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Staff poised to strike over cuts

Marcus Chippindale

University and College Union (UCU) members at the University of Leeds have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action.

In a ballot result released on Wednesday, 64 per cent of UCU members supported strike action and 78 per cent were in favour of action short of a strike.

Speaking shortly after the announcement, Leeds UCU president, Professor Malcolm Povey, said: "UCU members have today delivered a clear mandate for industrial action at the University of Leeds.

"We thank our members for participating in such large numbers and reiterate our belief that a negotiated settlement is still possible if the vice-chancellor will, at last, recognise the strength of feeling among his workforce. Our priority remains to defend our members and the quality of education experienced by our students."

In a statement released after the ballot result the University of Leeds said that it was still open to negotiations with the UCU, but it does not believe industrial action will solve the problem.

A University of Leeds spokesperson said: "We share the concerns of our staff about the potential effects of public expenditure cuts on the University and indeed across higher education, and understand people are worried about their future. We have had more than a dozen meetings with UCU in the last month, including formal discussions through ACAS and we have made a series of proposals on how we can work with the union to mitigate the effects of cuts on staff and the University."

The UCU has disputed the University's claim that strike action will not have an impact. Leeds UCU Press Officer Mark Taylor-Batty said: "The University insists on threatening its valued staff with compulsory redundancies. Industrial action could make this problem go away."

"The University has imposed a sham process on the Faculty of Biological Sciences, one which is

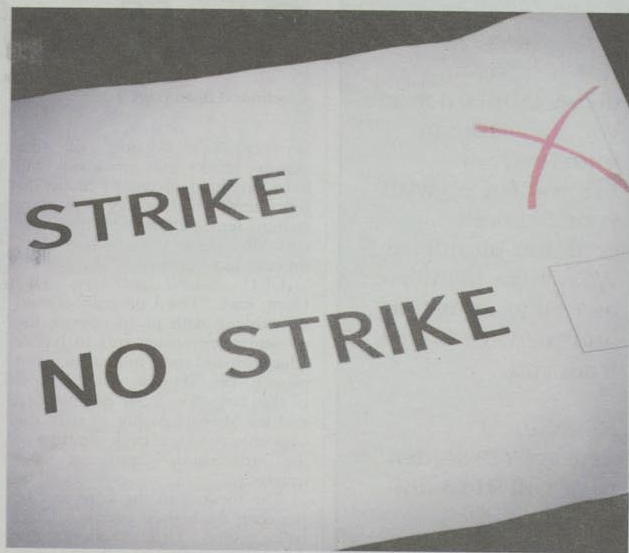
non-transparent, non-consultative and, in seemingly pre-selecting people for redundancies, potentially unlawful. Industrial action could make this problem go away."

Talks were held between the University and the UCU on Thursday in a bid to resolve the situation, but *Leeds Student* understands that these broke down because the University could not guarantee that there would be no compulsory redundancies as a result of its 'economies exercise.'

Speaking after hours of talks, Povey said: "Frankly, I was shocked by the attitude adopted by the University management. We cannot agree to compulsory redundancies. The precedent it sets for the rest of the university undergoing the formal reviews and the cost cutting economies exercise is simply frightening."

In a letter sent to staff yesterday, University of Leeds Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Arthur said that the University would "listen, share information and be open" with the UCU, but expressed disappointment with the situation.

Professor Arthur wrote: "I am bitterly disappointed that concerted



'YES': UCU members voted in favour of strike over possible redundancies

photo: Richard Smith

and intensive efforts to negotiate with the UCU through ACAS have been unsuccessful. We have responded constructively to the union's concerns and have tried to secure the union's agreement to work with us in resolving difficulties."

Arthur said that the University was keen to continue talks with the UCU, but reiterated the stance that there could be no guarantee that compulsory redundancies would be avoided.

He said: "There appears to be no further scope for discussions through ACAS following the UCU's demand

for a guarantee that there would be no compulsory redundancies, ever, in the faculty of biological sciences. Whilst we have been prepared to repeat out undertaking to do everything we can to avoid compulsory redundancies in FBS and across the University, no responsible employer could give an undertaking of this kind, in particular at a time of massive public expenditure cuts and in a recession."

The UCU described the University's response as

Continued on page 2 >>

Uni and Union recycling at record high

GREEN WEEK

Dafydd Pritchard

Recycling at the University of Leeds and Leeds University Union (LUU) is at a record high, *Leeds Student* has learned.

In 2009, the University recycled 89.5 per cent of its waste, while the Union recycled 90 per cent of all general waste.

The University produced 197 tonnes less waste than in 2008.

During the 2008-09 academic

year, the Union recycled 28 tonnes of cardboard, 10 tonnes of plastic, 4 tonnes of cans and 19 tonnes of paper.

Alan Hill, the Union's Facilities Manager, told *Leeds Student* that increased recycling has allowed the Union to reduce the amount of bins it uses and, consequently, save money.

In 2008, 1547 bins were emptied, while in 2009, only 1480 bins were emptied – a reduction of 67 bins (4.3 per cent), and a cost saving of £234.50.

Hill says that the partnership between the Union, University and Premier Waste, a Durham-based recycling company, has been



IT'S BIN GOOD: Recycling levels reach new highs photo: Richard Smith

important.

"Both the Union and the University use Premier Waste," Hill said. "90 per cent of all general waste across campus is recycled, so only 10 per cent of waste is taken to a landfill site."

He added: "The support of staff and students is important, as they utilise the recycling facilities. There are no bins in the offices [of the Union building], so that's another way of encouraging recycling."

Cooperation between the Union and University has helped the environmental cause, with the University initiating a 'freecycling' venture.

"The University has set up an

email system where departments can get rid of unwanted furniture," Hill said.

"If a department was refurbished in the past, the waste would go into skips and cost the University hundreds of thousands of pounds."

"But the furniture in the Game On area has all come from the Business School. It saves us [the Union] money, and it saves the University money."

Despite this success, Hill played down the significance of the Union's recycling in terms of the financial difficulties the University currently faces.

Continued on page 5 >>

Leeds Student

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Image: Luke Furooshki



Sketch has been overwhelmed with news alerts this week declaring that half the Union's membership will be trying to get a job working alongside Sketch next year. More

shocking was the sight of influential members declaring their public support for some of these job seekers, who have enough to worry about without the so much extra expectation on their shoulders.

Sketch was terrified to see another snowdrift outside the Union this week. In a state of panic, Sketch rushed down to the shop to stock up on essential goods such as bottled water, only to find that stocks had already disappeared.

Having been unable to buy water, Sketch hoped to escape from campus on a bus for the price

of an Evian. But for inexplicable reasons, Sketch was told in no uncertain terms that it would not be enough to get more than a few meters before being thrown out into the arctic blast once more.

Darting back to Union, Sketch hoped to find sanctuary with some sane students (not the Sanctuary newspaper, which has recently died, oh well). Yet all of these appeared to have left, to be replaced by holidaymakers trying to set up a beach resort in the foyer. What is happening to this place!

