscious musical aesthetic. Ghost Box is conceived as an imaginary world centred around Belbury, the fictional town of C.S. Lewis's dystopian sci-fi novel, *That Hideous Strength: A Modern Fairy Tale for Grown Ups*. Julian House and Jim Jupp take as their point of departure a mythologised image of post-war England (that grey area between the war and 'The Sixties') and they make it seem the most exotic of places. The label is founded on layer upon layer of cultural reference: the kit(s)chen-sink, the polytechnics and utilitarian architecture, the village green, paranoiac cold-war science fiction. This aesthetic bricolage recalls a culture that was progressive and hopeful, as well as conservative and nostalgic, and fearful of a world after the Bomb.

Originally, the label started as an outlet for House and Jupp's respective musical projects, The Focus Group and Belbury Poly, as well as the former's visual art, but has since grown to include a roster of artists including Roj, The Advisory Circle and Mount Vernon Arts Lab. House's visual style adorns most of the record sleeves, with their early releases packaged to look like Open University text books, designed so that each one is felt to be part of a set. He has so far designed the artwork for all of Broadcast's releases whom he also collaborated with recently on the (23 track) EP, *Broadcast and the Focus Group Investigate Witch Cults of the Radio Age*. It is certainly an appropriate collaboration, as they both seem to inhabit a similar cultural space.

Broadcast's fetishising of rare library records and analogue action as well as obscure European film soundtracks constitute more a collection of reference points in contrast with the prevalence of sampling within the artists of Ghost Box. House's employment of samples recalls the flaws of a record worn out with use; pulses are inconsistent, tunings falter, tone is muddy and warm. Collected from old library records, these are sounds saved from charity shops, jumble sales and dusty archives. Let's hope Ghost Box isn't consigned to the same fate.

Speaking of ghosts, look out for *Fleurs*, the debut album from Former Ghosts, released later this month.

words: Teresa Winter

## Half Man Half Biscuit

### Stylus

15/10/09

These 1980s indie-punk pioneers are generally considered one of those bands that are criminally underrated amongst today's youth, but are massively respected by their once-cool dads. Half Man Half Biscuit, amongst contemporaries such as Television Personalities, are one of the greatest influences on modern talky rock bands such as Bromhead's Jacket and Art Brut; Alex Turner too owes alot to Half Man Half Biscuit for their contributions to the great institution of Northern wit. With song titles such as '99% of Gargoyles Look Like Bob Todd' the gig promises to be nothing short of hilarious.

As they enter the stage to rapturous applause, it is obvious that time has seriously affected the band. The hair is different, their



clothes are different, and - with Nigel Blackwell as the only remaining member - the line-up is different. This doesn't matter though, as Half Man Half Biscuit is 100% Blackwell, and Blackwell is keen to prove that one thing certainly hasn't changed: the tunes. Upon the explosion of the raucous, bass driven epic that is 'Bob Wilson - Anchorman', euphoria ripples through the crowd of fifty-somethings, and whilst the Bob Wilson reference undoubtedly whooshes over the heads of the few twenty-

some things in the room, there is nothing to do except admire Blackwell's lyrical genius.

Whilst younger listeners may find Wikipedia essential to fully understand Blackwell's references to 80s pop culture figures, songs such as 'Joy Division Oven Gloves' are an intensely enjoyable experience for anybody who has heard of Joy Division. Their more recent songs also make more youth-friendly references, such as the thirty-second 'Vatican Broadside'. Detailing an utterly surreal (and, unfortunately, imagined) meeting between the lead singer of Slipknot and the Pope, it prompts a classic Blackwellian lyric: "The singer out of Slipknot went to the Rome to see the Pope, and the Pope said to his aide: 'Who the fucking hell are Slipknot?'".

All these old classics really take the biscuit, which, in this instance, is a potentially unmatched live music experience. Unfortunately their new material is not quite up to the stellar standard of their '80s output, and serious marks must be deducted for their omission of 'Fuckin' 'Ell It's Fred Titmus', but that's just the way the cookie crumbles. (9)

words: Simon Rowbotham

### MORE GIGS

#### Girls

Brudenell Social Club  
15/10/09



I leave Christopher Owens, front man of San Francisco band Girls, lying huddled on the floor after sharing with him the last remnants of his whiskey bottle. His backstory is as follows: raised in a cult, mother forced into prostitution, fled cult, became a homeless prescription drug addict, rescued by a millionaire. Although, of course, this story does not require any hyperbole, nor is it necessary to know before listening to their music.

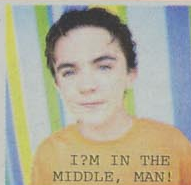
Girls take to the stage at the Brudenell with a coy humility; nearing the end of their first European tour, they still seem somewhat uncomfortable under the stage lights. It is, however, this bashfulness that makes the music so appealing. Jangly Beach Boys guitars, 60s girl-group backing vocals, and subdued drum beats provide an atmospheric pastiche of lazy Californian beach pop. The set reaches its epitome with the lush (the word is appropriate here) 'Hellhole Ratrace', which builds into a blur of reverb that echoes the lyrics' sheer exhaustion of loneliness.

When the gig is over (and Owens's bottle is almost dry), the audience is emotionally drained; although uncomfortable for those expecting a riot of happiness, it is nevertheless a welcome feeling. The unnerving beauty of Girls' melodies may leave the listener as shattered as the band, but ultimately, the experience is rewarding. After the gig, I meet Owens and ask him if he has anything he wants to say. "No, not really," he replies, and shyly offers me his whiskey. (8)

words: Nicholas Jackson

#### Middleman

Brudenell Social Club  
13/10/09



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Wonderswan (and award for worst opening line goes to...), whose alt-rock stylings aren't overly inspiring but are warmly received nonetheless. Indeed, the most interesting thing about them is their bassist Sam, who looks unnervingly like one of the 118 guys (those lads have to do something when they're not in the adverts). A solid, if unspectacular, start to the evening.

When half of the crowd disperses before you've even taken to the stage, it's rarely a good omen. Maybe they know something we don't, as next up are tonight's woeful headliners, Middleman. Fusing bass-heavy beats and nauseatingly catchy tunes with rapping that, at times, would make even K-Fed cringe, they fluctuate between being irritating and laughable.

Take a look at their website for example, on which they pose half-naked, on deck chairs in the snow, whilst one of them reads the Oxford English Dictionary. The fucking dictionary! It's just too ridiculous for words, and this transfers into their music too. The lyrics are so mundane and painstakingly obvious, with song titles like 'You Look Like You Do' (no shit, Sherlock) and 'BLAH BLAH BLAH', a song which fittingly sums up the band. At least the frontman's a charmer though, inviting the crowd to come closer to the stage but "Not so close that you can smell me". Unfortunately, however far back you are you can still hear them.

Maybe they'll get lucky and ill-conceived, tuggish, rap-tinged thrash-pop will suddenly become all the rage. Still, for the sake of venues, music lovers and ears everywhere, let's hope it doesn't. (2)

words: Jacob Mignano

#### Kid British

Mine  
14/10/09



This evening's support, Flamboyant Bella, are a tight band with some catchy tunes; however, I was a little bemused by the fact that they seemed to switch between electro-pop and songs with vocals reminiscent of Kate Nash. Hardly a memorable support set.

Kid British are late onstage, and when they do show themselves, it becomes clear that they hardly need seven members; three of the band don't actually play instruments and although they have precious little talent between them, they do possess massive, massive egos. The only pause for breath in an otherwise pacy set is when singer James Mayer performs an acoustic number, which I can't help but think of as a head-thumping obvious cliché about addiction, but - hold the phone! - it's not about drugs or booze. Oh no, he's addicted to love. And not in a Robert Palmer way.

Call me awfully cynical, but I just can't get enthusiastic about a band that samples Madness' wonderful 'Our House' - probably one of the finest examples of a song about family life - and puts it in their own song on the same subject. Indeed when played live, 'Our House Is Dadless' just sounds like a poor karaoke version of the original.

For a band that supported the Specials, I really would have hoped for more; however, the predictability of their songs, coupled with uninspiring lyrics and the fact that their onstage persona lacked the charm a band of this sort should give off, left me feeling pretty disappointed. Mostly, though, I was just glad I didn't accept their general invitation to the crowd to join them in a post-gig "messy night out". (5)

words: Doug Rolle

## SEIT DREI



## KRAFTWERK 12345678 THE CATALOGUE (EMI)

**K R A F T W E R K**  
Having influenced everything from hip-hop to electro-pop, LCD Soundsystem to U-fucking-2, Kraftwerk - the pioneers of electronic music - are having their back catalogue reissued this month. Remastered to the band's exacting sonic standards, these albums now sound better than ever and, having originally been slated for release five years ago, are now finally ready for rediscovery and reappraisal.

The only gripe with these reissues is the covers. These classic images were as much a part of the band's albums as the music - the black radiogram of 1975's *Radio-Activity* was a suitably doom-laden portent of the sounds inside the sleeve - and these reimagined covers trade the iconic for the iPod.

Still, for a large contingent of Korg-heads, anticipation of these reissues trumps that surrounding the Beatles' box sets (minus an as-yet nonexistent Synth Hero tie-in game).

With that in mind, let us present a guide to *The Catalogue...*

### AUTOBAHN (1974)

Ah, the fun fun fun of the Autobahn. The eponymous opening song takes up half the album's running time, but never reaches tedium, and is a strong contender for their best ever. The vigorous momentum makes it the ideal accompaniment to a journey down a speed-limitless motorway, making *Autobahn* a concept album designed for engaging with its subject matter. They were still human at this point; despite their attempts to remove all traces of Anglo/American sex, romance and rock 'n' roll from their sound, the propulsive riffs and rhythms of 'Kometenmelodie II' could easily meet the Status Quo-*ta*. Fans of white noise and static will love the interludes, but the album ends with four minutes of harmonious flute-based kraut-folk, complete with tweeting birds - a touching nod to their roots. (8)

words: Luke Fear

### RADIO-ACTIVITY (1975)

Let's face it, *Autobahn* is carried by its title track. Its underrated follow-up, however, is a far more coherent, if transitional, work, trading the open road for duelling themes of the power of the AM, and the power of the atom. The LP features their first proper pop song (the darkly choral 'Radioactivity'), a tentative step towards the dancefloor ('Airwaves') and, in 'Antenna', a formative flirtation with sex - 'I'm the transmitter, I give information/You're the antenna, catching vibration.' Ooh, and indeed, er. These moments of electronic beauty are interspersed with samples of static and news broadcasts, further upping the conceptual ante, while 'Ohm Sweet Ohm' - their most blissful moment, the title's endearingly awful pun aside - ties the album together with a gorgeously motorik dose. (8)

words: Alex Wisgard

### TRANS EUROPE EXPRESS (1977)

Arguably one of the most punk records to emerge from 1977's so-called Year Zero, *Trans Europe Express* is an elegant and decadent masterpiece. Packed with warmth, tunes and - gasp! - jokes (check 'Showroom Dummies' introductory "Eins! Zwei! Drei! Vier!"), the album remains unique, a cross-continental train ride in miniature. The shimmering 'Europe Endless' chugs you out of the station, before the moody synthscape of 'The Hall of Mirrors' plunges you into a dark tunnel. The second half's minute suite really makes you take notice though, as a disarming chord sequence charges headlong into 'Metal on Metal's bouts of industrial *kling klang*. Closer 'Endless Endless' sees you reaching your destination, as a familiar vocodered announcement fades in: "Endless...endless...". Another train is ready to depart. (10)

words: Alex Wisgard

### THE MAN MACHINE (1978)

Clocking in at 6 tracks, 36 minutes - actually characteristically short length for Kraftwerk - the album opens with 'The Robots'. Cue crude synth glissandi; cue spacious and spiky pop riff; cue the sleek vocoder use that epitomises their iconic mechanik aesthetic (and takes us sternly into the distant future, the year 2000) - everything about this track sums up Kraftwerk. The shimmering phased synth chords and menacing key changes of 'Metropolis' bring to mind any of the countless videogame levels of that name, and let's also not forget that this album plays host to 'The Model' - an easy contender for best pop song of all time. (8)

words: Michael Waters

### COMPUTER WORLD (1981)

To hell with their Robot Rights! Kraftwerk should be chained up, locked in a cell and forcibly programmed to make albums this great for evermore. Sonically, it's so ahead of its time, it seems proleptic. At first warning of an ominous industrial takeover ('Business - numbers - money - people' isn't the most healthy *raison d'être*), only to embrace technology with the gleeful 'Pocket Calculator' and 'Home Computer'. 'Numbers' is by far the most advanced track they ever made and its techno-headfuckery laid down the groundwork perfectly for the Belleville Three to take the baton. Just try to block out Chris Martin's smug visage when the twinkling melody to 'Computer Love' kicks in. (9)

words: Luke Fear

### TECHNO POP (1986)

In which the robots throw away their pocket calculators and start to malfunction. The little melodies are gone, replaced by rhythmic, but anonymous, er...techno pop. Although 'Boing Boom Tschak' is a pretty inventive three minutes of popomatopoeia, the rest of the album sees the band in thrall to their followers or, at worst, sounding like a band playing at being Kraftwerk; 'The Telephone Call' is a dead ringer for New Order, and the seven-minute, Arthur Baker-aping 'Sex Object' is their first long song that actually drags. Closing track 'Electric Café' even haphazardly recycles the inimitable motif of 'Trans Europe Express'. The band's first - and therefore their most stinging - disappointment. (5)

words: Alex Wisgard

### THE MIX (1991)

This compilation sees eleven tracks from elsewhere in the discography re-imagined, as the Kling Klang studio was revamped with (then brand new) digital MIDI technology. This makes for drastically different renditions of 'The Robots' and 'Radioactivity', and an extended intro on the now-overly punchy 'Computer Love' (that riff that Chris[t] Martin stole no longer sounds so cuddly). Nostalgics and vintage equipment fetishists may see this as somewhat of a bastardisation of the analogue loveliness that gave the original tracks an unlikely human touch, but it's certainly a nice release concept - preferable by far to just releasing a best of, no? (5)

words: Michael Waters

### TOUR DE FRANCE (2003)

By the new millennium, the electronica scene had well and truly caught up with - dare I say superceded - Ralf und Florian. Their fans had become their contemporaries. Still, their love of transport remained, and this expansion on the two-decade old 'Tour de France' single was brought out to commemorate the centenary of the hallowed cycling championship. Fluidly paced to soundtrack an actual race, with song titles covering every facet of the sport: 'Titanium', 'Elektro Kardiogramm' and 'Vitamin', a simple but therapeutic list of - you guessed it - vitamins. It's telling, however, that the highlight is the aforementioned 1983 single, spatchcocked on as a bonus track at the finish line. (7)

words: Luke Fear

231009

Rapture  
Mine LUU, 15/10/2009

Rapture offers the best in new and up coming drum and bass for the student friendly price of a mere four pounds. Tonight they are presenting Bristol based Distorted Minds, who after remixing Jakes' 'Warface' have seen unprecedented success in the drum and bass scene. Kicking off the night is Leeds' own DJ Antix who is a firm favourite on local pirate, Radio Frequency, his all out jump up style attempts to get the early heads moving, but is met with a flat reception as the dancefloor only sees a maximum of 80 people at any point during his set. Antix blends together a mixture of his own, up front productions and also well known drum and bass tunes in his own unique way and actually is surprisingly impressive, but was let down by the fact the MC seems to want to be twice as loud as any other sound in the venue.

Distorted Minds follow with what seems to be a calculated tribute to Sub Focus, which is a real shame, their whole set comprises about eight Sub Focus tunes in all. As a fan of their work, this was really disappointing. It seemed all these boys wanted to do was mix together the most blatant tunes they could, without adding any individual edge to their set at all. To be 100% honest Distorted Minds were very boring, this was not helped by a mindless MC battle that was taking place at the front, which really distracted every member of the crowd away from the music and more to focusing on these small time MC's inflated egos. I am all for MCs at drum and bass raves, but when there are only 50 people on the dancefloor and the music is hardly riveting, a macho MC battle is the last thing I want to see. Thankfully the MCs stopped just before the end of Distorted Minds' set, and the DJs did manage to redeem themselves with some sure fire dubplates to end their Sub Focus homage. To end the night Reuben G and Frenzy D step up to the plate and come with some well needed dubstep flavours. These two are making quite a name for themselves as some of the best 140 bpm DJs in Leeds and they do not disappoint. Their mixing is of a very high standard and they work the sub low frequencies on Mine's weighty soundsystem to great effect, twisting and turning between tunes effortlessly.

All in all, Rapture's first night of the student year was not one to remember, but this is no reflection on their previous track record as they have seen the likes of Kromestar and Shimon (to name but a few) bring some of the best nights of last year. I see what these boys are trying to do and I know with better promotion next time around they will be a lot better, just don't put the MC's name down on the guestlist.

words: Oliver Gibbons

Bigger Than Barry (Weeks II & III)  
Mint, 6/10/2009 back2back 13/10/2009

Bigger than Barry bringing the funk to the dancefloor, with a night that is fast becoming one of the most badman student nights in Leeds. Now I don't know about you, but I've been waiting for a student night in this vein for some time. Too many times have I endured wack student nights in wack venues with wack DJs. Thankfully this bloke Barry has come to our rescue. The successful formula is simple. Top drawer venue, student prices and big name DJs each week bringing a whole range of wobbly, bass heavy madness to the sick Funktion 1 soundsystem installation.

This week saw dubstep and drum and bass heavyweights Nero and Urban Nerds frontliners Rattus Rattus and Klose One with MC Illaman take up headlining duties. If you reached last week and caught DJ Zinc and Jack Beats you'll know that not only was the venue rammed out but both acts tore the roof off, so expectations were high for the second instalment!

The good news is that, as expected, things popped off once more. First Nero, and then Rattus Rattus and Klose One, continued in the apparent Bigger than Barry tradition of smacking the dancefloor in its proverbial face with a succession of fat drops across a wide spectrum of sounds, from dubstep to drum and bass to electro house, with plenty else thrown in for good measure. The crowd radiated energy and enjoyment and the DJs clearly vibed off this to produce another stomping night of good music and fun times. Got to give a props to residents Phat Pat and Pasteman also, whose selections both before and after the headliners both weeks has been absolutely wicked, putting people on the dance floor early and keeping them there till the very end!

words: Charles Stewart

So, Bigger than Barry week number three, and one thing is clear. The weekly line-ups are improving as the popularity of the eponymous 'Barry' figure soars and overwhelms Leeds' midweek scene, like a growing bassline enveloping weaker treble frequencies. Bigger Than Barry has resituated itself in Mint Club this autumn – a venue which has gone from strength to strength in recent years, this summer extending the already impressive PanoramaBar-esque LED ceiling to the bar – and the relocation has been met with popular approval. Some may find the décor and whole feel of Mint a bit too synthetic for what is fundamentally a night which covers the extensive spectrum of grimy, dark UK urban music, (especially when compared to the night's previous host, Wire) but the incredible audio visual facilities and well placed Funktion 1 rig which Mint offers make for a full synaesthesia-inducing attack on the senses that many other venues lack.

So, what of the night itself? Arriving a little late, upon walking through Mint's white doors, I found myself surrounded by a young, animated audience illuminated by the hyper-rhythmic light of the strobe. There was no stroboscopic illusion of slow motion in the eccentric dancing though, highlighting the vivacity and exuberance that was present in the crowd throughout the night. Phatpat and Pasteman held down their role as resident selectors well with a selection of big, beefy dubstep tracks to warm up the limbs of those looking to shake a leg.