In fact, Sketch has decided it is all too much to deal with. As a

result it is very likely Sketch will be taking some time off in the not too distant future, unless given assurance that things are going to go back to normal soon. And don't act like you don't care, Sketch knows you would miss him.

Sadly Sketch missed the end of Leeds United's cup run when they were beaten by Spurs. As a born and bred supporter this was particularly painful for Sketch, but decided that leaving his wife at home whilst John Terry was in the region to play Hull wasn't worth the risk.

Staff vote in favour of strike

Continued from page 1

'unacceptable' because of the negative effect that job losses will have on the University's ability to function as a high quality institution. Arthur himself has admitted that cuts will have a "devastating effect" on staff and students.

UCU general secretary, Sally Hunt, said: "The University should be working with us to oppose the government's savage cuts to higher education and must immediately put plans to axe 700 jobs on hold. Now is the time for fresh negotiations and for Michael Arthur to seize the opportunity to win back the trust of the marvellous staff at this university."

The turnout in the vote was 66 per cent, the highest ever in a UCU ballot. The UCU believe this demonstrates the strength of feeling towards the University's handling of the situation.

Taylor-Batty said: "The figures here are incredible. The University has now to recognise and listen to this, effectively the most comprehensive, cross-campus vote of no confidence in their management of the 'economies exercise.'"

Mike Gladstone, LUU Education Officer, said: "We remain hopeful that the university and UCU will resolve the dispute without the need for industrial action."

"We are extremely concerned that students, as before, will end up the unfair losers of industrial action so we will continue to work with both the university and the UCU to ensure that any action taken does not have a negative impact on students."

"We are working hard, as students have asked us to do, to minimize the impact of cuts on students and are taking steps to

ensure students in are properly consulted about possible changes. We want to ensure the impact on students is minimal and we are committed to passing as much information to students and opposing anything deemed by students to be too damaging."

However, other parts of LUU have shown their support for strike action by staff. On Wednesday, the 'Really Open University' staff and student group handed University security staff with a letter of support for strike action.

FBS Appeal

In addition to possible strike action, the University is facing a formal challenge to the manner in which it implemented a restructuring plan for the Faculty of Biological Sciences (FBS).

The UCU is supporting a member of staff in the FBS, who claims the University broke its own rules by failing to consult the Senate, the body responsible for the academic mission, during the early stages of restructuring.

The challenge has come in the form of a petition sent to the official 'visitor' of Leeds University, Lord Mandelson, due to his position as Lord President of the Council.

The petition was submitted on January 29 and claims that the University's Council and Executive do not have the power to alter the academic mission without the Senate's consent. UCU claims they failed to do so in the case of the FBS.

Hunt said: "Our universities spend millions of pounds of taxpayers' money and it is right and just that there is proper scrutiny of how they spend that money and why certain decisions around their academic missions are taken."

The University has denied any

wrongdoing during the restructuring and plans to defend its' actions if necessary.

A University of Leeds spokesperson said: "We believe UCU's appeal to be wholly misconceived and will be mounting a robust defence. Its timing – in the middle of arbitration talks through ACAS – is deplorable."

The UCU believe they have a strong case, but do not expect an immediate decision from Mandelson.

Taylor-Batty said: "There isn't a question of Mandelson siding with the UCU, but of him deciding that the evidence of the University having broken its own rules is compelling or not. We think that evidence is pretty watertight."

The UCU feels the situation is similar to that at Keele University in September 2008. In that case Keele's 'visitor' agreed that the University was in breach of its' charter and statutes when it bypassed the Senate during planning to replace the School of Economics and Management Studies with a new business school.

Taylor-Batty commented: "The comparison with the Keele case is very close. If Mandelson comes to the same conclusion, the University council and Senate will have to discuss the ramifications of this breach of governance procedures and, together with the unions, put in place mechanisms to ensure no-one abuses their power in this way again."

In addition to challenging the restructuring of the FBS, the petition has also asked for the 'Economies Exercise' to be put on hold until Mandelson reaches a decision in order to prevent the same error being made.

Hunt said: "No institution can, or can be seen to be, circumnavigating its own

governance procedures and an urgent investigation needs to happen so everyone can have full confidence in how Leeds is conducting itself. It is quite right and proper that any further job loss exercises should be put on hold until this situation is properly cleared up."

Anti-cuts groups

900 anti-cuts campaigners attended a conference in Manchester last Saturday which focused on fighting the imminent cuts facing the public sector.

The Right to Work Conference was attended by trade unions but also included many other student representatives from universities facing arguably less extreme and extensive cuts than those in Leeds.

Leeds University Against Cuts (LUAC) took a leading role in discussions and workshops which focussed on education cuts and pledged to help student groups at other universities facing similar problems. There was widespread condemnation of LUU's recent emailing tactic as part of their 'Education First' campaign which was criticised as divisive and resembled 'spamming' practices.

On Tuesday evening LUAC hosted a talk with Deitmar Meister, a student involved in the occupation of Vienna University in 2009. In that same year many European universities faced similar threats to higher education as those now faced by British institutions.

The meeting was well attended with discussions focussing on the nature and state of British higher education as well as on effective tactics to oppose cuts – tactics which had seemingly worked in many other European countries.

Additional reporting by Jack Drummond

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Pressure mounts on Zaman

Matthew Power

Local Councillors and students continued with their calls to have thousands of pounds worth of unpaid deposits returned to former tenants of rogue Leeds landlord Tariq Zaman in a protest on Saturday.

Students from both Leeds and Metropolitan universities gathered outside the Student Property Shop on Victoria Road, Hyde Park.

Leeds Student uncovered links between the Student Property Shop and Zaman's Providence Properties in February of last year.

The investigation by this paper found that the Student Property Shop was advertising properties owned by Zaman and was also employing the same staff as Providence, the company Zaman used to be the director of.

It followed concerns from students that Providence Properties had only changed its name to the Student Property Shop and was in fact under control of the same family.

A Leeds landlord also identified Zaman putting up the signage for the Student Property Shop.

The Leeds University Union (LUU) Advice Centre said it has recovered over £37,000 for students in unreturned deposits but £70,000 is still owed. The vast majority of this, it said, is owed by Tariq Zaman's Providence Properties.

Zaman was fined £11,000 last month for renting four properties without Housing with Multiple Occupancy (HMO) licenses.

Jamie Matthews, the Liberal Democrat Councillor for Headingley, said: "Zaman has got a long history of ripping students off by keeping their deposits at the end of the year. I think it's running in to hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of deposits that he hasn't returned to the students."

Zaman has been issued with 17 County Court Judgments (CCJs) after



PROTEST: Students gather outside the Student Property Shop on Saturday

Photo: Richard Smith

failing to return deposits to his tenants. Matthews moved to reassure students that the Council is taking steps to protect students who sign up for housing in Leeds.

When asked whether he thinks the student will get their deposits back he said: "I hope they do. The protests help draw attention to it. The more national media coverage they get the better really."

"This issue is not just in Leeds. It is an issue all over the country with dodgy landlords with people not getting their deposits."