Enter Redlight, better known under his D&B alias Clipz – an artist who has been making waves with his fusion of neo-house, Baltimore booty basslines, electro, dancehall, and any other number of genres you could ascribe to his productions. Playing a crowd-pleasing set encompassing modern classics like Major Lazer's howling digital dancehall demon 'Pon De Floor' and Steve Angello and Laidback Luke's excellent 'Be', Redlight fluidly mixed and merged rhythms and sounds at breakneck speed, to the delight of those in attendance. Furthermore, his own productions seemed to be well received, with the harsh whining synth of upcoming 'KID Soldiers' rightfully causing a gaggle of arm

throws and unusual shapes.

However, after Redlight came the true musical spectacle of the night. Matthew James Coleman, better known as MJ Cole, is a bona fide UK musical icon. Classically trained at the prestigious Royal College of Music, in 1996 he discovered the UK Garage sound, and went on to pioneer the 2-step Garage offshoot, a subgenre essential to the present state of UK urban music – especially the inception of dubstep and UK funky. His debut album *Sincere* was Mercury Music Prize nominated and he owns and runs Prolific Recordings, a label still releasing tracks in the UKG style. However, his set last Tuesday was more of a history lesson in how urban music has evolved and changed over the years. His selection included some of his own classic productions and remixes like the sultry 'Crazy Love' and his bouncy 4x4 remix of De La Soul's 'It Ain't All Good' respectively, right through to newer productions like his rough, grinding remix of L-Vis 1990s 'United Groove' and his funky reinterpretation of Zed Bias' classic 'Neighbourhood' to kick off his set. Personally, I thought it lacked a lot of UKG mainstay tracks which MJ Cole has championed over the years, but then again, I'm just harking back to a forgotten era of music, and the selection was looking at the development of his sound rather than his musical roots. The end of my night coincided with the end of his set, as he dropped the monumental Nero remix of his classic 'Sincere' under a fitting synthetic canopy of LED stars above.

All in all, the night highlighted the growing popularity of Bigger Than Barry, not only on a deep down and dirty dancing vibe, but also for musical integrity; showcasing two UK artists who have revolutionised their sound and output, in lieu with the ever-changing face of dance music. Look out for future weeks in Barry's busy schedule, bringing musical innovators like Joker, A-Trak and (personal favourite) Zed Bias to Leeds' clubbing community.

words: Ashby Field

Terminal  
Mint, 15/10/2009

Terminal is the newest night to hit Leeds' bustling midweek party roster. Hosted by Mint, it offers up-front house, electro and techno, moulded to suit the younger, more commercially susceptible student crowd. Their first party saw their joint forces with Mint regulars Louche, inviting resident DJ's Josh Tweek and Brinsley Kazak to showcase their refined skills.

Naturally, the biggest problem facing midweek nights is attendance, or more expressly, the lack

of it. This is true for those events that target the greatest demographic possible, let alone those that limit themselves to a few select genres. Surprisingly then, I was impressed to find Mint busy and full of energy as I entered on Thursday night. Kazak and Tweek were controlling the dancefloor with a mixture of peak-time tech-house and mainstream edits, maintaining above all a pumping, hypnotic groove. A remix of the Clash classic 'Rock the Casbah' and Candi Staton's 'You Got the Love', amongst others, had the crowd singing along joyfully. Terminal was, above all else, a lot of fun. The

music was both familiar and of good quality, with the Louche boys clearly relishing the opportunity to play some of their bigger, 'main room' records. The crowd too appeared to be enjoying themselves profusely, taking full advantage of the cheap drinks on offer, complimented by the flawless sonic and visual Mint experience. If what you want from a night out is a good few hours dancing to an energetic, varied soundtrack, then Terminal is well worth considering.

words: Carlos Hawthorn

New Bohemia with Jerry Dammers  
The Faversham, 16/10/2009

The Faversham was far from a ghost town on this night as it played host to a special DJ set from the founder of The Specials, Jerry Dammers. Dammers, who is also responsible for the founding of Tone Records, played an eclectic mix of dub, reggae, ska and disco. The summer of 2009 was undoubtedly the summer of rappers, with the specials and such bands as 2Pac dominating for such high profile acts was seen at the Faversham and T in The Park. The night was also part of a few smaller shows such as the one at the T in Millennium Square earlier this year. Although Dammers didn't actually headline, he was the special on any of their 30th anniversary tour dates, and it has been a real treat that he wasn't actually in

However Dammers' punk rock spirit is obviously still prevailing as he continued to tour the country by himself and with his band the spatial AKA Orchestra.

Throughout Friday night's set Dammers, avec a classic punk pie hat in true mod style, slammed the BNP for their racist views which was met by the crowd with a rapturous applause. Personally I'm 100% with Dammers on the anti-BNP front, but it all seems a bit too OTT and very much over the top some tracks. Another thing that was a bit of a downer about the set was Dammers' poor timing. The set was scattered throughout the night's winds, something which meant that some of the dubstep and reggae tracks, which when you're in the mood for a good

All in all the night was highly enjoyable, as the majority of New Bohemia nights prove to be, with Dammers keeping the audience hyped up with his funky fresh tracks. However in terms of the night being a good 'DJ set' I'm not so sure. I could think of five of my mates who could DJ better than Dammers, no offence to the guy as he is technically a musical genius, but hosting a DJ set is very different to being part of a live band. In all honesty it could have actually been anyone up there on stage and I wouldn't have been able to tell the difference. Obviously no one really went to judge Dammers' skills on the old ones and twos, but with Leeds full of so many banging nights, I really had to question how much this one stood out.

words: Monique Hall  
photo: Leila Milne

Preview:

LEEDS URBAN FESTIVAL PRESENTS:  
THE HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL WEEKENDER  
31/10 - 02/11/2009  
Live Urban Arena: Lethal Bizzle, Foreign Beggars, Killa Kela, Skepta.  
Warehouse Arena: Blame, Nicky Blackmarket, Kenny Ken, Remarc.  
Basement Arena: Henry G, L.D, Luke Envoy, Ranmadanman, Exodus

# FEATURES

231009

With Halloween only a week away, it's time to start thinking about costumes. But rather than waste money on black catsuits and witches' wigs that will probably be discarded after the night or added to the random Otley Run collection under the bed, Susie Osborne-James has decided to make her own.

## Grim Reaper



Susie models her Grim Reaper costume  
Photo: Richard Smith

1. Get four thick, black bin bags.  
2. With the first one, cut along one folded edge until you reach the base of the bag. This will form the hood.

3. With the second, cut along the base and one side to form a large flat rectangle

4. With the last two, cut along the base to form two sleeves.

5. You should now have the pieces to form a cape.

6. Attach the long edge of the second bin bag to the long edge at the bottom of your hood. This forms the body.

7. Place the hood on your head and get a friend to mark the height at which you will need arm holes.

8. Cut a hole either side large enough to fit your arms through, then attach an open end of the last two bags around the top half of the hole only to form sleeves.

9. Once all the pieces are stuck together, lay out your cape on its back and cut in a diagonal line from the bottom corner of the sleeves up towards the bottom of the hole you made earlier. **DON'T CUT DIRECTLY TO THE EDGE OF THE HOLE AS THIS WILL MAKE IT HARD TO MOVE YOUR ARMS.**

10. Re-seal the sleeves by sticking the flaps together.

11. To make your scythe, cut a crescent shape out of cardboard and wrap in half around a broom handle.

12. Wear black clothing underneath your robe, and for even scarier effect wear black facepaint so that your face is less visible beneath your hood.





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## Medusa Uncle Fester

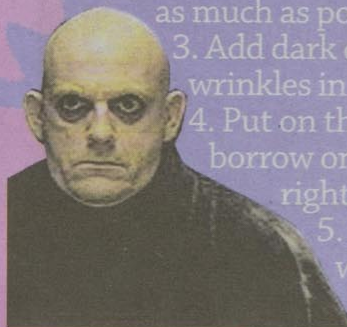


1. Plait your hair around pipe cleaners or the wire from wire hangers.
2. Bend the wires to make your hair stand up and look like snakes
3. Apply pale makeup, with a gory bloody neck

4. Wrap an old bed sheet around you, in the style of a Greek robe.

## Uncle Fester

1. Cut the legs of some flesh coloured tights off and stitch up the holes to create a cap.
2. Using face paints or pale makeup, colour your face and the tights. Try to blend the tights into your face as much as possible to give a bald look.



3. Add dark circles beneath your eyes and wrinkles in your forehead.

4. Put on the largest coat you own (or borrow one from a friend) and fasten right up to the neck.

5. Add dark trousers and walk with a hunch to complete the look.



## Vampire Bat

1. Take an old black umbrella and unscrew the top to separate the material from the handle.
2. Cut the spokes away from the handle and cut along the middle, leaving 4 spokes on each half
3. Fold the umbrella material over the ends of the cut-off spokes and sew down to hold the spokes in place



4. Take an old black t-shirt and sew each half of the umbrella along the seam, making sure the center of the umbrella is sewn onto the underarm seam.



4. To complete the look, wear black trousers and shoes and get some pointy ears. Alternatively, you could make your own bat ears using an old hairband with cardboard ears stuck on.

5. Using face paints, add dark circles under your eyes and blood around your mouth. If you don't want to buy fangs, simply paint them on from your bottom lip.



The final Vampire Bat costume  
Photo: Richard Smith

## Mr. Hudson

His first single, *Supernova*, was one of the summer's biggest hits, he's an Oxford graduate and his mentor is Kanye West. No wonder that supporting Calvin Harris doesn't faze Mr. Hudson, who spoke to *Leeds Student's* Virginia Newman before his latest show in Leeds.



Mr. Hudson seems to be taking his new found stardom in his stride as his tour manager hurries him along for my interview, only half an hour before he is set to be on stage.

Crowded into a less than glamorous dressing room are his band and backing singers who are watching Whitney Houston's performance from last week's X Factor. They're glad to see her performing again.

Hudson's career began in Birmingham, then he moved to London where he was picked up by his now mentor Kanye West and jetted off to America.

Being such a big player on the R and B and hip hop scenes may not have been expected from an Oxford University graduate, but he is pulling it off well.

Having spent a period of his life on the dole, Hudson admits that he never really wanted to get a 'proper' job, and luckily he hasn't had to. His first single *Supernova* reached number two in the UK charts, and his album *Straight No Chaser* has been well received since its release on Monday October 19.

**Leeds Student:** So, how is the tour going so far?

**Mr. Hudson:** Really good. With the album out this week I've been really, really busy doing interviews, photo shoots and trying to keep in touch with everyone online; the Twitter army is kind of militant (as armies tend to be), so it is exciting. I am exhausted, but happy. I'm nervous about Sunday to see where the album will end up, it's number 5 in the iTunes chart at the moment so if it can stay there then I would be thrilled.

**LS:** What is it like supporting Calvin Harris?

**Mr. H:** He is lovely and his band are cool, but more importantly the crowds are rabid, in a good way - they're animals. They're just so up for it because they're in that mind set of it's not just a gig but they're going out. Luckily *Supernova* did well, so I think that a lot of people will have bought those tickets two or three months ago and have now heard *Supernova*. Sometimes you see a support act and think 'who's this lot?' but I think that they're getting good value for their money.

**LS:** Where geographically will your career take you next?

**Mr. H:** I think that I've got to head East haven't I! Eastern Europe. I could imagine learning a new instrument in Prague or going to Japan. I think that that would be the way forward.

**LS:** Can you pin down what genre your music fits into?

**Mr. H:** Pop. Wholemeal pop.

**LS:** Like bread?

**Mr. H:** Multigrain pop. Best of both worlds.

**LS:** You've said that the album was inspired by a break-up, so why is the music so upbeat?

**Mr. H:** I think that the lyrics are quite sad and downbeat, but the music had to be upbeat to balance it. If the music had been downbeat as well I think that I would have thrown myself off a bridge! I wouldn't inflict that on the listener so the music is joyful and triumphant.

**LS:** You've said that you can pick up pretty much any instrument. What will you be playing on stage tonight?

**Mr. H:** I play a lot of instruments in the studio, but at the moment I'm not playing any instruments on stage as I am concentrating on singing. The new songs are so high, ridiculously high! So I am just focusing on breathing and doing justice to the tracks. But in the studio I pick anything up. For example there is a song on the new album that has a banjo

loop. The first time I ever played the banjo we were recording and I was like, 'can we loop that round and see what happens?' and then I wrote the song to that loop.

**LS:** So there is a lot of experimentation?

**Mr. H:** [laughs] I just call it mucking about, but you can call it 'experimentation' if you like! I don't always have a design for my music. I think that a lot of the time the best stuff comes when you're not even thinking about it and just mucking about.

**LS:** So, what is it like having a mentor like Kanye West?

**Mr. H:** Mental! [laughs] Brilliant! He really, really helped me out. I couldn't have asked for anything more really. He just created this new chapter in my life, standing on a roof top shouting 'everyone listen to Hudson'. That has given me a chance to be myself. I can just relax and just make the music that I want to make. He has generated that audience for me.

**LS:** Can I ask what you think of the Taylor Swift / Kanye West incident [when West interrupted Swift's acceptance speech at an awards show]?

**Mr. H:** I think it needs to blow over. I think that there are much more interesting things to talk about and I am not going to join the long line of people who've come out and said whatever. I don't even think that it is that interesting - no one got hurt.

**LS:** So, back to the music. What's next for you?

**Mr. H:** No idea. I enjoy working on other people's stuff. I did a track with Estelle. I'd love to work with some people from areas other than pop and R n B and hip hop. I don't want to be seen just as one genre, because my influences are so broad. You could see me doing a track with King of Leon, Arctic Monkeys or, who knows, Jamie Cullum or Palo Nutini. I think working with people really adds to the music, it makes it 3D; collaborations are really healthy. The main thing that I am going to be promoting is the album. We'll see what happens - I don't really think too far into the future.

The band start sound checking, so we move backstage to sit on some steps, where Hudson comments: 'the glamour!'

**LS:** Thinking back, when you first wanted to be a musician, did you think that you would be here now?

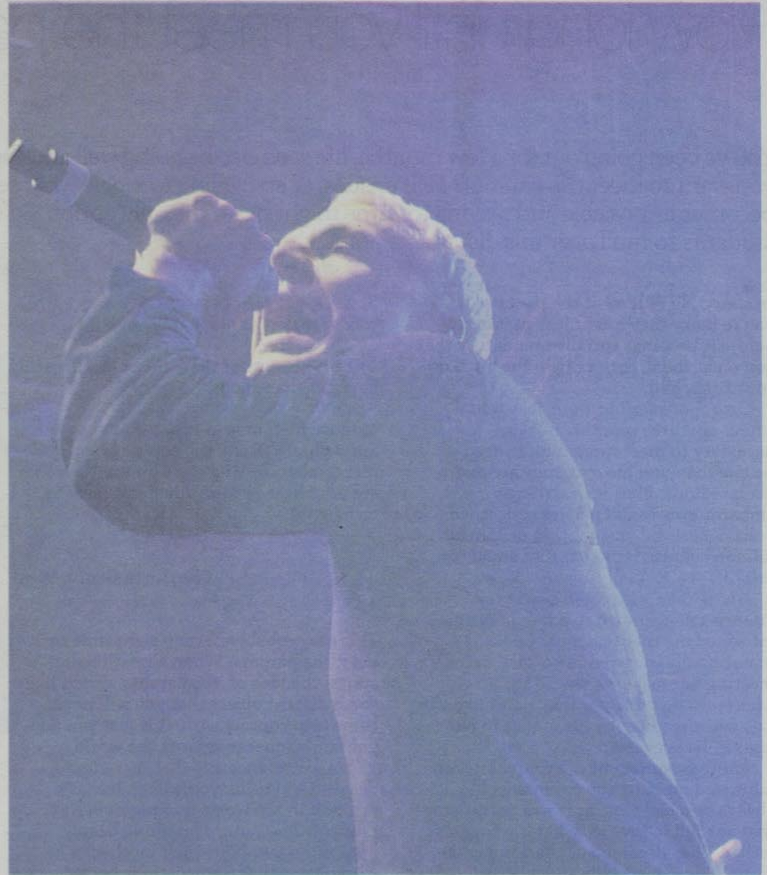
**Mr. H:** I never really had a plan apart from to avoid a real job.

**LS:** What was uni like for you?

**Mr. H:** Blissful, sheltered. It's funny, you can be so buried in the books that you're not learning about the real world. I wonder about what advice I would give myself now - if I could quantum leap, what I would say? I wonder whether I would dissuade young Mr Hudson from spending three years doing that when...well, who knows.

**LS:** Are you looking forward to tonight?

**Mr. H:** Absolutely yes. The whole day is geared around the half hour show and Calvin's crowds are so up for it that we just give it everything and they throw it straight back, times ten. I think Leeds particularly is up for it.



Words: Virginia Newman  
Photos: Richard Smith

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## How long until you meet the parents?



You've been going out for a few months, life seems to be going well and then they drop the bombshell - Do you want to meet the parents? Fear ensues, as struggling to juggle what seems like impending doom becomes impossible and playing for time might be an the only option. So we asked a selection of students to mull over this disputable point.

**In short, NEVER meet the parents. If you're lucky they might just pass away before it becomes socially mandatory that you meet them, for example the birth of your first child.**

On a more serious note, just wait a while, say three months. It is not necessary to meet more middle-aged people than you have to, they are just plain tedious. Plus, it's extremely embarrassing for all parties concerned: 'So Julia, where did you get that delightful salmon coloured fur coat that smells of piss?'

A wise man who often sits at my kitchen table, known to a few as Roger, informed me that one must be "emotionally invested in yo' girl" before meeting her makers. "Get to the stage where you don't care if they don't like you 'cus you already got your mouse in her house," he suggests.

Another woman of the round kitchen table said meeting the parents would always be a bad idea, as it was at this stage that she fell in love with her boyfriend's father. They dreamed of shacking up in Honolulu with six kids and a labrador. She added that she never met his parents because they were long since deceased, which was a blessing.

Here are some top tips for when/if you ever do meet the parents,

- 1) Be sober.
- 2) If you have a beard, make sure you haven't got alphabet spaghetti in it. Or you'll give the impression of a) not being hygienic and b) having immature tastes in cuisine.

3) Girls, get your baps out. It's a sure fire way to make his old man like you.

4) Tell the mother that she looks 10 years younger than she is.

5) Once met, only ever see them bi-annually. Typically the equinox (September 23) and the Chinese New Year are your best bets, as you don't have to bring gifts.

**Charlotte Grant-West**

**There is probably never a right time to meet the parents. When a relationship starts, the idea of 'the parents' seems like some distant object that you will never come into contact with; it is just you and your new squeeze against the world.**

You dread meeting their parents because you think you will embarrass yourself in the worst way possible way, probably by saying something deeply inappropriate about their mother or by insinuating that their sister is better looking than they are.

Whereas, the reason you don't want them to meet your parents is because you know for a fact that your parents will find the most embarrassing thing about you and make sure your girl/boyfriend knows it before they have even said hello properly.

But however hard you try, you know that it will have to happen eventually, so you might as well get it over with early. A chance meeting will always be preferable to a pre-arranged one as meeting the

potential in-laws in the supermarket or some other non-descript place means that you have no time to get nervous or say something stupid, then that is the awkward first meeting over with. Plus, the earlier it is the less time there is for their parents to build-up a completely unrealistic picture of you that will obviously get shattered after about 30 seconds.

If a chance meeting is off the cards though, and it has to be some kind of occasion then it may be best to wait a while, so that the love of your life can tell their parents how great you are and how happy you make them and you can then pretty much get away with anything upon first meeting them!

**Chris Stevenson**

**The prospect of meeting your girlfriend's father is usually terrifying. When the first encounter is looming, there are anxieties about vice-tight handshakes and long, piercing stares so harrowing that the Demon Headmaster is made to look like a benevolent, Werther's Original-bearing uncle.**

The nightmare scenario, which has crossed the mind of every man and boy, is that the father in question turns out to be a replica of Robert De Niro's interrogator in *Meet the Parents*.

At the time of writing, I've not yet been confronted with a lie-detector. Nor have I drawn blood from a potential relative in a game of water polo.

If you can navigate the first meeting with the parents of your other half

without committing any of Ben Stiller's faux-pas in the aforementioned film, then that would be a success.

I've heard of fathers trying to break the ice (or just perpetuate the struggle for alpha male superiority) by suggesting a round of golf or a fishing trip with their offspring's suitors. Thankfully, I can't fish or play golf.

In my experience, meeting the parents early in a relationship can be beneficial. An extended wait can sometimes cause pressure, increasing expectations and adding unnecessary suspense to the whole occasion.

And the weight of parental expectation can be a heavy burden. If these can be kept realistic, then you'll have even more to gain when you charm the entire family. So there's no need to worry if your other half mentions their parents in the first few dates - just don't suggest water polo.

**Armand A. Legge**

Next week:

*Can open relationships ever work?*

If you have an opinion on this and wish to share it with the student body, send up to 250 words to [dilemma@leedsstudent.org](mailto:dilemma@leedsstudent.org)

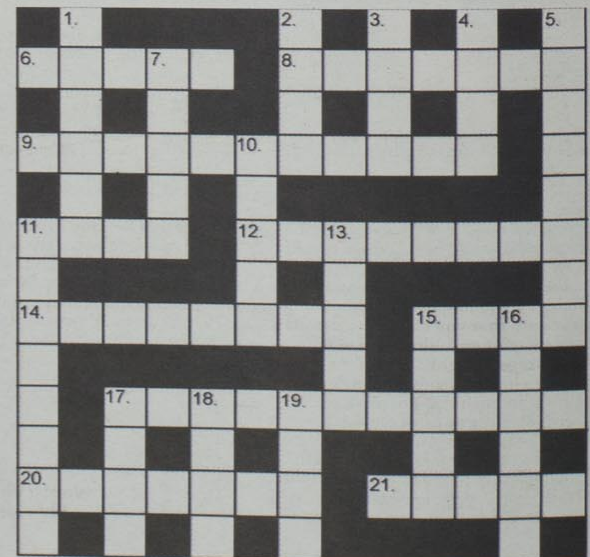
## Crossword

### Across:

- 6 Slant (5)
- 8 Liqueur (7)
- 9 Right now (11)
- 11 Leave (4)
- 12 Broken chord (8)
- 14 Put to use (8)
- 15 Group (in sport) (4)
- 17 Getting faster (in music) (11)
- 20 Nonexistent (7)
- 21 Timepiece (5)

### Down:

- 1 The highest point (6)
- 2 Large continent (4)
- 3 Peter Pan character (4)
- 4 Obligation (4)
- 5 Place to develop pictures (8)
- 7 Fold (5)
- 10 European country (5)
- 11 Large mammal (8)
- 13 Priest (e.g. Spanish) (5)
- 15 Route-path (5)
- 16 Kidnap (6)
- 17 Female singing voice (4)
- 18 Food from potato-a small piece (4)
- 19 Emblem (4)



The answers to last week's crossword: Across, 1. Canada, 4. Maroon, 8. Ruin, 9. Amend, 10. Other, 11. Ten, 12. Many, 13. Franc, 14. Scar, 16. Run, 17. Badge, 21. Chess, 22. Date, 23. Delete, 24. Create. Down, 1. Carrot, 2. Neigh, 3. Airy, 5. Again, 6. Over, 7. Nudity, 11. Train, 14. Spaced, 15. Serene, 16. Resit, 18. Drama, 19. Deal, 20. Zinc.

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## COMMENT

### Art in Berlin

Berlin has been shattered and rebuilt so many times in the past century that the whole concept of public art has come to represent an imperative form of cultural identity. The city's young, tenacious underclass projects its socio-political voice onto the peeling skin of high brick walls, corporate buildings and toilet cubicles without impediment, making Berlin one of the few places in the world where art remains the non-bureaucratic, unrestrained voice of the people. This, at least, is what I could grasp from Wikipedia when three months ago I decided, spur of the moment that I should go and visit my friend, Jaycob, a journalist/DJ/ student who, like most Germans I know, wants to experience everything in the world so long as he can do so in Berlin. When last August he invited me to stay on his floor and experience German culture as it truly is I jumped at the chance, swiftly ordering myself a walkman and a pair of Dr. Martins in preparation for a glorious week of pounding up and down Wasserstrasse screaming "REVOLUTION! REVOLUTION!" to the beat of Kraftwerk's *Autobahn*.

The first thing that struck me when I arrived in the city was the buzzing mood of rapid regeneration; every building seemed to have been reinvented in the past twenty years. Factories have become clubs, train stations have been converted into galleries and mansions have been taken over as squats, whilst the structural remains of the country's fractured past have morphed into bright tourist attractions. We dashed excitedly through the streets, going from famous landmarks to buzzing techno parties, me chugging Kronenburg and bratwurst like water and performing animated impressions of John Cleese's 'Don't mention the war!' sketch to anyone who would listen.

One evening, we stumbled across the raucous opening party of a small exhibition in the ex-

war-time hospital Künstlerhaus Bethanien. The installation, by Can Altay, was called *Setting a Setting/ Forecasting a Broken Past*, and seemed to incorporate all the undercurrents of division and guilt that I had come across time and again when talking to young Berliners. Through a series of sound- and video-related exercises, Altay explored the tensions between the concepts of freedom and cohesion in urban society. The exhibition was fascinating, for, although one can now walk with



haunting ease through an area which 20 years ago people died to cross, Berlin has remained socially divided. "Nobody really moves," Jaycob told me, "If you were born in the East you stay there and vice versa."

On visiting The East Side Gallery (a 1.3km section of Berlin Wall that has been preserved as a memorial) we got chatting to a French artist who had been invited by the government to re-paint the mural he'd graffitied in 1989. When asked what he thought about this recreation he scoffed; "Bet is not

the same! Back zen we 'ad belief, we 'ad passion! Now all we 'ave is corporate sponsorship." Admittedly it did feel strange seeing the scars of recent history done up like a fairground ride, but Berlin is like that. Old images are hastily scratched off and pasted over, memory is repackaged and the past quickly relegated to history. The East Side Gallery is brilliant in what it is: a memorial. If it can no longer artistically reflect the issues of contemporary Germany, it is because it belongs to another time.

At the end of my stay, Jaycob made me watch his student film on the notion of cultural identity. The precept of the work was this: with no wall to tear down, our generation of Germans has had to bear the full brunt of the disaffection that inevitably comes from historical shame. Unable to find a sense of self in the past they have carved a new and personal identity for themselves. For me the film rang true and explained why Berlin is such a youth-driven city, why the walls look like album sleeves and every street corner holds a techno party. It also demonstrated why much of the best artwork that Berlin has to offer can be seen for free. Though I went to The Hamburger Bahnhof and Kunst-Werke galleries (queue juvenile giggles), the artwork on the white-washed walls seemed bland and stunted in comparison to the flair that can be seen on the streets. In this way the Berlin art scene is quite unique in Europe, changing its face so rapidly that institutions are simply unable to keep up. In a world watered down by globalization, the raw passion of Berlin provides a refreshing antidote to 21st century artistic apathy.

**words and photo: Tilly Michell**

## INTERVIEW

### Bashy

It's not everyday that the West Yorkshire Playhouse plays host to one of the UK's rising hip hop and grime artists, so I was excited at the prospect of interviewing Bashy, lead actor in Jonzi D Productions' new production, *Markus the Sadist*. I had heard of Bish Bash Bosh/Bashy, or Ashley Thomas as he's known to his mother, but I had not realised that he's been part of the grime/hip hop backdrop for quite some time. Winner of the Urban Music Award, nominated twice at this year's MOBO awards, and music supervisor for *Adulthood*, he's found time to find beef with MC Wiley, Ghetto and Demon. However, he's putting that all behind him when he comes to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to play the eponymous protagonist in *Markus the Sadist*.

"I did acting before I did music," says Bashy, slipping in the "you get me" which peppers the interview a dozen times. So his performance in *Markus the Sadist* will be more of a return to his Brit School roots, as he plays a naive and studious Londoner who "moves from rags to riches, to rags to freedom" and is transformed on stage from book bearing intellectual to gun totter, cubic zirconia diamante-wearing rapper.

Written and directed by Jonzi D, *Markus the Sadist* is inspired by the life of the Marquis de Sade, a French aristocrat known

as the "original pornographer." This unlikely allusion to one of 18th century's sexually subversive figures is meant to show how greed is timeless, and according to Jonzi, the Marquis would be a "nasty, slackness-talking MC" if he was around today.

Bashy himself is different from pre-fame Markus, who is "more of a mummy's boy and a nice kid. He's a good guy who goes to

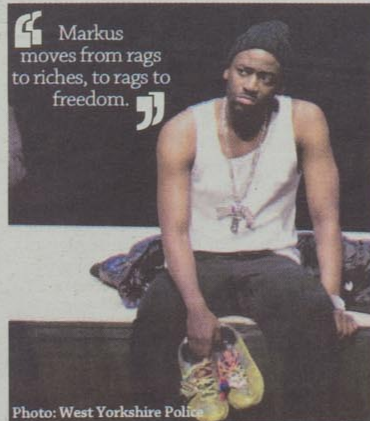


Photo: West Yorkshire Police

university, he's positive and nice. Markus deals with things in a different way to me."

Was Bashy able to infuse his acting with his lyrical prowess? "I had input into my character and some lyrics were constructed between Jonzi and me." However, those expecting 'Swagger like Us' or 'Blacks and Gold' (a Sam Sparro revamp) will be disappointed. "Bashy goes out of the window for my role - it's not me, is it. I don't really have an ego like that." Although this self-aggrandizing may seem to contradict his last statement, Bashy has managed to keep his ego at bay. For a man who's managed to successfully crossover into acting and has his own clothing brand, Bashy is refreshingly down to earth and friendly, mixing his "you get me" with an infectious laugh. And what's next for the Londoner? He pauses "I don't know. Developing my acting. I'm an actor and that's the direction I'm taking. Taking music and entertainment somewhere it's never been before in this country." From anyone else, this would sound arrogant, but combined with his boisterous chuckle, Bashy manages to convince me that maybe he is capable of cultural domination.

*Markus the Sadist* is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse from 26-27th October.

**words: Nali Sivathanan**

## FILM REVIEW

### Guerilla Shorts

Hyde Park Picture House



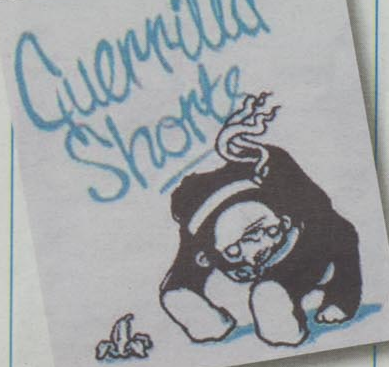
This month's *Guerrilla Shorts* starts by focusing on childhood before moving into the darker turbulent lives of adolescents. Kicking off with two Disney films, *Donald's Crime* stars Donald Duck as a broke sailor easily persuaded to break open his nephew's piggy bank for a night out dancing with Miss Daisy. *Mickey Down Under* stars the chuckling Mouse, now forever tainted by his screaming, swearing attacks on the Jonas brothers in *South Park* - for me, at least.

Next *The Adventures of Andre and Wally* was simple, colourful, borderline dull, but hugely important. As the first computer animated film made (1984) it gave birth to *Toy Story*, *Monsters Inc.* and the like, but sounded the death knell for Disney's great 2D animated masterpieces. *Jabberwocky* - a lengthy stop-motion piece featuring dolls eating dolls being eaten by maggots, a black cat being thrown out of a window, and a dancing bodiless suit accompanied by an eerie recital of Lewis Carroll's poem - was bizarrely unaffectionate.

Next, three heavier films dealing with the very teen themes of isolation and insecurity: In Claymation's *Wraith of Cobble Hill*, a thieving high school student finds the local shop keeper hanging from a noose; limited dialogue achieves a gripping pace. Cubs dissects the moral dilemma of a teenager desperate for acceptance by an urban fox hunting gang, while *About a Girl* is the seemingly simplistic story of a 13-year-old who likes hiding things, yet it all turns a whole lot more sinister. For sheer shock value, this film has got it in the bag. *Hammerhead* ends the collection of films on a lighter note providing the highlight of the evening: bright spark Boris, his Dad, his Mum and her partner are brought together on his birthday through his obsessive love of sharks and a game of I Spy in the car with a word beginning with L: "Lesbian".

**words: Edmund Perou**

Photo: Hyde Park Picture House



## FILM REVIEW

### The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

Hyde Park Picture House



Unfortunately for director Terry Gilliam, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* carries a heavy burden. The closing credits announce "a film from the friends of Heath Ledger" with the sudden death of the actor overshadowing much of the publicity for the film.

From the offset, therefore, the movie is cursed with being "Heath Ledger's last film". Whilst it is understandable that there would be ample expectations of *Parnassus*, it also unfairly detracts from the film itself. There is no doubt that Ledger's role as Tony is no match for the disturbingly intense Joker - a role that awarded him the Oscar for best actor in a supporting role - or even his outstanding character as Ennis del Mar in *Brokeback Mountain*.

This is not to say that *Parnassus* is not as disconcerting and delirious as its title leads you to believe. This mad film is the conception of a director who previously bought us equally baffling films such as *The Brothers Grimm*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and *Twelve Monkeys*. Structural discipline clearly lacks in the majority of his films, but it does not make them any less inspired and grandly conceived. Ledger's tragic death ultimately brought together a cast of three equally esteemed actors; Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell. Each of them play a different facet of Tony's character as he enters the other side of the infamous magical mirror that dresses the set of an enchanting Victorian style travelling theatre.

In a series of flashbacks we begin to learn that during his years as a Buddhist monk, *Parnassus*

(Christopher Plummer) told magical stories that were believed to maintain the human spirit. Making a bet with the devil - Mr Nick (played to perfection by Tom Waits) - in order to regain his youth and become immortal to win over the heart of a beautiful woman, *Parnassus* also gambles away his doll-faced daughter Valentina (Lily Cole) when she is to turn sixteen. This subplot makes perfect sense until Tony is introduced, and a mob of what appears to be the

Russian mafia chases him for reasons that are never made apparent.

Nevertheless, the aesthetic richness of this whimsical film makes up for its somewhat flawed and messy screenplay. It is a teasingly beautiful film to watch. The mixture of the near-contemporary London and the enticement of the wondrous world behind the mirror, mix perfectly in a cocktail of kookiness, mishap and visual luxury.

words: Charlotte Sintrat

Photo: geeksodoom.com



## INTERVIEW/PREVIEW

### TG does The Crucible

#### What is the play about?

Directors Laura Nagel and Eloise Colin: It's about one man's struggle to maintain his integrity after an act of infidelity spirals into an unpredictable sequence of accusations. It is set against the backdrop of the Salem Witch Trials in 17th century Massachusetts.

#### What relevance has the play got now?

Well, Miller was also writing about McCarthyism. By interpreting his present through past events, he demonstrates that this kind of scenario is timeless; it is an inevitable product of the human condition. We've tried to bring that universality to the fore in this production by removing it from the stereotypical, hackneyed costumes and giving it a more industrial, Orwellian aesthetic.



Photo: TG

#### So you're adding something to the text?

Not at all - we're working with what's already there, emphasizing the elements and angles that we think speak to our current culture.

#### What time frame does that place it in?

The unfolding of the events present the chilling inevitability of the circumstance. We're focusing on that in this production so there is a constant sense of the future, always resonating, though it isn't necessarily 'set' in the future.

#### It sounds like there might be a moral... is there a moral?

Its moral is what makes it so popular, because it's not twee, but real. That's unique, and makes for great drama - which helps!

#### Have you ever seen the devil?

Yeah, but it's a really long story. Come and find us in the bar after and we'll tell you.

Nicholas Hytner's 1996 film version starred Wynona Rider and Daniel Day Lewis. Have you cast any actors that (1) are shoplifters (2) use the method approach?

Not that we're aware...

#### When will you know?

When lots of the girls are found dancing naked in Hyde Park with stolen pick and mix.

*The Crucible* is on at Stage@Leeds 28th - 31st October, 7.30pm (with a 2.30 matinee on Saturday 31st).

Tickets are available from the Stage@Leeds Box Office and online at [leedstickets.com](http://leedstickets.com)

words: Amy Powell Yeates

## EXHIBITION REVIEW

### Wandering Abroad

Leeds Art Gallery

Until 31/01/10

After many years of ignorance, the story of David Oluwale's death has recently become an inspiration for many in the art world, including Leeds-born artist, Corinne Silva, who uses it as the basis of her new exhibition, *Wandering Abroad*. Oluwale illegally came to Leeds from Nigeria in 1949. During his time here he suffered constant abuse from the police, which led to his eventual death twenty years later.

Silva chooses to portray this failure of immigration through a film installation; the series of moving images allow the viewer to experience the physicality of time which, along with the course of the River Aire, are the most important features of her work.

Managing to pick out abstract concepts whilst exploring the physical landscape of Leeds, Silva depicts the industrial and migratory history of the city to great effect. The exhibition provides an enlightening insight into local inequality without bombarding viewers with the usual feelings of guilt and pity, whilst the use of sad irony and a compilation of British, West African, and Caribbean music are contributing factors to the success of this piece. An awakening exhibition that is well worth a look.

The central location of Leeds Art Gallery means that there's no excuse to ignore this twelve minute video.

words: Ceri Eldin

## POETRY REVIEW

### Sticks and Stones

Strawbs bar 19/10



Poetry's boring, right? WRONG! At least, not when it involves lines about Jane Austen taking an "ironic shit", everyone in the audience being persuaded to send a text of abuse to an absent organiser, and plenty of booze. Welcome to *Sticks and Stones*, which made its triumphant return on Monday to, er, the top floor of Strawbs in what turned out to be a cosy and entertaining evening of thoroughly contemporary verse.

The open mic session that started the evening yielded some strong moments, including a certain deadpan Nick Card morphing into a foppish character to draw through a dirty little ditty about girls playing netball. "As a poet, I like to

Photo: Tom Stentiford



create memorable imagery," he claimed, all faux seriousness, after a closing line about an erection. Slots from *Leeds Student's* former arts alumni followed, with Jack Cullen weaving a thoughtful piece of tales from the library, while Vicky Ellis managed to convincingly eroticise Haribo, before collapsing in laughter.

The evening's headliner, John Berkavitch, leapt up to the mic to begin a high-impact gig with some wordplay, by proclaiming that "Mitch isn't the first virgin I've come after" to guffaws all around, the object of the comment having just lost his poetry performance 'virginity' in the previous slot. He then proceeded to turn what was essentially a tale of getting shit-faced at a festival into a sprawling, urban, epic-in-the-making, sprinkled with casual drug-taking and a cast of misfits and delicious girls in lycra. Delightfully irreverent, it showcased Berkavitch's talents as a confident storyteller.

The tone of the evening was overall more that of a stand-up gig than a poetry recital, the performers all having fun with language, while the evening's host, Andy Craven-Griffiths, provided a charismatic commentary on everything from the work of his performers to the likelihood of getting laid in Wakefield. Thoroughly enjoyable, and mercifully free of poetically bleeding hearts.

words: Elli Hollington

## THEATRE REVIEW

### The Black Album

West Yorkshire Playhouse  
20/10-24/10



After learning a little about *The Black Album*, I awaited the play with apprehension. Taking into account the prevalence of Islam in politics and Western culture, I was curious to see how the play would deal with such sensitive issues.