A BBC Watchdog investigation in 2008 found that Zaman was refusing to refund deposits to the students renting his properties.

Alex Miller, a third year medicine student who rented a property from Zaman in his second year at Leeds

University, said: "Two years ago we rented from Tariq Zaman and he owes all six of [me and my housemates] £300 deposits. We're still waiting for that back."

"He's had quite a few [CCJs] against him and he's been on Watchdog a couple of times now and he just doesn't care. He says it's not going to make any difference and he's not going to give [the deposits] back."

"We're not going to give up. There's at least half of [my housemates] still here and we're going to work out what to do next. We'll see what the Union has got planned and what we can do as well."

Both students yet to have their deposits returned to them and the LUU Student Executive attended Saturday's protest. Local Councillors were also in attendance, showing their

support for the campaign.

The event was organized in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police after concerns that participants were followed home after last year's protest outside the agency.

Liam Challenger, Leeds Met Student Union Community & Wellbeing officer, commented: "We've come today from the Met because we're protesting against bad landlords in Leeds. We have got some great landlords but we need to get rid of the bad ones. We think Zaman is one of the bad ones."

"It's not about whether you're Met, Leeds University or Trinity. It's about students in Leeds coming together."

The Student Property Shop declined to comment.

Bragg donates unpublished work to Brotherton

Lizzie Edmonds

British broadcasting and arts connoisseur legend, Melvyn Bragg, has donated over 50 years worth of unpublished material to the special collections department of the Leeds University Brotherton Library.

Bragg, whose infamous award ceremony 'The South Bank Show' was aired for the last time on Sunday, has published in excess of 20 novels and numerous historical studies as well as a several children's novels.

His donation has been described by Chris Sheppard, head of special collections at Leeds's Brotherton Library, as prolific, stating: "It arrived in what you might call a National Collection of Carrier Bags."

The works, expanding over more than 50 years worth of writing have been rescued from Bragg's attic in London.

The host of notebooks, files and thousands of pages of foolscap are covered in Bragg's handwriting and reveal his early determination, one ambition reading "Apr-Dec aim: four books, 75,000 words each" scrawled when he was 29 years old.

The donated material includes the unpublished novel, *Mirrors and Wire*, Bragg's first, and which Faber & Faber publishing sat on for so long in 1964, that he wrote his second in the meanwhile. The archive also contains notes and ideas expanding from episodes of the film industry that will doubtless now make books of their own.

Bragg has been Leeds University's chancellor for the past ten years. But he also chose Leeds due to immediate family connections: his wife, writer and TV producer Cate Haste, is from the city, and also for the library's reputation.

The Special Collections Department holds an impressive variety of rare works including Shakespeare first folio and scores of exceptional literature including Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh.

He said: "I remember coming here with my Dad when I was eight to watch the test cricket. I'm happy that the archive is in Leeds; that's the headline so far as I am concerned."

Bragg, seeing as he is yet to write an autobiography, may be among the many that apply to use the papers, now copyrighted to Leeds University.

Bragg has stated: "If I do, it will be very pleasant to go up to Chris's library to see what it was I did," he said. "I can't think of a nicer place to work."

No more bottles sitting on the wall

Tom Knowles

All bottled still water has now been removed and banned from Leeds University Union (LUU) shops.

A small crowd gathered on Monday lunchtime to watch as the last remaining bottles of water were jubilantly pulled off the shelves of Essentials. LUU is the first university in Britain to implement a ban of bottled still water in their shops.

A motion was passed last year to ban the sell of all bottled still water due to its environmental impact. The Guardian estimates that a ban on bottled still water in the Union will mean 146 365 fewer plastic bottles will end up in landfill and there will be 22 587 litres less oil used each year.

LUU owned shops Essentials and Extras will now provide reusable sports water bottles in various colours from pink to green and blue.

Three water fountains have also been installed in the Union with more

expected in the future.

But bottles of flavoured and sparkling water will still be sold in Essentials and Extras after the ban is implemented. Retail outlets owned by private companies, including the Pasty Company and the Refectory, are also exempt from the ban altogether and will continue to offer bottled water.

The implementation of the ban was also pushed back until this month to allow the LUU time to work out how to replace the £32 000 gap in its income it would cause.

Kevin Howarth, Retail manager of Essentials and Extras, did seem too worried when *Leeds Student* talked him last year about the loss of income the ban would cause.

"I see the ban as just one small part of the Union's total sales. We will still be stocking sparkling and flavoured water which more people will probably now buy", Howarth said.

See LUU Community Officer Hannah Greenslade's comment piece on the ban of bottled water on p.11.



BANNED: Only reusable bottles on sale

Photo: Richard Smith

Green issue news special

No green incentive in Uni printing policy

Adam Richardson

The University of Leeds has been criticised for overcharging for double-sided printing, forcing students to look elsewhere to print work.

Currently one side of A4 paper costs four credits, while a double-sided costs eight credits. Some students believe this is unfair as they are paying twice the price to only get half as much again.

Elliott Jebreel, a final year International Relations student said: "It's odd how it costs the same price to print two single pages as it does to print a double-sided sheet. Printing double-sided costs the University less as only one piece of paper is used!

"Double-sided printing should cost six credits. I know that this would also give me the incentive to choose double-sided printing more often which is better for the environment as well."

The University is searching for new print management software, which it hopes will deal with some of the more common student complaints.

A University spokesperson commented: "The current print management software cannot distinguish between double and single sided printing - it can charge only according to the number of sides printed on the printer. We are aiming to introduce new software which can charge less for printing a document double sided compared with single sided."

Printing costs hit some students harder than others. For some on graphics based degrees, printing can become very costly very quickly. This forces them to search for cheaper printing elsewhere.

Katy Fazakerley, a third year fashion design student, attacked the printing facilities and the cost of printing at University.

She said: "My work generally costs 30p a page to print. That's fine if it's one or two pages, but when it's a hundred at a time it adds up, and being a student, I just don't always have that kind of money"

"Considering how expensive printing is, there is a serious lack of actual printing facilities, especially when it comes to colour and A3 printing. The quality doesn't tend to be very good either. I find myself searching for other places to print weeks in advance of a deadline, because I simply don't trust Leeds Uni."

Responding to these criticisms, a University spokesperson said: "The University does not currently have an overall policy for compensating students on courses with a high printing requirement however some schools and faculties do make local arrangements to support their students."

"The University is keen to improve value for money and a current project is looking at printing and photocopying provision across the University. It aims to obtain new print and copy



DOUBLE STANDARDS: The University of Leeds has been criticised for its pricing of double-sided printing

Photo: Richard Smith

management software which can encourage the use of duplex printing as a default, support more granular charging to reflect job type and print device used?"

The University of Leeds earned £344,100 through printing in the last academic year, figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed.

The figure was an increase of over £30,000 in one academic year, with over 38 million pages printed. The University has had an income of £977,000 in printing over the last three years, with over 111 million pages printed.