To my relief, what I experienced was a performance that dealt perceptively with these gritty issues, leaving room for humour, and an insightful depiction of life on the cusp of a new decade. Based on the novel by Hanif Kureishi, and performed by TARA, *The Black Album* brings us back to 1980s London; a time of radical experiments in art, music and a changing multicultural Britain. It follows Shahid, and the people he meets at university; a group of Islamic extremists, and an inspiring lecturer, Deedee.

We see Shahid struggle to balance religion with a side of himself that he is just beginning to discover. He becomes increasingly aware of the new world around him – such as the music of Prince, (from which the play takes the name *The Black Album*) who for Shahid is the paragon of the personal and artistic liberation that he pursues. Visually, the play



Photo: West Yorkshire Playhouse

## INTERVIEW / COMEDY PREVIEW

### Stephen K Amos

Ahead of bringing his brand new tour – *The Feelgood Factor* – to Leeds, Stephen K Amos finds time to diffuse his positive vibes to Leeds Student, discussing Smirnoff giveaways, his university life, and the distinct near-absence of black comedic talent on British TV.

After demanding incredulously that he be passed on to “the editor!”, Stephen courteously enquires how my day so far has been. This mixture of playful diva outrage and charming politeness reflects Stephen K Amos perfectly. His speech is dizzyingly energetic, occasionally shedding his well-pronounced RP consonants in favour of an endearing, ever-so-slightly camp, cockney drawl.

“Oh I’m fine! I’m back in London now, thank God. I’m in my house in London, sitting in the kitchen, and thanking my lucky stars that I’m not jet-lagged.”

He’s just back from a brief visit to Australia. “The stand up tour starts this week. I haven’t



Photo: Claes Gellerbrink

actually embarked on it yet – apart from Edinburgh” where the reviews praised Stephen for the sheer joy that he exudes. I’m curious: is *The Feelgood Factor* a reference to a certain ITV talent show?

“Do you know, it’s got absolutely no reference to it at all – I mean, I couldn’t just call it ‘The Feelgood’. People like to watch those programmes and witness people making a fool of themselves, but my show is not about making anybody look stupid. It just happens to share the same word: factor, like... sun factor!”

“I’m not cynical in my comedy. I like people for a start, and I’ve got good faith in mankind essentially. I’m a very positive person – I can’t bear laziness, I can’t bear tardiness. I can’t bear people around you who just bring you down, because life is for living. If my show has come at a good time when there’s all this doom and gloom around us, then what a great antidote to all that. Come and have a laugh in my company, and forget all your troubles!”

Onstage, Stephen is even more enchanting, rarely appearing in anything less than a full suit – are there such things as comedy groupies?

“I think there are comedy groupies, but for some reason I don’t seem to attract them. If the right groupie came along? You never know. I mean, who am I? How dare I not share my loving!”

If this is to be believed, Stephen’s offstage life is not the debauched affair that I had assumed. I press on: “You’ve never trashed a hotel room, then?”

“Kind of. I did a show for a comedy festival in South Africa and one of the sponsors for the festival was Smirnoff. And I said ‘I can’t believe I’m not getting any Smirnoff. It’s outrageous!’ I go back to my hotel room that night and there were sixteen cases of Smirnoff delivered to my room. Now, I had two choices: one, to drink them all, and then smash the entire room, or to send all the cases back to London and share them with my family and friends. What do you think I did?”

I think that probably counts. Stephen is constantly billed as a ‘born entertainer’, always looking at home in front of a large audience.

“Well, I was always an annoying child. Always trying to make jokes and finding the funny everywhere – I think maybe I get it from my Dad. If I can spread a bit of positivity when there’s a humorous disposition, then why not? It beats

conjures the youthful and experimental side of Britain in the 80s, with the use of a changing projection backdrop; flashing through bright colours and 80s pop culture images.

Aside from the religious and cultural issues *The Black Album* raises, it covers some more homely ground as Shahid explores the freedom of student living, the trials and tribulations of interrupted reading time, a nagging mother and a couple of uninvited crackheads seeking refuge on the sofa.

Its artful incorporation of humour with more serious issues is a balance rarely achieved when dealing with such difficult topics. *The Black Album* is about the dangerous pursuit of liberation for a mass of people, but what is brought into focus is Shahid’s personal liberation. This is a play about discovering who you are, and how to express yourself. If you want a theatre experience with a difference, then I recommend seeing this witty and original play. And of course it includes the timeless piece of advice from a well-meaning mother: “Make sure you wash under your arms before you put deodorant on.” Boys: take note.

words: Rachel Harvey

being angry and bitter. [Pause] Although I don’t smile inanely all the time. I’m not a freak!”

Of his success, Stephen admits “you’ve just got to work at it. At my first gig all of my friends turned up and they all laughed, because they know me. The second gig, my friends didn’t turn up and it didn’t work, even though I did exactly the same stuff. I realised that you’ve got to let the audience in on you and let them know exactly where you’re coming from. That’s what you have to work at. [...] No matter what is happening in the world people still need to laugh. So I’m going to keep on going.”



No matter what is happening in the world people still need to laugh.

“It was the comedy gigs that drew me away [from my Law studies at the University of Westminster] – being up on stage and being in control in some respects. What other job in the world is there that you can say exactly what you want to say?”

Stephen is an exhaustingly busy man. “I’m doing two other things: One is a kind of stand up sketch show, which has my name in it – so that’s quite good. The other thing is a sitcom, which is written by Simon Nye who wrote *Men Behaving Badly*. It’s called *In My Country*, and [pause] it’s very funny. It’s multicultural as well – whatever that means.”

Stephen K Amos’ own dig at the BBC’s diversity policy – that he’ll have to wait until Lenny Henry dies before they employ him – appears to have been proved wrong. Was there any seriousness behind this dig at the lack of black comedians on television?

“Oh of course, absolutely. If you were to watch any UK TV comedy programme, you would think there were only two black comics in this country. And that’s not because there aren’t any, that’s not because they’re not funny, that’s because the powers that be aren’t employing them or giving them the opportunity.”

“But I’m going to have to take that joke back now, aren’t I... unless Lenny’s in my car boot.”

See Stephen at *The Grand Theatre on 2 November*. His previous tour, *Find The Funny*, is released on DVD 23 November.

words: Matt Hutchinson

## LOOKOUT POST



Deep Cut with A Night Less Ordinary  
The West Yorkshire Playhouse  
10/11-21/11

This fabulous scheme by the national Arts Council is offering all under-26’s the chance to see top quality theatre productions free of charge. Simply call up The West Yorkshire Playhouse box office on: 0113 2137700, state your age and claim your tickets gratis.

The multi award winning *Deep Cut* is just one of many exciting performances on offer this month; using personal testimonies and real life accounts *Deep Cut* explores the pain, confusion and concealment that surrounded the alleged suicide of Private Cheryl James at Deep Cut Barracks in 1995. Described by the Guardian as “essential viewing”, this play is honest, compelling and extremely moving. Book quickly as free seats fill up fast.

No Prophets  
Hukaz, Hyde Park  
Every Sunday, 7:30pm

The *No Prophets* evening kicks off with the showing of an independent movie, after which the floor is opened up to any young artists, photographers, poets, DJs or MCs who wish to perform or showcase their work. Those who feel they have a talent to share should get in contact with the organisers via the *No Prophets* Facebook group. With free entry and cheap drinks this night is the perfect way to wind down after a hard weekend.

BHM Comedy Night  
Mine, Leeds University Union  
26/10, 7:30pm

As part of Black History Month the Union’s very own Mine is hosting a hilarious line up of top comedians; Nathan Caton, Andi Osho and Nicholas Marshal.

The Ladyboys of Bangkok  
Millennium Square  
16/10-31/10

For all those unperturbed by shameless voyeurism *The Ladyboys of Bangkok* is the best cabaret show in town. The spangled boy/girls will be performing their insanelly glamorous show for the people of Leeds and they are certain to go out with a bang(kok)! Tickets cost £12 and are available from theladyboysofbangkok.co.uk. If you’ve got a sense of humour and love glitter then this performance is a must.

words: Tilly Michell

## WHAT'S ONLINE

at leedsstudent.org

- Georgina Harmsworth checks out *The Scribe* at the Ilkley Literature Festival

- Did Pixar’s *Up* lift our spirits?

- Read the X-rated, uncensored and unabridged interview with Bashy

23/10/09

COMMENT

## From Piracy to Policy: Have the Media Giants Finally Jumped Ship?

With the announcement that Channel 4 will now be broadcasting selected shows through the popular YouTube site, Ben Heath investigates whether the media corporations have finally given into the demands of the media pirates.

With the advent of the Internet, a whole host of possibilities opened up for the broadcasting world. Media piracy—once seldom found in the clean-cut media industry—had now found an outlet through which to broadcast. Despite the various efforts of anti-piracy corporations (namely the media giants themselves) the cost of media piracy to its legal counterpart in 2008 was beyond the £10 billion mark. It seemed that the convenience and accessibility of the Internet had changed the masses' perception of crime. Ultimately crime did pay—and the media giants fell from their pedestals.

The media pirates weren't looking for a gap in the market but rather a route outside of it. When not contributing to society they become outlaws, but when adding value to society they are often supported—through cable after cable of misused bandwidth. In cases such as this, the media pirate is actually highlighting a market failure and finding better ways to operate. In a situation like

this, the only way to fight piracy is to legitimise and legalise these new innovations and compete with the piracy directly. Once this new market is legitimised, new opportunities are created for everyone.

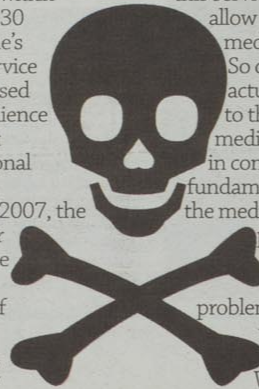
As the new cyber-crime evolved, so did the corporations. Channel 4 launched its 4OD service in 2006, which offered 'catch-up TV' for 30 days after the programme's original airing date. A service that not only revolutionised the way in which the audience consumes television, but perhaps even the traditional family values of a shared experience. Similarly, in 2007, the BBC launched the iPlayer in order to fully utilise the power of the Internet. Featuring a whole host of previously broadcast programmes it provided, and still provides, readily available (legal) content directly from

the BBC. Better quality video and audio accompanied by a sense of responsibility is reflected in the ever-growing number of viewers who utilise this service. The latest saga in this story is the introduction of Channel 4 shows to a global audience on YouTube. Previously only available to UK-based residences, this service—to be launched in 2010—will allow legal consumption of British media on a global scale.

So do the media corporations actually have the outlawed pirates to thank for such an evolution in media broadcasting? Whilst directly in competition with the fundamental capitalist principles of the media industry, media piracy preceded—and arguably dictated—the next step in the delivery of media. The problem is that piracy still continues to exist and evidently drains the media industry of income. Whilst the capitalist may point to the balance sheets, others may

support their efforts to provide free service. When Thomas Edison first invented film making equipment, he charged royalties for those who used it. Disgruntled at this cost, a band of film-making pirates took off from New York and headed for the (then wild) West. They continued operating illegally until Edison's patents expired. They still continue to operate to this day as a legal outfit—Hollywood.

Whilst the effects of media piracy can be concluded in negative terms, it is also important to recognise positive aspects of their role. By utilising any means available to them, the media pirate significantly perpetuates the evolution of the media industry. With Channel 4's latest venture it would appear that they have jumped ship and that they have been forced to follow the route of the pirate. After all, television-on-demand is fast becoming a service that is not a novelty but rather a necessity. Media pirates they may be, put arguably pioneers nonetheless.



## Pick of the week Film & TV

The Shawshank Redemption

23/10/09 at 9pm More4

Frank Darabont's *The Shawshank Redemption* must surely win the award for the best film in the 'Worst Title' category. Based on a novella by Stephen King, (the film's name is a contraction of King's title), this incredibly enduring piece of work is fast becoming a modern classic, ranking alongside the likes of *Casablanca* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. 'Hope' as Morgan Freeman's character Red warns, 'is a dangerous thing', however by the end of the film you will undoubtedly believe otherwise. *Shawshank* is unapologetically sentimental, yet I defy even the most hardened cynic not to be genuinely moved by Andy Dufresne's unique exhibition of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, or by Red's legendary final speech. The only regrettable blemish in this otherwise flawless film is the 'Hollywood' ending, which did not exist in King's novella and was forced upon Darabont by the studio. But I'm merely picking holes in a simply unmissable masterpiece.

words: Joe Miller

## Jamie's American Road Trip

Fridays at 8pm Channel 4

I have always been a huge fan of Jamie Oliver; in my opinion he is brilliant and charming, and light relief from Gordon Ramsay's excessive swearing. So I was very excited when his new show, *Jamie's American Road Trip* started on Channel 4. In the first episode Jamie travelled to Los Angeles, and we were treated to such delicacies as enchiladas with ex crack dealers, who ended up crying into his barbeque over a dead uncle. Moving on to New York he helped to serve food to the homeless in the bitter east coast winter, where he then held a dinner party with strangers to raise money for the cause. And when he finally ended up butchering animals with the Navajo Indians in Arizona, I think we can all agree that Jamie had integrated into the proper food world of the USA. The best thing about this series was the fact that Jamie showed us the 'real' people of America, and has become the first celebrity chef to dig deeper and document the 'real' food of America. I thought that burgers and chips and Dairy Queen would get a bit boring after a while!

words: Sarah Grindall

## THE ARGUMENT

## And The Winner Is...

I'm backing Tweedledum and Tweedledee – who's with me?

Talent in a wasteland of rubbish - Danyl has the X Factor

Now that three entire hours of my weekend are taken up watching the *X Factor*, I have never felt stronger about who I am backing to win. I am cheering for John and Edward - the boys in sparkling, spandex suits whose voices soar as high as their hair. Last weekend's *X Factor* saw an exceedingly high level of hatred towards the Irish twins. Cheryl Cole criticised and cursed the boys and the studio audience booed them offstage when they were saved ahead of loser

Ricky Loney. The British voting-public need to put these prejudices aside and give the double act the chance that they deserve. It seems that there has always been a place in the competition for singing siblings. You may recall The

MacDonald Brothers who crawled to fourth place in 2006. Or Same Difference, the slightly creepy boy-girl duo who secured third place in 2007. These acts do not even compare to John and Ed's devilish duet. There is no sob-story, no shameful-scandals, just pure talent.

words: Flora Duguid

Has there ever been a more perfect contestant on the *X Factor* than Danyl? I think not. He's got it all – the looks, the voice and the charisma. Strangely enough though, what's even more important in these shows is the sympathy factor. Being a teacher doesn't automatically make the millions feel sorry for you, but Danyl now has another story to tell. A few weeks ago on the *X Factor* saw Danni Minogue, Kylie's less spectacular sister, snidely

comment on Danyl's sexuality. It was perhaps the most inappropriate comment ever made on the show. This can only be a good thing for Danyl though; we all remember the outcome of Will Young going head to head to Gareth "with a stutter" Gates.

This aside, Danyl doesn't seem to have much competition: the other contestants in this year's *X Factor* have declined to showcase much talent so far. The fact that the twins made the live finals says it all. Danyl is in a league of his own; he has the *X Factor*.

words: Stephanie Carter





231009

## 5 OF THE BEST

### Graphic Novels

Bored of your reading list yet? Give graphics and poetry a try!

#### Maus

**Art Spiegelman**  
One of the first graphic novels to be taken seriously as a piece of adult literature, *Maus* is a retelling of the events of the Holocaust. Casting the Nazis as cats and the Jews as mice, Art Spiegelman's use of anthropomorphic characters detach the reader from the horrors of the event in a masterful exercise in storytelling.

#### Ghost World

**Daniel Clowes**  
It's fair to say that being a teenager means seven years of horrific bodily transformations, social awkwardness and impending terror of living in the grown up world. Perfectly capturing the 90s Generation X zeitgeist, *Ghost World* tells the tale of two pseudo-intellectual girls, their close friendship and their eventual drift apart.

#### Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth

**Chris Ware**  
Part autobiography, part exploration of time, memory and history, Chris Ware's multi-faceted story is both brilliantly depressing and shockingly uplifting. A hopelessly middle-aged man, Jimmy Corrigan meets his father for the first time at Thanksgiving, kicking off a chain of events that go some way to changing his life.

#### Sandman

**Neil Gaiman**  
Neil Gaiman's gothic epic is still as important today as it was in 1989. Gaiman's famously inventive imagination was truly allowed to run riot in this, his first full-length graphic novel. The series is perhaps most notable for being unusually popular with female readers – a trend not seen in many other titles.

#### Watchmen

**Alan Moore**  
Ah, what such list would be complete without mentioning *Watchmen*? Alan Moore's brilliantly convoluted story explores cold war paranoia and the concept of the superhero, while subverting traditional narrative forms. One of the most important books of the 20th Century – don't watch the film first.

words: Tom Bush

#### REVIEW

### Popshot

Jacob Denno

Denno accurately dubs his zine of poetry and illustration as 'ruddy pretty'. *Popshot* documents the disorientation, disillusionment and disappointments our generation feels about our past, present and future, as witty and intelligent, lyrical and visual forms of art.

Denno has resurrected poetry's relevance by collating young people's poetic thoughts – on reading *Popshot*, any embers of school anthologies will be long forgotten. This is poetry for hipsters, not tweed elbows patched with leather.

The poetry inspires and involves you in the issues of our generation; whether controversial comments on the BNP, illegal immigrants and homelessness, or evaluating our everyday lives like hedonistic sex, academics with Lady Macbeth qualities and alienation at work.

*Lose your Head, Teach* is a satirical and realistic response to the recruitment campaign which will grace us with their presence at our careers fairs. *The Neighbours from Hell* displaces our monarchy so that striking and shocking resemblances to the families our society is ashamed of are formed. The standard of poetry inside *Popshot* excels what is called exceptional.

Art wise, *Popshot* reinvents Blake's marriage of lyrics and image. Illustrations are insightful, intriguing and just bloody beautiful. The young artists surpass what is deserving of a trendy showcase in Shoreditch.

My only complaint of *Popshot* is that it is biannual – I am already craving my next fix of angst over the real concerns of our contemporary society. I also think it should be printed as a book, as it should certainly be treasured like one.

You cannot fail to engage with the poetry in *Popshot* – it is accessible to absolutely anyone. This zine should be read time and time again and then again in ten years time. It deserves nothing less than your full attention.

words: Hannah Glick

#### REVIEW

### The Beats: A Graphic History

Harvey Pekar and Ed Piskor

Pekar is most famous for being the subject and star of *American Splendor*, he is endearingly cantankerous, wryly observing his nearest and dearest along the way. One of Pekar's first books not to concern his own life, you'd be hard-pressed to call *The Beats: A Graphic History* a vanity project, though it's not as unexpected a work as you'd think. The heady, amphetamine-addled late fifties and early sixties were Pekar's formative years, so he clearly knows his stuff, personally alerting his reader to the more obscure stars of the scene, plus lesser-heralded works by the big names.

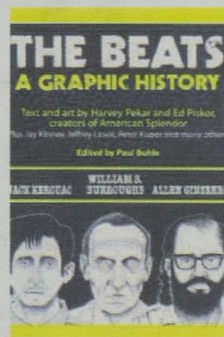
It is these three legends whose stories are covered in the first half; Pekar's typical bluntly informative tone leads the reader through three remarkably intertwining lives, as the writers share girlfriends, boyfriends, needles and ideas.

Unfortunately, Pekar's arbitrary decision to separate their narratives seems somewhat anathema to the relentless flow of images which typified the Beats' style. Piskor's illustrations are often impressive – the closing panels of Burroughs' ghostly, aging face are particularly haunting – but are too prosaic to live up to their subjects.