Commenting on the figure, a University spokesperson said: "The amount of income received is directly proportional to the amount of pages printed as demand has increased income to cover the cost of printing which has also risen. Printing charges have decreased in recent years from 25p to 15p per page for colour printing in 2002 and 5p to 4p per page for mono printing a couple of years earlier."

They continued: "The income from the sale of ISS printing credit

finances the hardware, maintenance, consumables and infrastructure required for the provision of charged printing by ISS in student clusters. It is used to provide and replace the printers, toner, paper, replacement parts, print servers, print management software and payment systems."

A Leeds Student survey of 10 universities came as a response to freedom of information requests made to some of the country's top institutions. This figure for Leeds is higher than many Universities combined for photocopying and printing. The University of Birmingham earned £271,478.77 from printing and photocopying combined, some £70,000 less than Leeds.

The University of Manchester, the largest University in the country, pulled in £339,944.46 in the last academic year. Over the past three years, Manchester has the highest income for one single year, earning £397,011.62 in 2006/07. Leeds overtook Manchester for the first time last year even though Manchester is

home to more students.

Authorities are legally required to respond to freedom of information requests within 20 working days. The University of Leeds were late in responding to the request, and had to be prompted by email to respond. They apologised in the email for these "inexplicable difficulties" as it appeared that FOI requests were filtered out as spam.

A University spokesperson stated: "The University is doing all it can to ensure that it has the appropriate mechanisms in place to deal with FOI requests. There is a team of people who are now dealing with these requests and who do their best to respond within the timescales required."

"Students are reminded that this is not the only route within which to obtain information. The University website or wider web may hold the information required or provide a contact who may be able to respond directly. This may prove quicker if done in the first instance. If this is not an option then they should follow the FOI

request procedures."

The University has also been criticised for wasting paper when informing students that they have run out of credits.

Jebreel commented: "I also have a personal hate for the page which is wasted telling you that you've got no more printer credits - what's wrong with an on screen pop-up telling you rather than wasting paper and ink?"

Mike Gladstone, LUU Education Officer was hopeful about planned changes: "I welcome the steps that the university are taking to make printing easier and cheaper for students and more environmentally friendly."

"It's currently way too hard to print things double-sided or two per page from next year. With the new software in place, this should be much better."

"No longer will we get print outs telling us not to print anything else out which was a complete waste of paper and energy and was totally pointless. Overall, this is good news for students."

Minister's crackdown on 'student ghettos'



"AN ABSOLUTE SLUM": There has been strong condemnation for student residences.

Photo: Matthew Rutley

Dominic Scott

Minister for housing, John Healey, has promised a crackdown on the growth of areas with a high concentration of shared occupancy houses, dubbed 'student ghettos'.

Notable examples of 'ghetto' areas include the Hyde Park and Headingley districts of Leeds and Fallowfield in Manchester.

New legislation will grant local

councils the power to block the conversion of properties into houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs).

Community action groups have been campaigning for change since the 1990s, blaming the large numbers of students living in shared accommodation for increased levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, littering, school closures and damage to local businesses which don't cater to student needs.

Richard Tyler, a spokesman for

the Leeds HMO Lobby, welcomed the announcement, describing one particular street in Headingley as "an absolute slum."

Tyler said: "It astonishes me that anybody would want to live there."

Although happy with the announcement, he criticised the lateness of the government response. "It would have been good to have this legislation 20 years ago, then the problem needn't have occurred in the first place," said Tyler.

While councils will be able to use the new powers to prevent future growth of "student ghettos" they will not be able to reduce the large number of already existing HMOs.

Stephanie Perrin, a student at Leeds College of Music and resident of an HMO in Hyde Park said: "I don't think this is going to make much difference. I moved to Hyde Park because the area is set up for students and I wanted to live with other students. I can't see any alternative."

Green kick in the Halls

Anusha Mata

Green representatives for student halls say more needs to be done to encourage residents to recycle more waste.

All student halls have basic recycling systems for glass, paper, plastic, cardboard and cans. But the levels of extra recycling facilities available and the willingness of students to separate their waste vary from hall to hall. Only a few halls such as Henry Price have any form of recycling for food waste.

Student green reps say face a major obstacle from students who do not know where to recycle, what recycling systems are available, or who just cannot be bothered to separate their rubbish.

Naomi Harriott-Brown, a green rep at Henry Price, feels that students are not in touch with what happens to their recycling waste: "It's not that people don't recycle, but they will be reluctant for example to wash out a dirty tub and then recycle it. There's an illusion that it just disappears when it reaches the bin."

Harri Dimbley, a student at Lyddon Halls, said: "At home I recycle absolutely everything but I haven't recycled here once, due to the lack of easily accessible facilities."

Moreover in some cases the issue is exacerbated by the lack of support from the organizations, which own some of the halls.

Residents of halls owned by Unite, such as James Baillie, report that the company provides poor systems for recycling and have found contacting Unite to express their worries nearly impossible.

Irial Eno, a student resident of James Baillie, said: "There are no recycling bins provided in our halls and only a few overflowing big recycling points on the site. It really is hopeless and for a lot of people here, just too much hassle."

Despite the obstacles, not all students have a lackadaisical attitude towards recycling.

The green reps, who are students themselves, are eager to make changes. Reps from Ellerslie halls have introduced glass bins in common rooms that become very full after nights out.

Devonshire halls reps are hoping to form a compost heap after recognizing that the majority of waste thrown away by students is food.

Naomi-Harriott-Brown from Henry Price is even more ambitious and is working on setting up links between Henry Price and Hyde Park allotments in order to enable all compostable waste to go straight into local vegetation.

Council's cuts pledge

Simona Gavrilova

Leeds City Council's (LCC) has promised to cut CO2 emissions by 40 per cent by 2020, pleasing environmental and local groups in the city.

Locals have shown a strong commitment to campaigning against climate change and their latest six-month campaign for a 40 per cent cut in city carbon by 2020 has produced a positive result.

Gavin McNaughten, a representative of Friends of the Earth, emphasized the strong relationship that was established during the campaign between environmentalists, students, businesses, hospitals and faith groups. He told *Leeds Student*: "Each group and their members met with their councillors across Leeds to explain why it was important for them, as voters and citizens of Leeds to take action."

According to Friends of the Earth the sooner locals and students in Leeds realize the economic and social benefits of the cause, the better it will be for the city's social and economic progress.

Council authorities appear to have taken their responsibilities to the cause seriously. They have already started delivering on the Leeds Climate Change Strategy which was launched

last year and sets long-term governmental targets for the next 40 years. So far initiatives have included the promotion of the NUS's Carbon Ambassador programme to communities, and checking how heat and power systems can be extended to the majority of citizens.

The local government is trying to raise awareness about how to be more environmentally friendly. A new trend is the active promotion of alternative and cost-effective ways of transport, such as car sharing (through carshareleeds.com) and cycling. LCC has already developed the so-called 'Bike to Work' scheme, and showed commitment to the annual Bike Week.

Cycle maps and pool bikes have been specially designed to make the idea of cycling more enticing and acceptable among staff members.

Speaking about financial help and funding, Press Officer Michael Molcher said: "This year are working with the Carbon Trust to bring in around £500,000 of new finance to improve 10 of our biggest emitting buildings".

Authorities do not yet know how effective the strategies will prove to be. But McNaughten promises to maintain a constructive relationship with all political parties in the future to ensure further commitment on the part of LCC for the sake of a greener and cleaner student city.

Green Week boosts Uni recycling

Continued from front page

"The cuts don't really affect us, as we're an independent organisation. We went through ours [cuts] last year, when Mine bar shut," Hill said.

"Any money you can save from reducing waste is money saved for the organisation. Recycling is beneficial for everyone in this day and age."

The Union has also sought to reduce use of electricity by installing light sensors in offices and corridors, which turn themselves off when they become inactive.

Innovations such as these sensors contributed to a six per cent decrease in the overall use of electricity in the Union during 2009.

Heating, meanwhile, was reduced by 10 per cent, following the renovation of old radiators.

There has been a more novel approach to saving money in the Union's male toilets. Hill said: "We've tried waterless urinals. That's been going on for about a year, and there's been no smell as of yet."

One of most significant environmental developments at the Union in recent years is the installation of water dispensers. Bottled water has since been banned from Union shops.

During the first term of this current academic year, water coolers dispensed 20707 litres of water at a cost of £655.63.

Compared to water bottles, Hill said that this relatively low figure represents big economic savings as well as environmental benefits.

"With water bottles, there are a lot of expenses like transportation, so in comparison to these costs, the water coolers are minimal."

Hill also emphasised the importance of student involvement, and mentioned Green Week as an important factor in an improved attitude towards recycling.

"Hopefully, the sales of re-usable water bottles will increase, and people will change their habits. Green Week really brings it [recycling and the environment] to the fore."

Council's illegal cab crackdown

17 illegal Leeds drivers prosecuted since November

Gemma Sutherland

Leeds City Council has begun a mass clamp down on illegal taxis in Leeds city centre and Headingley amid fears of passenger safety.

It is illegal for private hire cars to pick up passengers up in the street; all taxis must be pre-booked through a licensed operator.

But such activity is a longstanding problem within Leeds and has finally come to a head with a mass crackdown throughout the Christmas period and the New Year.

The council is warning passengers that using one of these private taxis is not only illegal but also puts themselves at 'extraordinary risk' as a non pre-booked taxis do not cover passengers under insurance.

The risk of hailing an illegal cab can be far greater than the lack of insurance cover however.

Leeds Student spoke to a third year Leeds University student, who wishes to remain anonymous for safety reasons, who had a terrifying experience with an illegal taxi driver.

She told Leeds Student that in her second year, after a night out she got in what she thought was a legitimate taxi on Call Lane in the city centre. Before she told the driver her address he set off and drove her to some quiet country roads.

She stated: "I kept on asking him where we were going, but he wouldn't answer me, he was completely silent."

"I kept on telling him to stop the taxi but he wouldn't and when I tried the doors they were locked."

Luckily the passenger had removed her shoes when she first entered the taxi. When the driver came to a stop and tried to climb in the backseat, she was able to hit him

with her heeled shoe, causing injury to his head.

"I just kept on screaming at him to take me home, luckily he did then, but he didn't say one word the whole time."

The student reported the incident to the police, who stated that it was most likely to be an illegal taxi driver, which made it extremely difficult to trace. They further told her in future to always phone a registered taxi, as due to the limited amount of black and white taxis in Leeds they can be traced more easily in such circumstances.

The council, in union with the police, regularly has to investigate allegations of assault or dubious behaviour by taxi drivers, only to hit a dead end as they discover the 'taxi' was unlicensed, uninsured and had been hailed in the street, therefore making it near impossible to trace.

Illegal taxis hoping to catch drunk passengers eager to avoid taxi queues regularly block up streets.

As Councillor Jamie Mathews stated: "Private hire vehicles plying for trade is a real problem. It causes misery for local residents who have to put up with their streets clogged up with minicab drivers touting for business when they have no right to do so."

Mathews further identified the rank outside The Box as being "particularly bad, we've had serious issues with emergency services vehicles unable to get down the A660 because it's been completely blocked."

The rank has become a central point in which to start the mass targeting of illegal taxis for the council.

The council regularly carries out enforcement activity with the aid of the police to stop the problem and stories like the student's above taking place. Methods include teams of council licensing officers making



CLAMPING DOWN: Leeds City Council is clamping down on illegal taxis

photo: Richard Smith

themselves easily visible on the streets near taxi ranks to make an authoritative presence.

Undercover police and licensing officers also regularly hail cabs to make 'test purchases' with concealed cameras to record illegal drivers.

There has been a recent flurry of success using these methods, with more than 40 private hire taxi drivers being prosecuted last year.

Since November 17 2009, a further 17 illegal mini cabs have been stopped and are awaiting prosecution by Leeds City Council.

Taxi safety

- Always pre-book a taxi for the return journey.
- Go to a well lit rank, where there is CCTV coverage.
- Always used marked, private hire vehicles that have been booked with their operator, or a black and white taxi.
- Never use illegal vehicles and make sure the driver is displaying his taxi or private hire licence number or photograph.
- If in doubt do not get into any vehicle.

An expensive ticket to ride

Jay Smith

Local bus company management has moved in to deny that they are "ripping-off" students after calls for fares to be lowered on Leeds bus routes.

Last year, a referendum motion was passed to mandate the Leeds University Union (LUU) to lobby bus companies, especially First Bus, to introduce a concessionary rate for students and expand the lower-priced Green Zone to cover the Bodington Hall area.

However, many students still see bus fares in and around Leeds as being too high.

"I paid £350 this year for bus fares alone," said Harriet Honess, a first year student, "and worst of all I live in Bodington, so transport costs are a bit of a nightmare to be

honest."

"I'll definitely bring my car down unless I live very close to Uni next year. It sounds ridiculous, but it's probably cheaper than bus fares!"

In response, First Bus denied that they are "ripping off" their student customers. Dave Alexander, the managing director of First in West Yorkshire, commented: "The debate on quality contracts is a distraction from our objective to deliver better bus services."

LUU is running numerous environmental campaigns as part of Green Week, which started on Monday.

There are concerns that high fares mean that many students are bringing their own cars to University to cut costs.

Leeds Student reported in November how Metro, the West-Yorkshire transport co-ordinator,

were attempting to prevent hikes in fares and scrapping of bus routes. Yet despite this it seems many companies, including First Bus Group, continue to maintain fares that students find unacceptable.

First Bus Group is the largest bus operator in the country, with 8,500 buses and three million customers per day nationally. It reportedly made £30 million gross profits in the six months to September 2009.

Meanwhile it's not just students who are angry about the prices, with Council Officials also calling for bus fares to be lowered.

"Passengers are being ripped off," said Councillor Ryk Downes, Chairman of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority.

"We want to use quality contracts to increase bus use, rather than continuing to see price hikes and service withdrawals."