Consequently, the book only really comes into its own with its last few strips, which are by outside contributors. Joyce Brabner, Pekar's wife, takes a pseudo-feminist look at the role of women in the lives of the Beats. Meanwhile, cult musician Jeffrey Lewis's closing biography of Tuli Kupferberg (of the Fugs) may be the most accessible piece, with Lewis's distinctive comic style transcending the limits of the often monotonously monochrome form.

*The Beats: A Graphic History* is an inventive take on a literary movement which hardly lacks criticism, and is a must for any Pekar fan or casual Beats admirer; if nothing else, at least it creates a strong urge to re-examine the inspirations behind the book. Still, it's hard to forget that what these writers try to express in a page of panels, Ginsberg and the best minds of his generation could howl out in just a few incendiary words.

words: Alex Wisgard



#### REVIEW

### all you can eat of home-clubber

Modern Toss

The latest book to be coughed out by 'Modern Toss' is potentially the most random load of nonsense you can encounter in print. Originally the cartoons appeared weekly in the *Guardian's Guide* but have now found a spot in a book of their own.

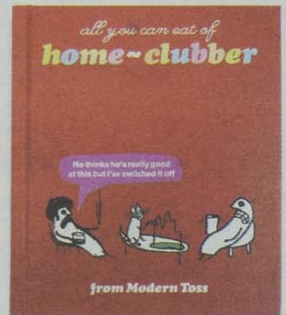
The badly drawn, afro-clad 'home-clubber', (sporting a dodgy Mexican-style moustache and incriminatingly dilated pupils,) is pictured slumped in his chair with a tumbler of unidentified liquid, as he expounds misguided musings at his equally unfit and speechless companion.

Some interesting innovations from the chair bound chap include a hairdryer and a wind turbine simultaneously powering one another, a massively elongated cigarette for smoking out of pub windows, and a giant 'fridge magnet' that actually holds the fridge off the ground. Most of the brain waves that radiate from the 'home-clubber' are just plain silly and would need to be encountered during an alcohol fuelled pre-lash to elicit a laugh-out-loud response.

There are a couple of clever quirks though: 'the man I bought this wardrobe off said it had magical powers, I was expecting some sort of Namia type thing but I ended up in the frozen chicken nugget section of Iceland.' The front cover is also pretty funny. It shows a cat playing a game of 'don't buzz the wire' looking very pleased with itself, whilst home-clubber comments: 'he thinks he's really good at this but I've switched it off.'

All in all, *all you can eat of home-clubber* would undoubtedly be a fun addition to any student home with its uselessness providing some reconciliation that you're not the only one out there with random, indecent impressions on the world. However, I'm not sure that I'd pay £7.99 to attain someone else's idiocy when I have enough emanating from my own brain.

words: Emily May

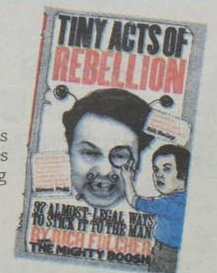


#### PREVIEW!

### Tiny Acts of Rebellion

Rich Fulcher

Bob Fossil of the legendary *The Mighty Boosh*, is releasing his first book *Tiny Acts of Rebellion* – a guide to sticking two fingers up at those in authority or who simply piss you off, without getting arrested (probably). It is a must read for anyone who wants to unleash their wild side, needs fresh inspiration on how to do so, or who simply likes Rich Fulcher. Luckily for all you Leeds students, he is gracing us with his presence at Borders on Briggate on Monday 26 October at 1pm. He will be doing a short reading from his book, a Q&A session and then a book signing.



231009

## Hasta la Vista, baby

Student editions of the new Windows operating system are available at a knock-down price, but will this make up for the damage of Vista?

It's that time again: another Windows release. You magical people of the future can enjoy Windows 7 now, as it will be at retail by the time this article goes to print. The new operating system is shaping up to outdo its underachieving big brother Vista, whilst prising open the fingers of those of us who are still clinging to XP with tooth and nail, which will lose official support in 2014.

In a special offer, students get to pick up a Windows 7 Home Premium or a Windows 7 Professional upgrade for £30. Not bad seeing as they're going for £65 and £145 respectively at Amazon. The offer is open to any student with a University email address (ending in .ac.uk), reportedly running until January.

Equalling XP and Vista, the release comes in a baffling 6 editions this time round. Fortunately for this release though, the editions form a true hierarchy, Professional and Enterprise have every feature that's in Home Premium, as well as the extra business features, reducing confusion. Most of us will find ourselves choosing between Home Premium, Professional and perhaps Ultimate, with this release relegating Home Basic to emerging markets only.

Those with Home Premium will be missing out on a few features by not upgrading to Professional, however these

seem to be of most use to business users, they include: Windows XP mode (an XP virtual machine), the ability to join domains, and the ability to backup and restore over a network.

Those without Ultimate will miss out on extra language support, and the encryption utility, BitLocker. Unless security is your number one concern, or you like to pretend that you work for MI5, the steep price tag for these extra features seems

unjustified.

For the gamers out there Windows 7 beta has been slightly edging out Windows Vista in benchmarks, a gap that is likely to be extended by manufacturers focusing on Windows 7 support. Those still on XP can now make the transition to a much more suitable platform for Direct X 10 and 11 gaming than Vista. Windows 7 also boasts the improved Games Explorer feature that allows you to run and update games from a single clean interface. Windows 7 is set to hit

the market with better driver support and compatibility than Vista did, with a predicted 8,500 certified apps on release to the 2,700 Vista had when its first service pack came out.

Microsoft certainly seem to have listened to their critics and strived to improve with this release. It is uncertain though whether they have truly taken criticism to heart or rather are fighting for their life in an increasingly competitive operating system market.

words: Matthew Ault

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Visitors to Microsoft's Ultimate Steal website with valid UK academic email addresses are presented with these deals. <http://www.microsoft.com/uk/education/studentoffer/>

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## The Art of Procrastination

Studying: English Lit/Lang

Year of Study: Second

Favourite Film: *Amelie*

Loves: Puddings



Siobhan Brewood-Wyatt

Nzimanide and I have issues. No idea who Nzimanide is? Me neither, until I recently read that he had launched a tirade against students for being lazy, idle time wasters. Dr Nzimanide, a minister of Higher Education in South Africa has slammed students for 'not taking their studies seriously,' (Mail and Guardian Online October 2 2009). Now hang on just a minute. Lazy!?

Without the distracting delights of next door's cat stuck in a bin, passing time is hard.

Admittedly I have, on occasion, re-organised a ring binder under the guise of 'revising' but Dr Nzimanide has taken things too far. What he fails to realise is that students globally are engaging in a far higher form of intellectual activity – the art of procrastination.

The art of procrastination must not be mocked, for it is, a difficult and lengthy process. It tends to go hand in hand with major deadlines or some sort of looming task that is definitely very complicated and probably impossible. When else would you find yourself carefully baking a birthday cake for a person you've met once, or suggesting jogging at 8am on a Thursday morning? Nzimanide's argument would brand such tasks as lazy, yet I think you'll agree they are far from it.

My housemate has this art (yes it's an art) carefully mastered. It started with Rupert the Fish. As we all sat, swamped in books, gnawing our biros in blind panic at impending essay deadlines, she decided we needed a fish. So dutifully off we went, promising ourselves it would take half an hour. Four hours, one aquarium, and two underwater SpongeBob ornaments later, we returned with Rupert. No work achieved but a highly enjoyable and productive day nonetheless. For the record, Rupert is still alive.

When away from home however, procrastination can be harder to master. Without the distracting delights of Jeremy Kyle or next door's cat stuck in a bin, looking for ways to pass the time can be hard. Whilst in the Brotherton library the other day (actually working, might I add) I witnessed many students; texting, aimlessly getting up and sitting down, disappearing and reappearing with a library guide and doodling all over it. All worthy efforts though I think it's safe to say Nzimanide would not have been happy.

While students have always been blasted for being lazy and idle I think it's time to set the record straight. Yes, we like making cakes, no, deadlines don't really do it for us. Is this a crime? Besides procrastinating is not laziness, it's filling our time with mind-broadening activities. Whilst I guarantee that we have all procrastinated at some point during our university career we all still know when it's time to stop tidying our rooms and start doing some actual work. If that fails, write an article for the paper. I've just wasted a good half an hour.

## Is this the end of an era?

Studying: English Lit/ Lang

Year of Study: Second

Loves: Diet Coke

Best club/pub: Gatecrasher



Antonia Molloy

Recently, it seems as though the entertainment world has been hit by a wave of deaths and tragedy. Okay, possibly this is a slightly hyperbolic statement; show business is no different from any other business, and the glitz and the glamour do not serve as a hindrance to the Grim Reaper. Yet, what has made the recent deaths so notable is that they have encompassed figures who were representative of much of what it means to have grown up as part of our generation. It feels as though we are entering a new cultural phase, which reflects how we, as a generation, are growing up and waving goodbye to childhood icons.

The past couple of months have been marked by the deaths of Heath Ledger, Michael Jackson, Stephen Gately, Mark Speight and Natasha Richardson, to name a few. In some way, each of these individuals represented iconic moments in the past few decades. *10 Things I Hate About You*, the unforgettable 'Thriller' video, the dominion of boy bands, children's TV and *The Parent Trap* are all key cultural moments, which are closely associated with our memories of being a child and teenager. Although it may seem strange to us that this part of our lives appears to be coming to an end, it is interesting to think that those cultural icons that are currently in vogue will one day come to signify the new generation's youngest years.

Months marked by the deaths of Michael Jackson and Stephen Gately...

So what will become the icons that will symbolise today's cultural phenomena? In years to come, whose deaths will reverberate within the hearts of a generation? Will it be the *X Factor*, represented by the pretty face of Cheryl Cole? What will become of the likes of *High School Musical* and Hannah Montana? Will an episode of *Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow* tug at many a heartstring? It is very difficult to answer these questions without the benefit of hindsight, but it seems unequivocal that there are certain elements of culture (individuals, TV programmes, films and music groups) that will always be associated with today's contemporary society.

However, it is not entirely accurate to suggest that, just because something is culturally iconic to a certain period, it must be associated with it exclusively. In many ways, things which might be iconic to our generation are equally so for the new generation, albeit in a slightly different form. Coming back to the death of Stephen Gately, there is no doubt that there has been a renewal of the boy band era, with the reunion of not only Boyzone, but also Take That, as well as the formation of the highly successful JLS. Essentially then, it seems that it is impossible to foresee the cultural developments and changes that will occur in the future. Yet, for our generation those icons will be symbolic of a different stage in our lives; those which we associate with our youngest years are definitely fading.

## The Naked Truth

Studying: English Lit/Lang

Year of Study: Second

Loves: Snooze buttons

Hates: Bouncers



Ellie Brown

When Cliff Richard happily sung "We're all going on a summer holiday, no more worries for me or you..." it was evident that he was not flying from Manchester airport last Friday. If so the song might have gone a bit like: "Fun and laughter, and a new human X-ray undressing machine", which might have contradicted the lyrics of "no more worries" and put a drab edge on your Nan's favourite song.

Reportedly the latest security procedure at the airport is the installation of a full body scanner.

The machine supposedly reveals naked images of

Are we pointlessly hanging a 'Do not disturb' sign on our daily lives?

passengers, in which every nook and cranny of the body is captured in an outline image. It is even capable of exposing breast enlargements, false limbs and body piercings - so much for not telling your mum about the nipple piercing. Its purpose, despite embarrassing the passenger, rests in its ability to reveal to security staff any weapons or explosives that would otherwise lie undercover. Of course this graphic photo search is not currently compulsory for passengers, (there still remains the more traditional body pat-down), but by even having this machine is the public's privacy being violated? Which leads to the question, does privacy still exist today, or are we pointlessly hanging a 'Do not disturb' sign on our daily lives?

In terms of student privacy I remember being outraged last year in student halls by the number of people, (bin men/ electrical fitters/ accommodation staff) that would arrive unannounced, much to our 1pm-pyjama-day horror. On one occasion when waking up to go to the loo, I noticed that our toilet was occupied. Deciding to play a trick on the unknown flat mate I hid around the corner, ready to pounce on whoever would emerge. However when the door did eventually open, it was me who was surprised as a sixty-year-old man stumbled out of the cubicle. Although grateful that I didn't give this aged accommodation officer a heart attack, I still felt outraged by this invasion of privacy. Surely students should be informed of any visitors they might find lurking in their flat? What's more, the constant invasion of take-away flyers being posted through our front door was undoubtedly an invasion of private property and destroying the chance of ever having a night in without the consumption of 5,000 calories.

Ever noticed how on Facebook advertisements are able to target you: "Are you a poor student?" - Yes, thank you for rubbing it in my face. Or "Fancy meeting these single men 'cough' (weirdos) in your area?" It appears that advertising agencies are finding it increasingly easy to hunt personal information down. Even street advertisements in Germany, according to Washington-based Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC), are being installed with video cameras in order to decipher people's reactions to adverts. Scared? I think we should be, as we live in a world where our faces are followed in some kind of Truman Show. You thought Facebook stalking was bad, well things are about to get a whole lot worse.

Interview of a celebrity by... you?



LS2 also needs contributors

# LEEDS STUDENT

Vol. 40 Issue π

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Friday 23rd October 2009

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LS Editors



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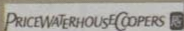
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## Critical Analysis

Science Commentary  
with Fliss Inkpen



### Climatic controversy

Climate change. Global warming. Open any newspaper, turn on your telly and you're likely to be faced with that particular "inconvenient truth", and certainly the evidence is terrifying: the Earth has warmed by an average of 0.74 degrees centigrade in the past 100 years and, going by current trends is likely to rise another five degrees by the end of the century.

The consequences of this steep rise in temperature are predicted to be a global rise of sea levels of up to 60cm and catastrophic changes to weather patterns. We are already seeing the effects of this dramatic climatic shift, with floods in Bangladesh, heat waves in Europe and forest fires in America occurring with alarming frequency. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) points the finger at human activities being the primary cause, and politicians have been scrambling to appear the most environmentally concerned, urging us to be responsible world citizens and reduce our carbon footprint.

It is a somewhat controversial view, then, that we may have absolutely no control over what happens to "our" planet. Those who deny global warming exists can be safely accused of turning a blind eye to the evidence, but how much influence do we have, and is it worth worrying about? As the research conducted by the School of Earth and Environment shows, the ecological processes that govern the Earth's climate are vastly more complex and subtle than we may give them credit for, and as Professor Wignall's findings demonstrate, the Earth has survived environmental catastrophes before, and whatever has happened in the past, life has found a way.

It is not the Earth, then, that should be our concern, but our own survival. The Department of Energy and Climate Change anticipates water shortages, famine and the spread of diseases such as malaria as global warming takes its toll. The Earth may be accelerating towards a world that human beings cannot endure. It is in our interest to act on climate change if we want to prevent our own extinction.

The climate is changing, and will continue to change, but for planet Earth this is nothing new. The question is not will the planet survive, but will we.

Do you have a research story to share? Have you or your research team made an incredible breakthrough that deserves recognition?

We want your stories so email us at:  
[newsfeatures@leedsstudent.org](mailto:newsfeatures@leedsstudent.org)

Apologies to Phil Symonds who co wrote "Frozen frogs bring insight to Physics" in Issue 1

# Acidic clouds have consequences for climate change

Scientists from the University of Leeds School of Earth and Environment (SEE) have proved that there is an entirely natural process that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Acidic clouds break down large particles of iron found in dust into extremely soluble, small iron nano-particles which plankton in the oceans can then readily absorb. The plankton then grow and multiply, and the resulting increase in photosynthesis removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"This is the first study to confirm that potentially bio-available iron nano particles can be delivered to the ocean from the atmosphere," says Dr Zongbo Shi, lead author of the research from the Leeds Earth Surface Science Institute.

For some years it has been noted that there is a distinctive lack of iron in certain parts of the ocean, particularly in the southern oceans and parts of the eastern pacific, which is a serious limiting factor for plankton growth.

"This could be a very important discovery because there's only a very small amount of

soluble iron in a large part of the ocean and if plankton use the iron nano particles formed in clouds then the whole flux of bio-available iron to the oceans needs to be revised," says Dr Shi.

The findings not only underline the complexity of the pattern of natural iron delivery to the oceans, but also raise questions about methods for high profile plans to artificially add iron to oceans in order to stimulate plankton growth.

The Leeds based scientists carried out the research by stimulating clouds in their laboratory, to which they added dust samples taken from the Sahara desert. By mimicking natural conditions they were then able to monitor the chemical processes. The experiments carried out in the laboratory were then confirmed in natural samples where cloud processing is already known to have occurred.

Water droplets in clouds generally seem to form around dust and other particles. When these clouds naturally evaporate, the surface of the particle becomes acidic. These acidic clouds then feed bio-available iron into the

oceans which enhance phytoplankton photosynthesis, resulting in large amounts of carbon dioxide leaving the atmosphere.

Unsurprisingly, acidic clouds especially occur where the air is polluted. This has led to some scientists suggesting that large scale industry might actually be combating global warming to some extent by creating bio-available iron in the oceans and therefore decreasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"This process is happening in clouds all over the world, but there are particularly interesting consequences for the oceans. What we have uncovered is a previously unknown source of bio-available iron that is being delivered to the Earth's surface in precipitation," says Professor Michael Kron, the principal investigator of the research, also at the University of Leeds.

The Research was published in the September issue of Environmental Science and Technology and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

Poppy Rowley

## "Excellent" Leeds answers call of the wild

Leeds University celebrates this week the launch of the Wildland Research Institute (WRI) where ongoing research will determine how natural habitats can be restored by the reintroduction of wildlife and natural processes. Wolves, lynxes and red kites are just some of the creatures that could be reappearing up and down the country.

Headed by Dr Steve Carver, geography lecturer at the University of Leeds, the institute will use electronic mapping (GIS) to identify wild or nearly wild areas which have been partially affected by humans or human construction.

The launch of this institute adds to the University's reputation for ground breaking research, having been ranked amongst the top eight research institutions in the United Kingdom, boasting one of the world's largest and most innovative geography departments and described as "excellent" by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

To launch this exciting new institute, the University has been celebrating "Wild Week" which continues to the 24th of October. Exhibitions have been running all week in Parkinson Court, showcasing some of 'Tooth and Claw's' exceptional natural photography, and Wednesday saw the official launch event of the WRI with representatives from nature agencies, national parks and conservation NGOs, as well as from the academic community. To round off the

week, on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th, Stage@Leeds will be performing the new play by Samantha Ellis, entitled "The Last Wolf in Scotland".

The WRI aims to increase and improve areas of wilderness and wildlands in the world. Whilst "Wilderness" is defined as places where man has not directly intervened, such as sections of the Sahara desert or parts of Siberia, "Wildlands" are

Photo: Leeds University Press Office



more common and may include remote areas of the Yorkshire Dales or the Scottish highlands; areas that resemble wilderness but have been affected, greatly or minimally, by human intervention.

Dr Carver explains that areas of wilderness no longer exist in Britain, however, what he and his team of experts envisage, is to improve and expand the wildlands in this country and beyond.

## RocSoc to host explosive talk of jurassic proportions

A super volcano catastrophe that caused a mass extinction 260 million years ago will be the subject of a RocSoc talk, presented by world leading researcher Professor Paul Wignall.

The talk, entitled 'A Jurassic Catastrophe in Tibet, Japan and Yorkshire' will be held on Wednesday the 28th of October, at 6 pm in Parkinson Building Room B.10, and all students are welcome to attend, no matter what their degree discipline.

Professor Wignall and his team have pinpointed the date of the incredible geological event by studying ancient lava flows sandwiched

between layers of rock in what is now south-west China. The super volcano caused catastrophic climate change, as ash blocked out the sun and the violent explosion threw huge quantities of sulphur dioxide up into the atmosphere, causing devastating acid rain.

With super volcanoes such as Yellowstone National Park in the USA long overdue to erupt, Professor Wignall's talk may give a glimpse into what the future may hold for our planet.

For more information on RocSoc and their forthcoming talks, see:  
[earth.leeds.ac.uk/current/rocsoc/talks.html](http://earth.leeds.ac.uk/current/rocsoc/talks.html)



# Contraception: whose

**Condoms: remember the first time you bought them? Standing in the queue in Boots trying not to make eye contact with the girl behind the counter? Checking your mates'/parents'/teachers weren't around. Once considered exclusively the domain of women, the issue of responsibility in contraception is beginning to balance out, as evidenced by the emergence of a male contraceptive jab.**

Recent research by a team from the University of Edinburgh, working with the World Health Organisation, has led to a belief that an new injection for men could be a new answer to contraception. The team are currently trialling the injection which contains the hormones testosterone and progesterone which leads to a reversible decrease in sperm count and thereby reduces the likelihood of conception.

The injections are administered on a bi-monthly basis, similar to the female contraceptive injection (usually administered every eight weeks), offering more convenience than some existing contraceptive methods.

The researchers, who are currently looking for couples in the south east of Scotland to trial the drug, hope that if successful the injection could lead to more wide spread availability of such male focused methods.

The trials in Scotland are to form part of a larger study involving 400 couples, comprising of women under 37 and men under 45, from countries around the world. Professor Anderson, a member of University's reproductive and development sciences division, said: "This larger study is needed to add to the evidence as to how good these longer acting injections are and what couples think about it."

Currently the only mainstream contraceptive methods targeted towards men are condoms or vasectomy. Condoms are a popular form of contraception as they not only provide protection against pregnancy but also against sexually transmitted infections

(STIs). Britain is one of only three countries where the number of vasectomies outnumber the number of tube ligation procedures which can be considered the female equivalent.

This follows the recent development of a contraceptive pill for men, suggesting that research efforts focused on contraception targeted at men are beginning to gather pace. However the majority of mainstream contraceptive methods currently available continue to be targeted at women. It has been claimed that female contraceptives are easier to produce due to the greater body of knowledge on the female reproductive system. It has also been pointed out that whilst women are fertile for only a few days per month men are able to produce viable sperm on demand, making it more complex to control male fertility.

## Existing Methods

One of the favorite forms of contraception especially amongst students is condoms. Readily available and even handed out in freshers goodie bags, condoms remain a firm favourite with students, possibly due to the added bonus of protection against STIs.

In a survey for the Office for National statistics, around 90 per cent of both men and women who used condoms cited prevention of pregnancy as one of their reasons for using them, and almost half (45 per cent) cited prevention of infection.

They also claim that condom use has caught up with the pill, being used by 25 per cent of women under 50 an equal percentage to those who use the pill as contraceptive device. The pill, available in the UK for over 45 years, is 99 per cent effective provided it is used correctly.

There are at least two main types of contraceptive pills. The most commonly used being the combined oral contraceptive pill (COCP), which is usually taken for 21 days followed by a 7 day break. As with most all forms of contraception there are both

advantages and disadvantages which need to be taken into account. Whilst the pill is claimed to be 99 per cent effective, missed doses drastically reduce the effectiveness. In contrast to condoms, it also offers no protection against sexually transmitted infections. Added non-contraceptive benefits include the easing of some premenstrual symptoms and there is also evidence suggesting it may reduce the risk of ovarian and cervical cancers.

In addition to the pill, there is also a female contraceptive injection. The injection which contains a type of progesterone known as medroxyprogesterone (Depo-Provera), is administered as an intramuscular injection. Reliability is similar to that of the pill but fertility may take up to a couple of months to return to normal after the cessation of use.

There are many other forms of contraception available from chemists or health care providers. These include: the male condom, the diaphragm, spermicides, the intra-uterine

However, with the advent of the male contraceptive injection, does the responsibility for contraception shift to a balance between the partners?

device or coil, patches and implants

## Not Just Pregnancy

When talking about contraception, it is important to note that unplanned pregnancy is not the only risk that needs to be taken into account when selecting a method of contraception. Safe sex can also help prevent a range of sexually transmitted infections. Condoms and some other methods offer not only a barrier to children, but also a barrier to STIs. The most common of these are chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis.

STI rates in the UK have risen rapidly, and Leeds is no exception. The area of Leeds with the highest reported cases of STIs is LS6, an overwhelmingly student area. A much used statistic by university unions and health clinics states that around one in 10 students are affected by Chlamydia. With Chlamydia and some other STIs the biggest problem is that it usually has no symptoms – at least to begin with. This unfortunately leads to a greater risk of infecting others and the condition can lead to infertility in women if left

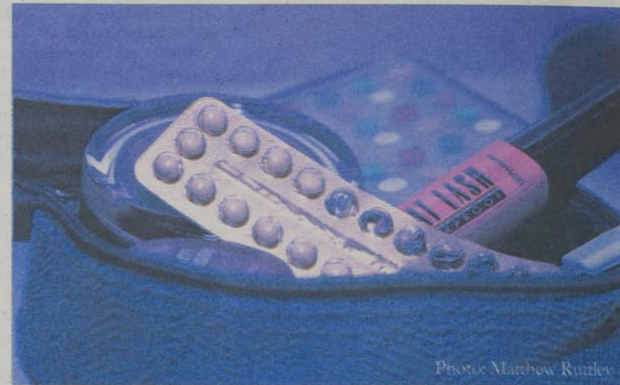


Photo: Matthew Runley

untreated for too long. The only way to know you've got it is to get tested. Whilst testing campaigns have had a limited amount of success it is generally acknowledged that more needs to be done to encourage students and young people who are sexually active to get tested.

Luckily, Leeds is home to numerous centres that offer free testing and treatment for STIs. Chlamydia testing is available periodically in the Union. The Terrence Higgins Trust, located on Oxford Place next to the Town Hall, offer a drop in sexual health check up for students on Monday and Thursday afternoons, testing for most common STIs. The Leeds Student Medical Practise located across from the Parkinson building offers pregnancy testing as well as sexual health advice and testing.

Victoria Sheard of the Terrence Higgins Trust said: "An increase in condom use is very good news as they offer double protection - against sexually transmitted infections as well as unwanted pregnancy.

"People should be aware of the rising rates of STIs when making a decision about contraception - ditching the condoms could leave you and potentially your partner at risk."

In an age where sex is becoming less and less taboo, information about sexual health is everywhere. In 2008/09, TV programmes and adverts were acknowledged as the main source of information about STIs by 55 per cent of those surveyed. Newspapers, magazines and books were mentioned as the main source by 16 per cent and government information leaflets by three per cent. Sex information in schools or colleges accounted for 11 per cent.

## Responsibility

It is argued that contraceptive research is generally aimed at contraceptive devices for women. Only limited funding is allocated to research into male contraceptive devices. A quick scan of the methods of contraception shown above suggests that more emphasis has

been put on women for birth control.

However, with the advent of the male contraceptive injection, does the responsibility for contraception shift to a balance between the partners?

The obvious answer is that both partners should take a shared responsibility. However this assumes that the stakes are equal for both parties. Whilst unplanned pregnancy undoubtedly has an effect on both people it has the potential to have a much more profound effect on the life of the women, giving her a greater reason to take an interest in contraception.

This perhaps goes some way to explaining the focus of efforts on female contraception and indeed some studies suggest that women would be reluctant to trust their significant others with the responsibility.

A recent report, commissioned by Teeside University, which took a poll of 380 people concluded that women felt they could not trust men to take the contraceptive pill regularly enough to offer adequate protection against pregnancy. This suggests that whilst developments are in male contraception are important in providing a greater variety of options for couples, Judith Eberhardt, who lead the research team said: "A positive attitude towards the male pill does not automatically imply that the individual will be confident about its effective use".

This is consistent with the idea that men are often seen as being too lax about contraception. According to a survey by the Office for National statistics, 59 per cent of men interviewed, who claimed not to be in long term exclusive relationship admitted that information on HIV and STIs had no effect on their behaviour. However, 34 per cent said they had increased their use of condoms while 6 per cent said they had fewer one night stands. 6 per cent took a test for STIs when they changed sexual partners.

Perhaps men are becoming better at the contraception thing, but how many male students would go for the injection when they could use condoms or rely on



Photo: Phil Dawson

# responsibility is it?

the pill?  
 Kyle Jackson, a second year Theoretical Physics student said: "I would prefer the injection to condoms based on the fact that condoms ruin the moment. I mean they just aren't very sexy are they? My only concern would be with STI's but I think it's perfect for couples who are in serious relationships like me, not people wanting one night stands."

This fear about STI's was echoed by Georgia Emblem of LUU FemSoc, who said: "The prospect of a male injection sounds great, but students should remember the only contraception which protects against STIs and HIV and AIDS is condoms."

Despite the move towards equality, there is still a way to go. There remains the idea that a woman, the partner with the most to lose, who carries condoms is easy or a slut, whereas a man doing the same may be considered "one of the boys" and to be at the same time acting responsibly.

Latest figures suggest that the number of abortions have dropped, which perhaps suggests that use of contraception is on the rise. The Guttmacher Institute report that four million fewer abortions were carried out worldwide in 2003 compared to 1995 with the rate of unwanted pregnancies also falling, from 6.9 to 5.5 per cent between 1995 and 2008.

The number of people visiting NHS community contraception clinics rose by 7 per cent to 1.3 million in the year 2008-2009. This suggests that people are perhaps taking a more active role in contraception. The biggest rise was among men with 13 per cent, or 17,000, more attending in 2008/09 compared to the previous year.

## Play Safely

In a society where STI's are a growing problem, the role of the man in contraception has definitely changed. Condoms are becoming a staple for men to carry, partly due to the greater availability of condoms. No longer is it a job of going down to the barber's for a haircut and being asked "Anything for the weekend sir?" Condoms are available in lots of male friendly places, and are available free to anyone who has a C-Card.

Madeleine Harris Smith, LUU Welfare Officer commented: "A big part of my role as the Welfare Officer is to promote and encourage safe sex and better sexual health among our students. Both myself and the Student Advice Centre offer free condoms and more advice, or alternatively you can go along to the Leeds Student Medical Practice to chat about alternative modes of contraception."

"The biggest sexual health campaign the union runs is a Chlamydia testing campaign. One in ten students have Chlamydia, and it can be very hard to spot. However its really easy and quick to test for and treat and this is the message that the C Swap campaign is really trying to push across to students."

The issue of responsibility for contraception is a difficult one, but wherever you look for information the overall message seems to be, whatever you do and whoever you do it with, make sure you do it safely!

Amanda McDonnell and Adam Richardson



Photo: Matthew Ruttley

## Students: Who's responsible for bringing the contraception?



Laura Stokes - Second Year  
Politics and Economics



Mat Stylianou - First Year  
Biology



Joel Hanson - Second Year  
EU Politics



Luke Reger - Fourth Year  
Maths

"If a woman brings it, she's not being a slag: she's being sensible"

"I think it's the responsibility of everyone who's taking part. It's a bit of both."

"I wouldn't want to use the pill or injection because you don't know for certain that it's worked."

"I don't know. Both I guess."

# Motions are in!

LS has a sneak-preview of the motions that will go to referendum. The motions will have to pass Union Council, and then go to the student vote. If they pass, they will become official Union policy.

### Should LUU offer more fairtrade and ethical products in it's bars and shops?

This motion asks for LUU bars and clubs to sell fairtrade juices and wines and ONE bottled water, as well as Ubuntu fairtrade cola as an alternative drinks choice during gigs and events in the Refectory. This is as well as promoting ONE products and Co-op fairtrade products in Extras and Essentials and to introduce these policies as soon as possible.

**Proposer: Joe Barnsley**

"I used to work in Stylus in second year and realised that they didn't sell fairtrade products, like wine, orange juice and water which I thought was fairly strange considering in the Union shops there are many ranges

of fairtrade products. When I asked I was told it would be too pricey to put them into the bars. I then thought it was time to let the students decide, especially as the range was extended in other parts of the Union, as far as I can tell.

#### Do you think the motion will pass?

"I'm pretty hopeful it will pass, some people have raised environmental concerns about the water aspect of the motion, I am trying to get around the ban on bottled water that will be implemented in 2010, just offer a range of products in the bars. I will also have to get on the silly campaigns to bring students to the ballot boxes!"



### Should LUU be recognised as a safe space for all its members?

This motion asks that LUU be recognised as a safe space for all it's members and to disallow access of any groups or individuals who have or could be prosecuted under acts like the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006. It also asks to mandate the Student Executive to run an active 'Get the Vote Out' campaign in order to provide students accurate and fair knowledge of all political parties and what they stand for. As well as mandating the Student Executive to consider options for a Union based complaints procedure regarding speakers or groups on a case by case basis, to be approved by Union Council at an open and well publicised meeting.

**Proposer: Sophia James**

"For the debate about letting the BNP onto campus, I spent lots of time talking with students about the

issue and the pros and cons and feeling safe in the Union. This is basically a welfare motion that reinforces the sentiment that students have held for years without any interference, that the Union is a safe place and much safer than the streets. This is a motion that places this feeling into policy. We have reviewed the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and feel this motion lets us deal with things on a case by case basis. We want students to feel safe and not intimidated"

#### Do you think the motion will pass?

"We are very hopeful that this motion will pass as it is very clear that platform motions in the past have been very emotive, but not very transparent. This motion does not attack freedom of expression and just promotes the safety of students."

### Should LUU adopt the proposed strategic plan?

This motion asks that LUU accept the Proposed Strategic Plan and accept and adopt the draft Memorandum and Articles. It also asks that LUU be registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee for the purpose of transferring the business, assets and liabilities and to delegate the transfer of assets and implementation of legal formalities to two student officer Trustees. Finally it asks that the board of trustees may take all decisions and action necessary to give effect to the Transfer and by resolution dissolve the previous unincorporated association.

**Proposer: Madeleine Harris-Smith**

"Last year we asked over 4000 of our members what their views on

the union were, what they liked, what they didn't like, and what they might change. From the feedback we received, we worked over the summer to create a plan on how to take LUU forward for the next four years. The areas covered range from how to make your union more fun, how we can help you improve your CV, and what sort of support we should offer."

#### Do you think the motion will pass?

"We consulted students about the first draft of the plan, made a few changes and now feel its more than ready to get our member's approval. With the plan passed, we can start working together to implement some of the changes and expand and improve our services to make sure that you love your time at Leeds."



### Adoption of a neutral stance on abortion

This motion asks for LUU to take up a neutral stance on abortion and change all policy documentation to reflect this. As well as giving equal support to both the abortion fund and the newborn baby fund. LUU should also continue providing information and advice regarding safe sex and sexual health issues.

**Proposer: Amanda McDonnell**

"The reason for the motion was that LUU has a pro-choice policy that is about to run out and the Union should not be making a choice on this issue as they could end up alienating students,

especially in one of the biggest universities in the country and a campus that houses such a cross-section of society. Abortion is a personal choice that encompasses many complicated issues for those involved. A neutral stance would mean that LUU could offer unbiased advice and represent students fairly."

#### Do you think the motion will pass?

"In terms of the motion passing, we are not asking for anything too drastic so we're proposing a neutral stance, and it would be a policy that represents most students so we are hopeful."



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# But wait, there's more!

The deadline for amendments is 12pm on Wednesday October 28. Discuss the motions in the online forum at [www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk)



## Action, financing and accountability on climate action in LUU

This motion asks LUU to commit to reduce the union's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 4% per year and provide ring fenced funding to enable this to happen, as well as setting a target for a 20% CO2 reduction by LUU by 2014. It also asks for LUU to have graphical representation, plans and results of CO2 reductions available on LUU's website and displayed in the Green Space. LUU must also work on a traffic light system for products, which will indicate on a simple scale the environmental impact of products sold in union outlets, to be implemented by Green week 2012. LUU must also ensure by September 2010 all paper the union uses and sells in its shops is Forestry Stewardship Council Certified (FSC). Finally it asks LUU to have at least one staff member with the expertise who is responsible for making sure planning and implementation to reduce CO2 emissions, is carried out.

Proposer: Adam Harper

"Part of the reason for the motion was that the previous climate change policy was about to expire also, as the Ethical and Environmental Assembly chair, it was part of my job. It was also the fact that it is not obvious to students whether LUU are taking action or not. They do not put up anywhere what is or is not happening. This is why there is an accountability section in the motion, it means that the Union would announce happenings surrounding climate change on the LUU website and the 'Green Space' which is to open in 2010."

### Do you think the motion will pass?

"I am fairly positive that the motion will pass as it is not a controversial issue and it is something that a lot of students care about. I will also be very surprised if there is a no campaign. Plus, as it's the first referendum of the year there will probably be more votes as people have less work to do and more time to read the motions and vote."



## Should students with bad handwriting be allowed to word process exams?

This motion asks for the Education Officer to lobby the University to allow students with bad handwriting to have access to supervised word processors during exams. As all assessed essays are required to be word processed, in exams those who have illegible handwriting should also not be at a disadvantage them or prevented from reaching their potential.

Proposer: Chris Korzenietz

"I've had a history of bad handwriting, most people just say 'sort it out' but it gets to a point where you really can't do much else after years of writing in a way that you are comfortable. Now I feel like I know what the left-handed felt like in Victorian times, the barrier of handwriting is one of the last bastions of academic oppression. I for one know that I get much worse marks on exams than for word-

processed essays and I feel like it is holding me and others back from reaching their full academic potential. I know there are worries about computers failing or people not being able to type fast enough; but in your future career all work will be word-processed as no boss will accept a hand-written report, so why should we be expected to do it to the detriment of academic achievement. Some people will also think 'how do we determine messy handwriting?' I think the answer is to go to your department, have your past exam papers checked by an academic and if they agree then be given the right to choose."

### Do you think the motion will pass?

"I hope the motion passes, I hope that people take a fair approach and consider that people with bad handwriting have tried to change, but it might be time for a change."

## Should LUU lobby the University for better provisions in the Worsley Building?

This motion asks for LUU to lobby the appropriate authorities for an ATM, as well as easy access to water in the Worsley Building. It also asks for LUU to increase involvement with the students based in the Worsley Building.

Proposer: Kate Sutton

"For the past four years or so we have been pushing for a cash machine in the Worsley, the Medical Students Representative Council (MSRC) has e-mailed several of the different bodies that own the space and they all seemed fine with it, the only party that was against the idea was the Financial Control Office. We were told that the building was too close to other cash machines on

campus, although the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building has since opened with an ATM and yet that is virtually opposite two or three banks. Whereas once you leave the Union you are in a virtual no-man's land, the nearest cash machine to the Worsley Building is in the hospital and it is not very hygienic to have students traipsing through the hospital every day."

### Do you think the motion will pass?

"The motion should pass, we are only worried about getting the votes as medics are slightly isolated and apathetic, there shouldn't be a 'no' campaign. Unfortunately they have taken the polling station away from the Worsley building, so hopefully that may get returned as that is where we will get a lot of votes."



## Should LUU mobilise students to vote in governmental elections?

This motion asks for LUU to recognise the importance and potential impact of the student vote and to launch a campaign to mobilise students to register to vote in the General elections. This is to be headed by the Communications and Internal Affairs Officer in conjunction with the rest of the student executive. Finally it asks LUU to launch a campaign to mobilise students to make an informed vote.

Proposer: Elliot Jebreel

"During the European elections last year LUU didn't do much as a whole Union, there was a campaign from the UAF but considering we are one of the biggest universities in the country with over 30,000 students, I feel we should be doing

more, and the motion reflects this. The University registers all first year students in halls so that they can vote. Therefore it seems a very simple thing to get people involved in voting en masse, and considering the BNP managed to pick up a seat in the European elections it makes sense for LUU to stop things like that happening. The motion also ties in with the debate about the BNP that took place and furthers what LUU should be doing."