IT'S NOT FARE: There have been calls for bus companies to lower their fares

photo: Richard Smith

Man charged after Taps fire attack

Lizzie Edmonds

A man has been charged with intent to endanger life and arson after setting alight a student dressed in a sheep costume in a busy Headingley pub.

Jason Whatley, 38, will also face charges of grievous bodily harm and two charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Last October, *Leeds Student* reported how the unnamed, 19 year-old male student was engulfed by flames in the popular Headingley Taps.

He sustained burns that required ongoing hospital treatment after the incident, including a major skin graft operation. Two of his friends were also treated for minor burns.

Witnesses at the scene reported that due to the material of their costumes the trio rapidly went up in flames, turning them into "human torches."

Another witness, Leeds student Sarah Grindal, stated: "There was 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."

Police, fire crews and an ambulance were called to the pub around 5.40pm on Saturday, October 17. Others drinking in the pub attempted to put out the flames as the individuals rolled on the floor.

Bar staff also quickly went to help the students, using fire extinguishers to put out the fires and were commended for their actions.

West Yorkshire Police confirmed that Whatley, from Portsmouth, is due to appear before Leeds Magistrates' Court on Tuesday February 9.

Pressure common place for social venue

Eleanor Hollington

Following a crippling £15,000 fine in September of last year, the future of the social venue The Common Place now looks bleaker than ever as Leeds City Council applies pressure for the payment of the fine's first instalment.

The company that runs The Common Place, a venue which operates as an autonomous, community-driven social centre in the city, was served the fine after losing an appeal against the Council over the revoking of its licence.

Technically operating as a private

members club, the all-inclusive ethos of the venue meant that it has nevertheless always maintained a fairly fluid door policy. At events, alcohol was served to non-members, and there was no formal club committee.

The license was therefore withdrawn in January 2009 on the grounds that its conditions were being violated as The Common Place was operating more as a pub, and not a members club.

The Common Place is in the heart of the city, but nevertheless continues to be one of Leeds' best-kept secrets. To be found round the back of the Corn Exchange, down a street on the far side of the railway

arches, it is a social centre that focuses on radical direct action, serving as a meeting place for environmental groups such as Leeds Friends of the Earth and Climate Camp Yorkshire, and hosting political debate events, such as the fortnightly Café Politique.

It also is a haven for refugees, offering free English lessons, and weekly conversational classes that include a meal. The not-for-profit philosophy means free venue hire, which has made it popular with university students.

In early 2008, students from the university's School of Fine Art used the Common Place to curate an art show for a degree module, while the

student-run club night Let's Be Friends has found a home there since 2007.

As recently as last December, the Leeds University Union (LUU) Feminist Society (FemSoc) hosted a night of live music and poetry there under the terms of the new license.

Events such as these have always managed to keep the volunteer-run venue open independently, despite struggling to pay the rent.

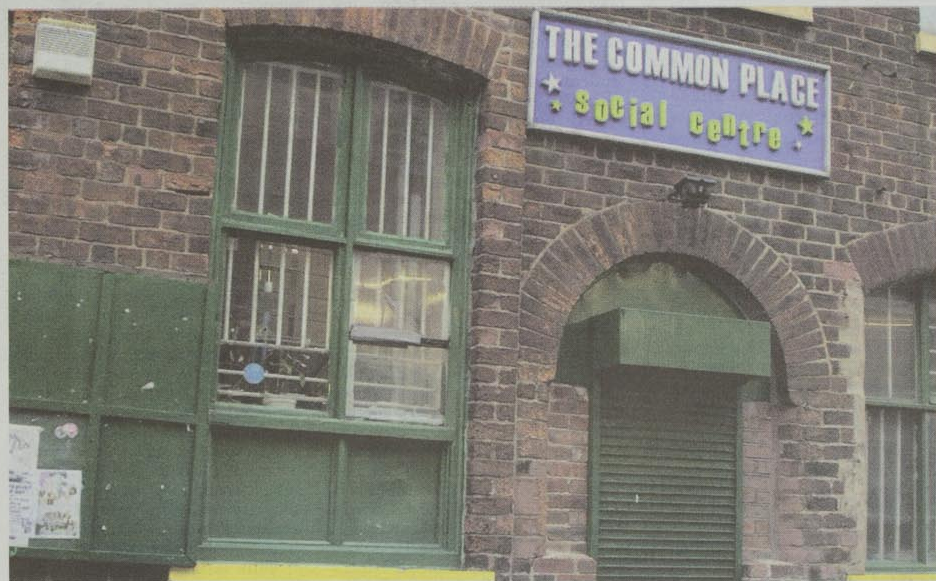
The £15,000 fine, which must be paid before September of this year, would require a 180-degree turn in how the centre is run. The Common Place would effectively have to turn its back on its own ideology and embrace profit-making to stay alive. Faced with this dilemma, it is possible that closure might be the only option.

The loss of The Common Place would be felt very deeply by many people and fringe groups in Leeds. An online petition challenging the revoking of the first license, which exceeded 1,000 signatures, reflected a general feeling that The Common Place holds a uniquely important position in the community. One comment described it as "a vital sanctuary for those who have nowhere else to go."

The dispute comes as the City Council promotes 2010 as the Leeds Year of Volunteering.

A Leeds City Council spokesperson said that the situation was unfortunate but emphasised that The Common Place's community value does not exempt it from the correct operations of the law.

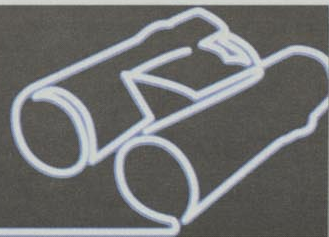
The spokesperson also pointed out that the £15,000 fine is not a punishment, but simply the cost of the Council's legal fees during the appeal process, and therefore a natural consequence of losing the appeal.



FINED: The future of the Common Place Social venue is under threat

photo: Sarah Greene

Campus Watch



Rose van der Zwart

Oxford

A University of Oxford student has been told not to return to his studies this term after allegations that he faked his A-levels to gain a place at the institution.

Pambir Gill, a member of Lady Margaret Hall, claimed to have achieved 10 As at A-level and 14 A*s at GCSE, but interviewers did not realise that these claims were false. Consequently, he gained one of only three places on the economics and management course at the University.

It was later discovered that Gill was also charging prospective Oxbridge students for exclusive coaching sessions, promising them success in interviews and aptitude

tests.

The coaching, offered through the website Sucedo.com, was advertised at £320 for an induction course for Oxbridge applicants, £200 for two 45-minute mock interviews and £950 to accompany applicants to the interview.

When Gill started to show signs of struggling with the work load last term, staff became suspicious.

The college refused to comment, but an Oxford University spokesperson said that fraud cannot be eradicated completely but the interviews and aptitude tests "minimises the risk of fraudulent behaviour going undetected."

A University source also said that as a result, future applicants may have to begin to show evidence of their academic results.

If Gill is found guilty after the two week inquiry, he could face being expelled from the University.