### Do you think the motion will pass?

"I am hopeful about the motion passing, but it depends on how many controversial motions there are, as the more controversy there is, the more people come to the ballot box. It also depends on how much publicity for the vote LUU put out."

## Boycott selling The Sun in all Union shops

"Justice for the 96, boycott The Sun"

Motion pending

# Counter attack seals Gryphons victory

## Gryphons



### Men's Hockey

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 4-3  
Birmingham 1sts

Gallum Brown

Birmingham University has recently become a Centre of Excellence for Hockey and currently has a few England squad members playing for their various University teams.

Leeds went into their 1st team BUCS game against Birmingham with this knowledge, making it somewhat of a cup final for the Uni side.

Leeds started the match with a clear intent to take the game to Birmingham, giving nothing away and consistently forcing the opposition to do the chasing. After periods of making them work hard for the ball, Uni took the lead through Josh Gunnell.

Birmingham instantly looked for swift reprove, but Uni gave them no time to do so, delivering two more strikes through Ant Jones and Manveer Dhanda respectively.

The away side did grab a goal of their own; with the score at 3-1 going into the break Leeds may have felt hard done by; after controlling much of the possession and effectively the play.

The second half saw frustration creep into Birmingham's game and some animosity ensued, resulting in two players going into the referee's book, one receiving a green card, the other a yellow. The

tempo increased dramatically with the tackles flying in hard and fast.

Even though Birmingham might have been going around it in an unorthodox way, the resulting pressure was something that they took courage from.

Uni dealt with it in the best way possible, by striking Birmingham with a flawlessly executed counter-attack, which saw Dhanda net his second in extraordinary fashion. Uni were looking safe with ten minutes left on the clock and a three-goal advantage in the bag.

Birmingham did not give up the cause so easily though, as they reapplied the earlier pressure and struck back with their second goal before Uni regrouped.

They did not wait long to tuck their third away either and made for a few very nerve-racking last minutes.

Uni were professional in the way they conducted themselves



Photo: Sarah Greene

until the end and deservedly picked up the win to continue their unbeaten start to the season. The margin could have been much wider but for some lacklustre defending at times.

Man of the match Dan Mills played an integral role in the Uni's victory, directing play from the centre and covering more distance than anyone else.

Captain Gunnell was overjoyed with the result and commented on how the Uni's unbeaten start to this season is thanks to the professionalism instilled by the influence of coaching staff and regimes funded by the Gryphon Project.

"The last two seasons we've been fighting relegation, this season were looking for a top three finish in the Premier League."

- YES, I'D LIKE TO SPEND AN ETERNITY IN MY BOSS'S SHADOW UNTIL MY IDENTITY DISAPPEARS INTO THE ETHER.
- NO, I'D RATHER GET NOTICED, GET ON THE FAST-TRACK TO PROMOTION AND RUN MY OWN BUSINESS WITHIN TWO YEARS.

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## Uni pull back to tie with Saints

### Men's Hockey

Leeds Uni 2nds 2-2 York St Johns 1sts

Raynal Somiah

The Leeds Gryphons Women's 2nd team earned a well-deserved point after coming back from 2-0 down against York St Johns.

They got off to the worst possible start by conceding a goal barely a minute into the first half from a short corner.

After settling down from those nervy first few minutes Leeds went on to dominate much of the possession, creating many chances through good passing but almost every effort on goal seemed to be going wide.

Leeds were not fazed by the challenge that lay ahead and increased the pace and intensity of the match

York on the other hand were quite happy to sit back and defend; only really attacking on the break; and against the run of play added a second goal early on in the second half.

Leeds were not fazed by the challenge that lay ahead and increased the pace and intensity of the match in a desperate bid not to lose.

And they were rewarded for their perseverance with a breakthrough goal from a short corner by Captain Richard Rudden and added a second soon afterwards.

With the match in the balance both sides went for an all out attack and York could have clinched a third goal had it not been for a brilliant save by Uni goalkeeper Charlie Wedgwood.

Leeds put all their effort into going forward and had many chances to score a winner but were poor in the final third.

The immense effort Uni put into achieving a draw cannot be discredited and their determination to win was evident right up until the final whistle.

Rudden felt "disappointed with a point, but the team showed good spirit to come back from two nil down."

He went on to state that the team: "had a few positives to take and was looking forward to a win on Saturday."

With their sights set on the BUCS title there's every chance they can succeed with such a positive outlook.

### Player of the Match Richard Rudden

Dictated the play throughout, organising the team well

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# LS Sport

COMMENT

## Do you like sport? Do you like dance?

**T**hen you'll love sportsmen dancing. Dance and sport, not to be confused with the more ballroom dance sports, shows just what exceptional physical specimens sports stars are.

In recent years we have been graced by a number of high profile sportsmen who are also blessed with that God-given gift: snake hips. Of course the name that springs to mind is Usain Bolt, 'the face' of all things sport.

The stand out sprinter of this century and multi world record holder is also a very impressive dancehall dancer, with his iconic archer pose and bogle particular highlights. But the Jamaican is not the only dancing sportsman. Football in particular provides us with some of sport's greatest dancers.

For a long time dancing has been a key component in football celebrations, from Roger Milla to Brazilians like Robinho and Ronaldinho.

But English football has its own great dancers - Tranmere's Bas Savage is a cult figure for his three different moonwalks: "the

conventional moonwalk, the side glide and the moonwalk 360."

Unfortunately, the six-foot-three inch striker has only scored twenty two times since 2002 so there have not been many opportunities for him to bless our screens with his physics-defying, groundsman-infuriating moves. It is physics-defying particularly because he moonwalks on grass, wearing studs! For me, this is incomprehensible.

To fully appreciate this feat we should all go down to our favourite discotheque and try to moonwalk. When you fall over your own feet try to imagine falling over your feet in studs, on grass. Watch his internet tutorial and admire as he walks you through - "point - slide, point - slide, point - slide" - the finites of the move synonymous with Michael Jackson.

While Savage is technically spot-on, my personal favourite is Emmanuel (leave him alone, he's "fragile") Eboué, who shows the excitement and flair any prospective sporting Fred Astaire should possess; Adebayor is definitely Ginger to Eboué's Fred.



To measure Eboué's ability fully, we need to pay attention to the wise words of former teammate and Ivorian compatriot Kolo Touré: "he is a fantastic dancer" - what higher praise could you wish for?

But dance is not just fun; it is also beneficial for sportsmen and everyone else. Recent evidence has proven that dancing prevents alzheimers (no, really) and it increases mental capacity. So if any of you are underachieving then go to a dance class and boost your grades.

This evidence has its very own footballing guinea pig, Ryan Giggs. His balance benefitted from ballet classes as a younger player. It has also extended his playing career, and more importantly staved off alzheimers. So don't be surprised if Emmanuel Eboué is still playing at a high level well into the 2020s.

Ifor Duncan

### THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

5,000

Number of official Liverpool FC beach balls purchased by Manchester United fans travelling to Anfield this weekend.



Number of times LS Sport will award Jack Palmer man of the match and feature an image of Jordan Branes in coverage of Leeds Uni Gryphons Football Men's 1sts this season.

### PUNDIT WATCH



"He looked like Thunderbird 2."

The Guardian's James Richardson provides the most derogatory reflection yet on Diego Maradona's celebration against Uruguay

## What about Tweddle?

**T**his week the rambunctiously flamboyant World Artistic Gymnastics Championships were staged in London. Oh yeah - those championships.

You could be forgiven for not realising when the Championships took place. You will even be forgiven for not noticing they existed; I certainly didn't until Beth Tweddle clinched that oh so sought after gold in the floor event on Sunday.

This victory rather passed me by, along with the World Netball Series held earlier this month, and the European Shooting Championships in the summer, of which Great Britain won gold, apparently.

But why do we not know about these victories? Tweddle won Great Britain's major gold, whilst the women's shooting team excelled in their performance, and yet we've heard almost nothing about it.

If the BBC had not got the television rights to show the gymnastics, then would anyone have known of the triumph?

These people are representing our country at the top of their profession, so why are papers and websites more focused on Nicklas

Bendtner on a night out with his trousers round his ankles, or the trials and tribulations of Ashley and Cheryl on a daily basis?

There's so little recognition for those who reach the pinnacle of 'niche' sports, and yet mid-talented footballers draw attention easier than they earn their inflated wages.

Surely it isn't fair that Tweddle, a World Champion now, will still earn a tiny fraction of the sum non-champion Joleon Lescott will toil for in a week.

And I can bet the debate over Lescott's potential World Cup inclusion will fill more column inches than Tweddle's victory this week.

Joe Short



## Henin hits back

**T**his week Justine Henin announced her return to women's tennis, having surprised the tour in May of 2008 by declaring her retirement aged just 25.

Prior to her retirement Henin had collected 41 singles titles, on the way to becoming one of the game's most popular players.

Whilst her presence was missed, her decision was understandable. Many tennis players find the transient existence imposed by the professional game simply incompatible with an agreeable personal lifestyle.

Amongst them of course is Bjorn Borg, arguably the greatest player of all time, who retired aged just 26.

Both players give honest explanations of their respective decisions. For Borg, tennis simply wasn't fun anymore, an admission he doesn't conceal. Similarly, Henin's announcement on her personal website offers a surprisingly candid account of her decision: 'I left tired, exhausted and felt a deep need to prove that I can live differently than only through tennis.'

It seems endearing in many ways that despite their global status and outrageous talent, both players prioritised personal wellbeing, dismissing a telocological, win-at-all-cost doctrine. It's a trait which seems

hard to identify in the current crop of top ranking women's tennis players.

As products of tennis boot-camps such as those run by Nick Bollettieri, the likes of Jelena Jankovic and Maria Sharapova are very deliberately galvanised in preparation for the demands of professional tennis. Whilst this probably affords them a greater chance of success, any player who opts for such an approach becomes somehow less likeable. Perhaps its because, with such an unrelenting focus on tennis, they seem to lack a distinguishable identity - or at least an identity with which the average spectator can relate to.

Not dissimilar criticisms have been made of modern football. Many argue that as the lives of players become further removed from those of the supporters the sense of an almost personal connection between the two is lost. The dichotomy between spectator and competitor perhaps arises for different reasons to those in tennis but the principle remains the same.

It's with welcome arms then that tennis world accepts Henin back to the game having proved she isn't all that different to you and me.

Michael Glenister

# Valiant Uni outplayed in Yorkshire derby

## Men's Volleyball

Leeds Uni 1sts 0-3 Sheffield Hallam 2nds

Simon Sandison

Despite a valiant attempt to salvage the third set, and with it some consolation; the Leeds University Men's Volleyball team was soundly beaten by the Sheffield Hallam second team last Wednesday evening.

Club captain Luke Bristow pointed to the fact that this is an inexperienced team by way of explaining their losing start to the

season. Mainstays of last year's team have moved on, leaving Bristow and Jerome Poppe, his deputy, as the only remnants from the team's previous incarnation.

This inexperience does, unfortunately, show. Too many points were lost to defensive miscommunications, and scoring opportunities went frequently unconverted through a combination of wayward setting, mis-timed striking and, admittedly, strong and synchronised blocking at the net by Hallam.

It is undoubtedly this cohesion, evident in the defensive play of the visitors, that Leeds lacked. They

led the third set until Hallam finally levelled to eighteen all, the team developing a rhythm of play, and perhaps a feel for one another.

There were moments from which Bristow and Poppe can take heart, though. As well as the burgeoning display of team spirit, Javad Khangosstar scored some fine points, showing skill and creativity.

The pick was without doubt an underarm strike from the three-metre line that looped over the opposition and dropped just inside the touchline.

Nevertheless, the damage by this stage was done. For all of the

spirit shown by this young team, it does not disguise the fact that Leeds were outmatched by Hallam.

The Sheffield side controlled the game right from the outset, taking a 12-2 lead in the early going, and really, Leeds were never able to assert themselves from that point onwards.

There is no doubt that this is a building year for the Volleyball team, but Bristow and Poppe must hope that their foundations are strong enough.

# Uni cock-a-hoop with win

## Men's Badminton

Leeds Uni 2nds 5-3 Liverpool 1sts

Jamie Presland

Leeds University's badminton team claimed a comfortable victory over Liverpool at the Sports Centre on Wednesday. Captain Chris Allen dispatched his two opponents with ease to set his team on their way to victory.

Having had their opening BUCS fixture cancelled last week, the home side were desperate to chalk a first win over a Liverpool side who proved tough opponents in the last campaign.

Allen set the tone for the afternoon with a comprehensive 21-13, 22-20 win over Liverpool's Phil Welsh before new boy Kaho Chong impressively beat the visitors' German representative 26-24, 21-9.

The doubles looked to continue where the singles left off, with Steve Percy and Alex Stetten winning their first match in style, 21-8, 21-10. Leeds' first defeat of the day, however, was just around the corner, as James Rickerby and Jonny Schofield took the first game 21-16, but eventually slumped to a three game loss.

In the second round of singles matches, Allen closed out a second victory with a 21-12, 21-18 win, but Chong lost in three games to a resurgent Welsh.

Having recovered from one set down to tie the match, Chong looked well-placed to press on for victory, but an inspired Welsh took the game to him and won the deciding game 21-14.

The final two games of doubles could not have been more different. Rickerby and Schofield eased to victory 21-11, 21-10, but Percy and Stetten were narrowly beaten, losing 21-18, 21-12. Leeds, nevertheless, took an overall win of five games to three.

Captain Chris Allen said after the game: "We were looking to do well here, especially as they drew with us last season in the second game, and I'm delighted that we have got the win. We will be looking at promotion this season, and our only real title rivals are Manchester, who have a state of the art training centre."

This perfect start to their BUCS campaign will put them in good stead for their second fixture.

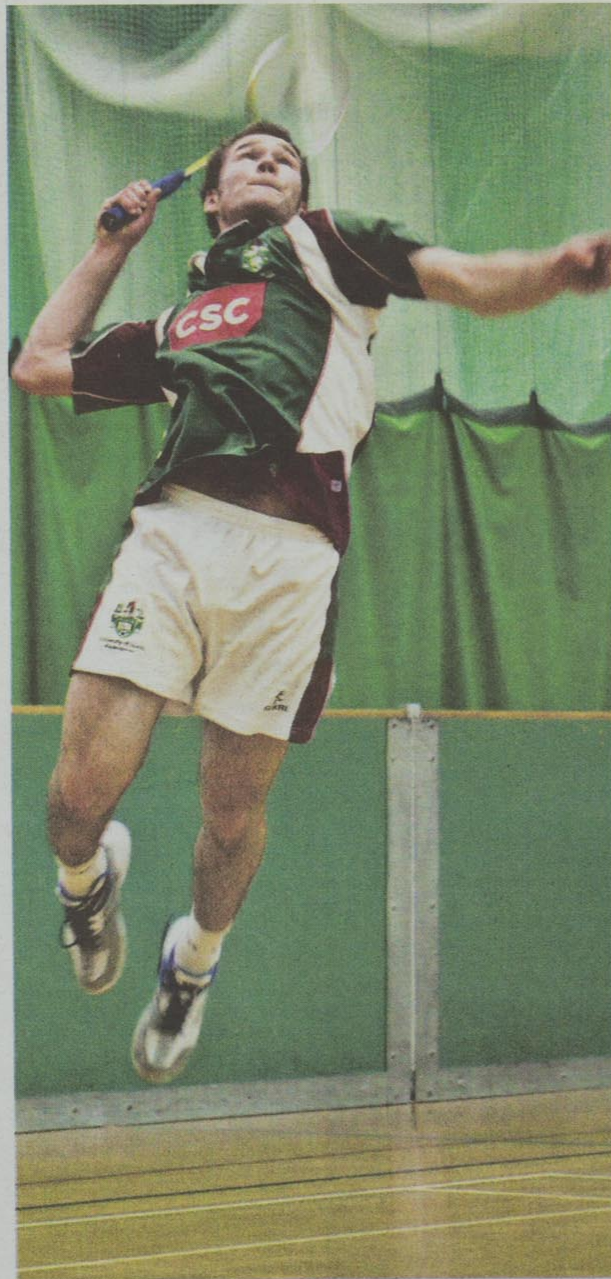


Photo: Richard Smith

## BUCS results

### Badminton

Leeds University Men's 1sts 5-3 Liverpool 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 2nds 0-8 Leeds Met 2nds  
Leeds University Women's 0-8 Loughborough

### Basketball

Leeds University Men's 1sts 80-60 Sunderland 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 2nds 63-69 Huddersfield 1sts  
Leeds University Women's 54-42 Bolton 1sts

### Fencing

Leeds University Men's 1sts 91-134 Newcastle 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 2nds 135-104 Newcastle 2nds  
Leeds University Women's 100-101 York 1sts

### Football

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 3-2 Northumbria 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 1-0 Leeds Met 3rds  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 4-3 Sheffield 2nds  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 4ths 3-0 Teesside 2nds  
Leeds University Women's 1sts 3-2 Durham 1sts

### Golf

Leeds University 5-1 Hull 1sts

### Hockey

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 4-3 Birmingham 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 2-2 York St John's 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 3-1 Hull 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 4ths 2-1 Newcastle 2nds  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 5ths 1-3 Leeds Met 2nds  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 6ths 3-4 Northumbria 3rds  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 1sts 3-4 Liverpool Hallam 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 3rds 3-3 York 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 4ths 1-0 Hull 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 5ths 0-2 Huddersfield 1sts

### Lacrosse

Leeds University Women's 1sts 9-2 Leeds Met 1sts  
Leeds University Women's 2nds 26-2 Northumbria 1sts

### Netball

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 30-60 Newcastle 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons 2nds 47-28 York St John 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons 3rds 37-44 Northumbria 2nds  
Leeds Gryphons 4ths 72-1 York St John 4ths

### Rugby League

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 10-36 UCLAN 1sts

### Rugby Union

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 29-24 Birmingham 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 45-3 Northumbria 4ths  
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 29-0 York 3rds

### Squash

Leeds University Men's 1sts 5-0 Sheffield 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 2nds 4-1 York 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 3rds 3-0 Durham 2nds

### Tennis

Leeds University Men's 1sts 5-5 Liverpool 1sts  
Leeds University Men's 2nds 4-6 Leeds Met 3rds  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 1sts 0-10 Edinburgh 1sts  
Leeds Gryphons Women's 2nds 10-0 Sheffield Hallam

### Volleyball

Leeds University Men's 0-3 Sheffield Hallam 2nds  
Leeds University Women's 3-0 Durham 1sts

## Cross Country

Manchester Relays

Matt Sutton

Leeds University Cross Country Club began the season well at Manchester Relays last Saturday. Leeds held their own in the 3km course run on grass, which was well attended by university teams from across Britain.

Over thirty runners from Leeds were entered in three men's teams of six and four women's teams of three. The men's race started at 2pm, the women 5 minutes later.

The men's A team, each running one 3km leg, got an average of 12.24 minutes per leg whilst the women ran approximately 14 minute legs. Out of 48 teams the Men's A team came 14th whilst the women's B team beat their A team to come 13th.

Early season nerves did not distract Uni's athletes from their run. Those who had not trained over the summer had the opportunity to identify weaknesses to work on over the coming weeks before other competitions and our own Leeds relays on November 28th.

Leeds cross country coach, Greg Hull, said the clubs performance was a "great start for the university" and allowed him to get a good idea of the "very impressive" standard of the runners this year. He praised the team for their "high spirits" and the great turn out.

He did note the minor upset that the women's B team beat the A team but said the relays, being so early in the season, were the perfect opportunity to "find the strengths" in the team.

Dave Burtle, Men's Race Captain, praised the team for a "great start to the season" and noted the potential of "lots of good new runners" this year.

He said the performance at Manchester boded well for a good season building up to the major BUCS XC Championships in February.

The Women's Race Captain, Mary Ferrier, was equally proud and praised everyone for their performances.

**the big debate:**

# Is motorsport safe?

Following the serious injuries sustained this season by Felipe Massa and Timo Glock, and the fatality of Formula 2's Henry Surtees, LS Sport asks: **Is enough being done to ensure driver safety in motor racing?**

**Improvements are clear to see**  
Jamic Presland

**W**e should not allow recent events to contradict the overwhelming evidence that safety in Formula One is exceptionally well managed.

Every year, over a million people die across the globe in car accidents, so to keep drivers safe in what is at base level 'cars speeding round a track', is one of the major triumphs of F1. The possible dangers of up to fifteen cars travelling at speeds of over 200mph are clear for everyone to see.

It would be detrimental to the sport to impose more stringent safety measures given the outstanding conduct we currently see.

No driver has been fatally injured in Formula One since the enigmatic Ayrton Senna lost his life in San Marino in 1994, and the recent scare with Senna's compatriot Felipe Massa just goes to show how protected the drivers are in what has the potential to be a very dangerous sport.

Massa was struck by a spring from Rubens Barrichello's car, which tore through his helmet and caused a head-on crash into the tyre barrier.

The Brazilian was airlifted to hospital, swiftly operated on, and discharged only a week later, displaying how what was initially a life-threatening situation was efficiently and effectively dealt with by the FIA and Hungarian Grand Prix staff.

Since the introduction of safety cars in Formula One in 1973, only thirteen drivers have been involved in fatal accidents, compared to 30 fatalities in 20 years prior to that.

Whilst safety cars may reduce the entertainment of the race for spectators, there's no doubt that they are effective in neutralising dangerous situations.

Likewise, there is now a hefty medical

presence, with no expense spared, as the recent Timo Glock injury, sustained in the Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying, demonstrates. Although the German's leg wound was not as serious as Massa's ailment, he was also airlifted to hospital for treatment, where a cracked vertebrae was detected and treatment administered.

It would be detrimental to the sport to impose more stringent safety measures, given the outstanding conduct we currently see

Therefore, in a sport with the potential for major calamities, such as Wolfgang von Trips' fatal accident in the 1961 Italian Grand Prix which also claimed the lives of 15 spectators, the relatively low numbers of injuries and fatalities in contemporary Formula One pays testament to the professionalism of everyone involved.

**Exhaust every avenue**  
Callum Brown

**A**lthough millions of pounds are spent every year by the FIA on improving safety, serious accidents occur all too often. Perhaps the way in which investments are allocated is partially responsible; the race organisers at Germany's Nurburgring circuit have invested almost £50million in recent years, but where? On gravel pits, tyre walls and other such mandatory measures tried and tested to improve safety for the drivers, staff and spectators. They do not deal with the anomalies.

Simple changes could potentially make the difference and aid manufacturers in safer vehicle production; this year alone saw the introduction of a rule which halted such progress:

"From 2009 onwards testing is not allowed during the race season (from the week prior to the first Grand Prix until December 31) and is limited to 15,000 kilometres."

As far as making the sport more competitive and enticing this appears to have worked, arguably instantly. It stopped the likes of Ferrari from constantly testing, upgrading and editing their cars. It meant manufacturers such as Brawn had to get it right first time and strike early in the season.

The problem is, the ruling also stops manufacturers from being allowed to tweak something in the latter stages that they realise could be dangerous.

This year in both Formula 1 and Formula 2 we have witnessed some horrific incidents, with the 18 year old Henry Surtees dying, in what can only be described as a 'freak' accident when a tyre from a competitor's car careened into Surtees at Brands Hatch and claimed his life.

Simple changes could potentially make the difference and aid manufacturers in safer vehicle production

Felipe Massa suffered a fractured skull and was left in a critical condition after a spring from Rubens Barrichello's car had become dislodged and hit Massa. With the incident coming only two days after the death of Surtees, Barrichello led the calls for more stringent safety measures to be looked into. He was quoted saying "I honestly don't believe in coincidences in life. Things happen for a reason and I think this is the second message."

Surely the FIA are capable of devising rules that outline that any tests that improve performance during the season are deemed illegal, any that improved safety would not.

I am almost certain the drivers fully appreciate the dangers that are involved when getting into the cockpit of a racing car; it may be too complex and nigh on impossible to ever rule out anomalies in this sport.

A safe haven of Formula 1 racing may be unattainable and never come into fruition.

My argument is merely that the FIA owes it to the people that make the sport possible to exhaust every avenue in the next season to bring the sport as close to the aforementioned haven as possible.



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# Gryphons leave it late to break Birmingham resistance



Photo: Sarah Greene

Fly-half Mike Cachia orchestrates another Gryphons attack.

## Gryphons

### Men's Rugby Union

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 29-24  
Birmingham 1sts

Winston Reynolds

Leeds Gryphons left it to the last play of the game against a dangerous Birmingham side to maintain their

perfect start to the season.

The game was level at 24 points apiece, before Jack Reville brilliantly scored in the dying seconds, handing Leeds a dramatic victory at Weetwood.

The Leeds pack was excellent in the first half, forcing several turnovers and winning nearly every lineout, creating the requisite platform for the backs to kick cleverly and run good lines.

Birmingham's lead of a penalty was wiped out as the Leeds's Harris at hooker muscled his way over from close range, after good hands and several phases.

Gryphon's outside centre Matt Milsom then made an incisive break in midfield to set up a second try. On the

stroke of half time Captain Duncan Pollock scored a third under the posts finishing a devastating counter attack.

Despite a twenty one to ten lead at

**Leeds were forced to endure a tense final few minutes in which Birmingham could have snatched victory.**

half time Uni will have been disappointed considering the number

of chances they failed to convert. They should have set up an unassailable lead at half time.

If the home side were dominant in the first half, the second half saw Leeds lose their composure, conceding a dozen penalties for which they almost paid the price.

Birmingham were allowed to gain momentum and the hope of a comeback victory. This was partially due to Leeds dispensing with the patient phases and clever kicking game that served them so well in the first half.

Birmingham duly scored two second half tries through their dangerous winger as the home side's

performance dropped.

A relieved Gryphons' coach said after the game "at times we failed to do the basics and our discipline was poor".

The game looked to be heading for a draw, which would have felt like a defeat for the home side, but for substitute centre Reville's late try.

Leeds were forced to endure a tense final few minutes in which Birmingham could have snatched victory.

Despite the narrow margin of victory and a worrying lack of composure Uni deserved their victory playing the better rugby over the course of the game.

# McCracking strike saves the day

### Men's Football

Leeds Uni 2nds 1-0 Leeds Met 3rds

Lawrence Ostlere

Substitute Matt McCracken snatched a late goal with his first touch to win this fiercely contested derby match at Weetwood.

With 15 minutes remaining, a cross into the penalty area eventually fell to the feet of winger McCracken, who poked his shot past the onrushing goalkeeper and just inside the post.

In an extremely tight game with few clear chances, a goal seemed unlikely for long periods, so Uni will be especially pleased with finding the late winner and claiming three valuable points in this BUSA league fixture.

An even first half saw Uni come closest on 15 minutes when captain Drew Tyler's deep corner was met by Stef Colligan, whose header was cleared off the line.

The wet surface should have resulted in some slick passing football. Instead the conditions seemed to cause players problems

getting the ball under control and encouraged some tough slide tackles, breaking up the rhythm of the game.

On the half hour mark though Colligan, again in the thick of the action, was able to deliver a moment of creativity. His high through ball dropped perfectly into striker Mike Ward's path, who took the ball down neatly before shooting wide.

Met had their share of possession but consistently lacked a quality final pass. For periods they rained balls into the box but Uni held firm.

Soon after the half-time break Uni

must have thought they had conceded, as a Met midfielder tricked his way into the box and rounded the goalkeeper, only to slide his shot across the empty goal and wide.

The miss proved crucial. Slowly Uni began to get a hold of the game and crafted some decent opportunities, including a chest and volley from Colligan that dipped just too late and went over.

Finally the tension was lifted as McCracken, normally a striker, entered the contest on the right wing and used his goal-scoring instincts to

stab home the winner.

Moments later it was almost two, as the influential McCracken crossed for Ward who couldn't connect properly with a point-blank header. 'Crackers' has been employed predominantly as an impact substitute so far this season but this performance must aid his claim for a starting berth.

Met immediately went in search of an equaliser, but Uni soaked up the late pressure to clinch a deserved win over their city rivals.

# Uni outclassed in Varsity repeat

## Gryphons



### Netball

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 30-60 Leeds Met

Anna Johnson

Given the calibre of the Leeds Met squad, the Uni's womens 1st team gave a good effort, marred perhaps by lack of fitness. Although their overall performance was no match for Met, there was without doubt some fine individual play.

Met had the majority of the first quarter possession, capitalizing on Uni's lack of communication, scoring within the opening minutes of the game.

First year Kate Campbell was particularly brave as keeper and was well supported by seasoned goal defence Natasha Katib. Both made valiant attempts to create some long diagonal play down the court, but they were hampered by a succession of interceptions from their opponents.

Their efforts, however, weren't entirely unjustified. Some quick passes executed by Uni's wing attack Emma Hayes, who made some stealthy deliveries into Met's defensive third, were very effective.

Unfortunately Uni's attack gave away valuable possession with hesitant play in the first quarter, resulting in Met regaining control at vital goal scoring opportunities. The quarter time score of 19-2 to Met was a reflection, according to Coach Vikki Philips, of Uni's lack of application in marking.

The second quarter saw Uni pick up some momentum, and use the court more effectively to avoid Met interceptions. However, with gathering speed, inaccurate shooting began to plague Uni; this may well have owed to Met's close contact approach in the goal circle. Their consistency in the one-on-ones meant that even when Uni saw the ball Met's closing down gave the home side little chance of finishing

moves.

Half time talks raised the issue of fitness and conviction to the match, but there was no shortage of encouragement. This was undoubtedly the case, as wing Rachael Tuckey and goal attack Charlotte South combined with a rapid period of short passes.

This was nicely followed up with goals from Charlotte Elveridge. With such quick executions there came increased levels of contact to the point that the ball was being snatched out of hands and players were colliding across the court.

Met had the majority of possession in the first quarter, capitalizing on Uni's lack of communication

Regardless, the pace was maintained until the closing stages of the 3rd quarter with goals from Elveridge and South. Despite Uni's resurgence the score at the fourth quarter stood at 18-54 to Met. Uni needed to continue this tempo for the last fifteen minutes to retain a sense of pride, even if victory was out of the question.

This was answered respectively by Campbell, who raised her game in defence, winning possession from Met's shooter who had previously proved to be fierce opposition.

Carly Hobday and Steph Collard exercised precision and running too, providing plenty of options for the attackers. Their contributions enabled Uni to close down the final score to 30-60.

On this occasion Met proved to be the stronger team, but Uni can take encouragement for the rest of the season especially from the performance of the last quarter.

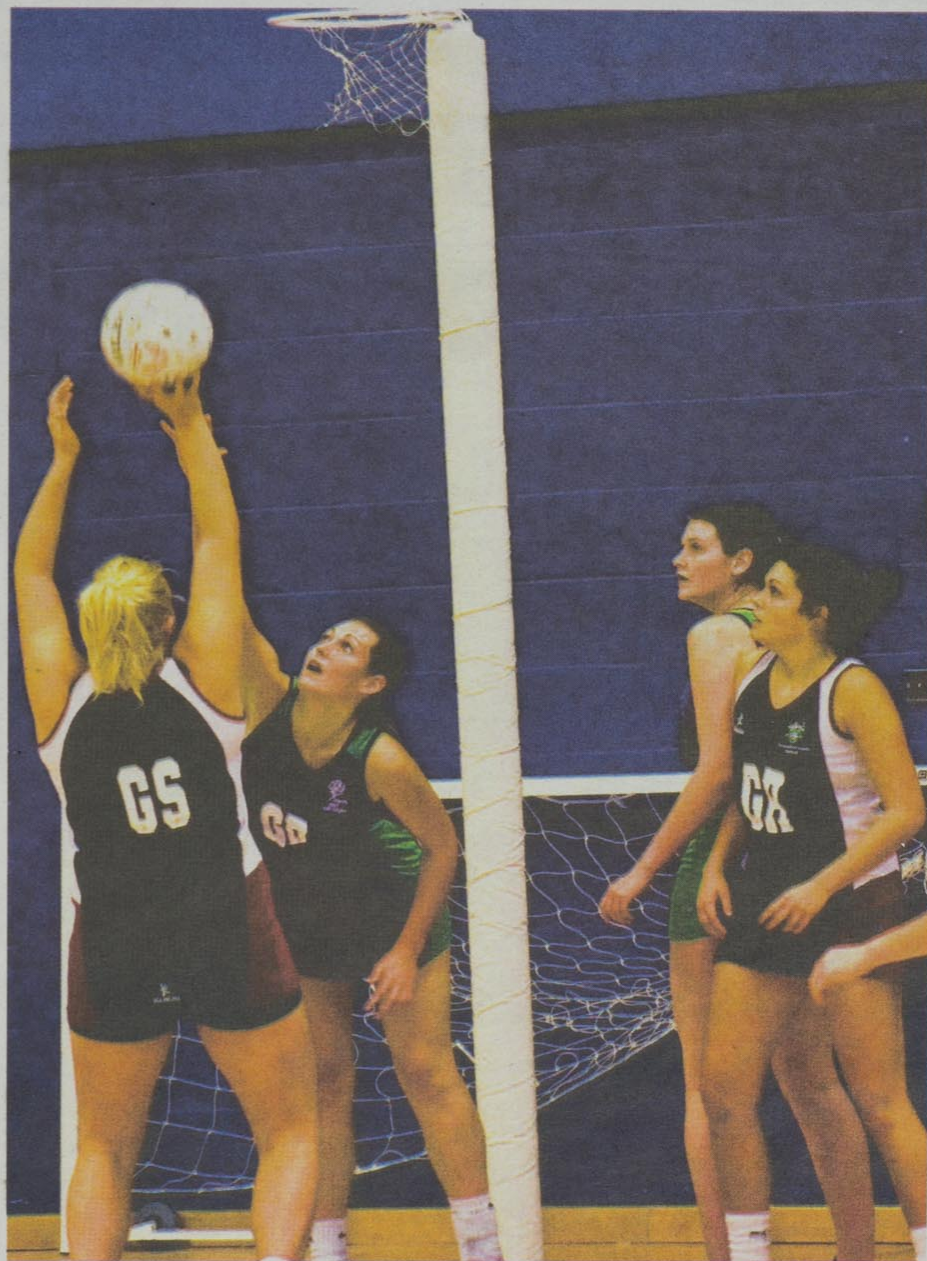


Photo: Matthew Rutley

# Uni breeze to victory despite late scare

## Women's Basketball

Leeds Uni 54-42 Bolton Uni 1sts

Josh Powling

Leeds Uni marched to a deserved win against a tough Bolton side, surviving a late scare in the process.

Leeds failed to settle in the first ten minutes, but turned on the style over the second and third quarters before pulling away from the visitors. It was very much a back and forward encounter, seeing two

intense periods of scoring activity, one mid-way through the second quarter, and the other right at the death.

They should have put the game away sooner, but with five minutes to go Leeds saw their lead shrink from seven points to a score line of 41-40.

However Stephanie Kirk provided a welcome four points in quick succession to ease the pressure on the home side.

For large parts of the game the trio of Kat-Chuan Chao, Erin Clarke

and Melanie Hill proved to be too much for Bolton to handle as they combined for 43 of the Uni's 54 points. Chao provided speed and agility, Clarke expert finishing in the box, while Hill's work rate throughout the game was exemplary.

They were ably supported by the hard work from the rest of the team. Kirk, Chole Freeman, Louise Byrne and Grace Savage possessed plenty of determination but lacked confidence taking on the Bolton basket.

In key parts of the game Leeds let

Bolton off the hook, gifting them seven free throws throughout the match. Less than assertive defending also allowed Bolton to steal into the Leeds area and score regularly, which saw the visitors ahead at the end of the first quarter.

However two quick fire three pointers from Hill, and sterling work from Clarke galvanised Leeds into action. They looked to be heading into half time level at 23-23, but took the lead for the first time in the game right on the buzzer, as Clarke netted a superb three-pointer under heavy

pressure.

This was a lead that they never relinquished, even when Chao and Clarke were substituted. Bolton came perilously close to taking the lead with minutes to go, but Chao and Hill continued to dig deep when needed to, while surprise contributions arrived from Kirk and Hannah Dunning to secure Leeds Uni the victory.



## Ugly win extends Uni run



Photo: Sarah Greene

### Gryphons

#### Men's Football

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 3 - 2  
 Northumbria 1sts

James Green

Leeds University continued their winning start to the season, as an injury time goal from substitute Andy Vernon gave them a deserved win against an indisciplined Northumbria side.

The game started off poorly as both sides were restricted to playing long balls by a cluttered midfield.

It soon became clear, however, that this was Northumbria's plan, to play long, hopeful balls over the top in an attempt to force a mistake from the home side and catch them on the break.

Uni were eventually caught out,

not from the expected long ball but a quickly taken free kick on the edge of the area.

Leeds failed to clear the pass from the free kick, which was launched into the box and, after a scramble, it ended up in the net.

Northumbria were defensively weak and poorly disciplined, which was embodied by their goalkeeper who was booked for rushing out of his area to bring down Will Turl.

While Leeds were unable to create anything from the free kick, it signalled Northumbria's intentions for the rest of the match.

They complained to the referee about every decision that went against them, and many of their players were lucky to avoid cautions for the way in which they spoke to the officials.

Leeds were able to make their dominance tell soon after when Turl ran through again, this time managing to play a pass across the box to Scott Mummery who happily levelled the scores at 1-1.

Despite their inability to take the lead, Uni's excellent play continued throughout the first half.

Leeds were not helped by

Northumbria's tackling; a horrendous challenge on Jordan Barnes earning one of their players a deserved booking.

The breakthrough came with five minutes to go, thanks to yet more indiscipline from Northumbria

Northumbria continued to take long-range shots and play hopeless long passes to no one in an attempt to regain the lead.

Any time that it looked like they

might pose a threat, centre back pairing Jack Palmer and Tom Pawley dealt with it comfortably.

But as the half went on Northumbria came back into the game and managed to take the lead just before half time.

In the second half Leeds made three substitutions in an attempt to equalise again.

It took twenty minutes, however, for them to put a passage of play together that really threatened the Northumbria goal.

While Leeds pushed for a crucial second goal, Northumbria always looked dangerous on the break.

As in the first half, Uni put in a succession of excellent crosses into the box without anyone being able to get the final touch.

The breakthrough came with five minutes to go thanks to another moment of indiscipline from Northumbria.

A second bookable offence saw their centre back sent off, even with their captain attempting to claim responsibility.

This gave Leeds the space they needed and the resulting free kick hit an arm after being headed down by

stand-in captain Dave Syers.

While the referee ignored the calls for a penalty, the ball was crossed back into the box where it came to Palmer, who got the much-deserved equaliser.

From there, Uni were dominant. The win came in stoppage time when Vernon ran through on goal to finish past the away side's goalkeeper.

Injured captain Alun Griffiths said after the game: "We didn't play our best, but we got the three points, which is the main thing."

While Leeds did not play particularly well, they were clearly the better side and there is clearly reason to believe that this winning run can continue.

**Player of the Match**  
**Jack Palmer**

Not only incredibly strong in defence but also scored the all important second goal, a brilliant performance.