York

A student housing agency is under scrutiny in York after claims that its advertisements were racist and sexist.

Adverts on the APYork website featured properties with 'no all male groups' specified in red under their descriptions. Other adverts stated 'no Chinese' and 'no Chinese or similar' under numerous properties. These descriptions have since been removed.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for students and the Registrar of the University are said to be aware of the situation and that they are looking for "immediate action to remove them [APYork] from campus." It was also stated that the Registrar is "consulting solicitors about what action to take."

When asked to comment on the allegations, a director of the agency

stated "it might be a preference stated by a landlord," and that "in the past we have taken that in to account." He further commented that his company "tries to educate" the landlords, and that advertisements "shouldn't say that."

Adam Bennett, a previous partner in the agency, declared that despite the problems that can occur in obtaining a UK guarantor for foreign students, the University will often act as the guarantor, and consequently, there is "no excuse for dealing with racists".

Southampton

A Southampton student is said to be making signs of recovery after falling from a seventh floor balcony in Mexico.

Philip Pain, who is on a yearlong placement in the country as part of his Latin American degree at the

University of Southampton, fell from the building on New Year's Day, sustaining serious injuries to his organs, legs and lower back.

Doctors warned that he may not improve when woken from his induced coma.

But Pain has begun to come round and can answer questions by mouthing "yes" and "no."

Pain still has no use of his limbs, but medical staff hopes that this may improve with more brain activity.

After the incident, an international campaign was started to appeal for donors of the rare O-negative blood type so that the student could be operated on, and his internal damage assessed.

Doctors say that Pain will soon be able to return to the UK for further treatment.

-Green-

Environmental issues are at the epicentre of many students' political views, and with Green Week drawing to a close, Leeds University Union is leading by example.

With 90 per cent of its waste recycled, electricity consumption down by six per cent, and excellent student led initiatives such as Green Streets, the union never lets the importance of a global responsibility slip far from the student body's collective consciousness.

However, the Union alone will not save the world. As leading climate expert Prof. Andy Gouldson explains, it will take a collective effort to face the climate sceptics and make changes to slow down the "inevitable" threat of climate change.

-Strike-

The decision by Leeds University UCU staff to support strike action is likely to be a defining moment in the history of the University and possibly even for the Higher Education system in this country.

The last time that Leeds UCU members went on strike in 2006 they got the pay rise they wanted. But this time if a strike does take place, staff will be fighting for much more than pay: their jobs are on the line.

Although industrial action is a last resort, it appears that it may well be unavoidable. The UCU are insisting that the University assures them that there will be no compulsory redundancies. The University has repeatedly stated that they cannot make this guarantee in the current economic climate. With neither side willing to budge over this key issue, the UCU's last resort may be it's only option if it wants

But even the best intentions can face problems, as many Bodington based students have found. With First Buses charging extortionate prices, and retaining their monopoly on the Leeds city transport market, the car is becoming the more economically viable option to the far too often cash strapped student.

Idiotic hypocrisy also exists within the doors of Leeds University libraries, where a double-sided printout costs twice as much as the single sided version, providing no financial incentive for students. Recycling bins stand beside the notices informing students of these illogical printing costs, complete with instructions to reduce paper waste.

to get the result it is demanding.

But with Lord Mandelson making it clear that universities will not escape from the squeeze on the public sector as a result of the recession, as inspirational as it may be to see union members on the picket line, it seems unlikely that independent action directed against the University will solve the problem.

If all staff are to have a chance of keeping their jobs, then a united effort by unions across the country directed against the government is required. At the moment this is not happening. But if Leeds UCU members do go on strike, then it may be the catalyst that is required for more widespread united action. If this does happen, it will be hard for the government to ignore such a wave of opposition.

Then again, they do have a record of doing just that.

No seats for you

Pro-Palestinians and Israelis alike would have been extremely disappointed by Ishmael Khaldi, the "Bedouin Arab Muslim" representative of the Israeli government who appeared on campus this week for an event entitled "Why you shouldn't boycott Israel." Not least, because he cut the event short due to the protest that he faced during the event.

The protesters, demonstrating about Israel's massacre in Gaza which killed over 1,300 Palestinians one year ago, ought to be thanked by the event's organisers, as Khaldi in his attempt to persuade the audience that Israel is not a racist state didn't in my view do his cause any favours. He evaded most of the questions asked and talked over students who were explaining their views. His evidence for his assertions rested entirely upon his own experience of climbing the Israeli military career ladder. He accepted that Israel has racist laws, but as an Arab man living in Israel he has been able to work for the Israeli Defence Ministry and get a top job as a diplomat. Why he felt that this alone would be a convincing argument is unclear.

Perhaps he was unaware of the similarity with apartheid that he presented, and indeed the times of the slave trade. In the history of racist colonial regimes, token individuals have always been used to divide the subjugated population as just another method of asserting their power and control. These individuals are rewarded for their loyalty to the oppressor, and in times of extreme hardship this is indeed an understandable reaction, a means of self-protection. Mr Khaldi is no different to these people. He is not a glorious shining example of Israel's belief in equality of all races. If he wasn't working for the Israeli government and helping them to kill Palestinians and trying to convince the world that it isn't really happening, he would be among them having his house demolished or stolen to make room for settlers, or mourning the loss of his family after an Israeli air raid.

Unfortunately for Mr Khaldi, his goal to communicate equality was severely undermined by the behaviour of his security team. One of them, who controlled entry to the lecture theatre, clearly didn't get the message that the

aim of the day was to not be seen to discriminate between attendees. As I stood at the door patiently waiting to be let in, a security guard exited the room making it possible for me to see inside. When I requested entry, a female security guard stood blocking the door, stared at myself and my friend who is of the same race as me, from top to toe and said dismissively that there were no more seats. I explained that I had just seen inside the room and that there were available seats. She insisted that there was not. 30 seconds later, another girl arrived and the security guard let her in immediately. As far as I'm aware, the only difference between this girl and I was the fact that she was Jewish and I am not.

Later a University security guard told us that there was plenty of room inside and said we should be let in, but the female guard still refused. Since we weren't going anywhere, another guard eventually let us into the room. As far as I could see, we were the only people with brown faces who had managed to make it in, which left me wondering how many others had been turned away because the external security team didn't like the look of them, and how many times this might have happened at previous events.

Ishmael Khaldi came to convince people that his government wasn't racist, but his visit caused campus to become analogous to Israel with lecture theatres as its checkpoints where only people his security approved of could enter. How could this be allowed to happen? Visiting groups should not be able to control university buildings and discriminate against students and the role of visiting security on campus must be re-evaluated before this leads to the escalation of racism on campus.

This issue is currently under investigation by the University.

**MA Postgraduate LLM
Mayam Ahmad**

Strike, occupy, transform!

Last Wednesday the University and College Union at the University of Leeds released their strike ballot results. In a record turnout 63.8% voted 'Yes' to strike action and a staggering 78.1% voted 'Yes' to action short of a strike. We welcome the decision of the members of the UCU to support both

strike action and action short of the strike. This is a move towards defending not only the livelihoods of lecturers and support staff, but more significantly the future of education in the UK.

Whilst proponents of this failed economic model claim these cuts are 'necessary', not just in universities but across society as a whole, we understand that it is the economic and political systems that are at fault. We stand together with lecturers and support staff in opposing the cuts and the economic system that demands them. Together we can transform education and help create a different world in the process.

Lecturers and other UCU members cannot struggle against these cuts alone. It is the responsibility of all of us to help fight these cuts. If implemented the governments cuts will have a massively detrimental effect on higher education. Already it is possible that many young people will not be able to enroll on degree programmes next year. These are people are our friends and younger brothers and sisters, what education system awaits them after years of hard work at school? Likewise, what awaits those of us currently in the University system? With record levels of graduate unemployment and spiraling debt it is highly possible that we may end up in low-paid and highly precarious employment conditions.

The crisis the University of Leeds is facing is linked to a wider higher education crisis and growing student movements across the globe. In Europe and the US, movements have sprung up to defend and expand education, with over forty occupations in universities across Europe, as well as hard fought struggles on campuses in New York and California. This higher education crisis is linked to the wider financial crisis currently being felt around the world. At the root of these crises is the same problem: a system that prioritizes profit over people, competition over cooperation and collaboration.

**Really Open University
reallyopenuniversity.org**

Letters may also be posted to PO BOX 157. *Leeds Student* reserves the right to edit letters.

-Taxis-

The persistent problem of unlicensed taxis in Leeds can have devastating effects on the lives of students unlucky enough to get into trouble, and the mass clamp down by Leeds City Council is long overdue.

Targeting those at their most vulnerable, illegal taxis are at best a risky gamble and at worst a dangerous mistake.

Leeds City Council has acknowledged the issue and has subsequently launched a clampdown, prosecuting scores of illegal cab drivers. But how many are still out there?

Horror stories of students being overcharged, threatened or worse are not hard to come by, but unlicensed taxis are almost impossible to trace,

and many reported crimes remain unsolved.

With illegal taxis a recurring threat to student safety, the Union needs to do more to raise awareness and make sure students are educated as to the safe ways to get home.

The move to Leeds provides the first experience of life in a big city to many, and even for those not intoxicated, the lure of a quick ride home can prove irresistible to those unaware of the risks.

It is imperative that students take sufficient steps to assure that the taxi they get in to is legitimate.

The unavoidable problem is, alcohol plus tiredness and necessity to get home equals carelessness and vulnerability.

Government minister visit

Students will have the chance to question a government minister on the UK's policy in Afghanistan, in a Q&A session hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on Thursday 11 February.

Ivan Lewis, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will face questions from students and staff in an event titled "Why are we in Afghanistan?"

The event will take place in the Great Hall at 3pm. Anyone wishing to attend should send an email expressing interest to event organiser Rebecca Messenger at R.Messenger@adm.leeds.ac.uk. The event is likely to last about an hour, and student or staff ID will be required upon entry.

The event represents a rare opportunity to get first hand

information on the UK's political, economic and military strategy in Afghanistan.

Lewis, who has been MP for Bury South since 1997, was famously described as an 'arsehole' by Leeds North-West's very own Greg Mulholland MP - an observation which has unfortunately been enshrined for posterity in Parliamentary record Hansard.

For further information please email R.Messenger@adm.leeds.ac.uk.

Cultural Festival

From Monday, the LUU International Cultural Festival will see an action packed week of activities and events to celebrate and showcase LUU's International groups, bringing together students from home and abroad.

Whether you want to participate in a 'taster yoga Session', learn to speak Swedish or sit down with some popcorn watching Pulp Fiction, there will be something for you to get involved with.

Highlights of the week include the visit of Jon Sopel (BBC News and presenter of 'The Politics Show') questioning if we have moved from a Westminster village to a global village, asking if students are more concerned in international events over domestic affairs. This will be on Friday at 1pm in the LUU Conference Hall.

Other highlights include the third annual International Performance Evening on Friday at 7pm in the Riley Smith Hall as well as a 5 a-side World Cup and Nerball Tournament on Sunday 14th.

For a complete listing of all events going on, please pick up a guide from the Student Union or look at the Union website.

A Convenient Lie?

So we all think we should recycle, reduce our carbon footprint and tax drivers of Land Rovers until their pipes squeak. But, in light of climate change denial, we ask:

Is man-made climate change just a myth?



Yes
Matthew Power



No
Felicity Capon

If I had a pound for every time the science world made a mistake, I'd be sitting on a beach in the Algarve really making the most of this global warming with a multipack of sun-block and a white Magnum.

And let's face it - some of the mistakes made by scientists have been pretty remarkable haven't they? Experts said our lovely round earth was flat, they said smoking was good for you and they claimed that white people were more intelligent than black people. And I am supposed to trust them on this one?

Who says that the idea of Climate Change being man-made isn't just another scientific blunder?

You can throw all the statistics and bar-charts in the world at me; the idea that global warming is man-made is a hypothesis endorsed by depressant hippies who will always seek to find faults with humanity. It's just their way.

It amazes me that the greens are so quick to attack mainstream politics and yet they embrace mainstream science without as much as a thought. Because let's face it, even if every nation in the world lowered their carbon emissions to their desired target, where are the tree huggers going to meet up for a fight and a sing song? They love the concept of man-made climate change; it gives them a warm feeling inside.

We'll all be long dead when our great grandchildren are laughing at our stupidity, sitting on the Costa del Leeds with a glass of Pimm's and a peeling nose.

We all love the term 'experts' and 'scientists' but can someone tell me what that means? Are we really putting all our hopes on groups of academics who are paid to tell their clients what they want to hear?

Scientists and academics cannot agree amongst themselves about what is happening to our planet. Climate change has more models than London fashion week.

The leaked East Anglian University emails show that something just isn't right and it is very possible that scientists are manipulating data to suit their employers.

How can they expect me to believe that we are responsible for global warming when they are busy arguing amongst themselves over when the polar ice caps will melt?

I'm siding with scientists such as

Dennis Avery and Fred Singer who believe the warming of our planet is part of a 1,500 year cycle. Temperatures change as often as every decade, and 'experts' do not really know why. Only last month American researchers published work looking into the effect of water vapour high in the atmosphere on global temperatures. It had more of an impact than they previously thought.

This demonstrates the continuous studies that are dismissing past observations of our naive experts. Who is to say the notion of man-made climate change won't be dismissed in 20 years time?

And what about cows? Their farts are a bigger contributor to climate change than me not recycling my newspaper or having a bottle of water is.

Why do we feel that we are so important on this planet when we are a tiny factor in a much bigger picture? We would have blamed ourselves for the ice-age if we were knocking about. It is no more than anthropocentric to believe that we have such power over Mother Nature that we can alter its path. There will always be natural disasters - everyone seems to be so shocked about them nowadays.

The climate change debate will roll on and on because scientists and the greens love getting together once and a while for a bit of a protest. You won't pull the wool over my eyes.

We'll blow ourselves up before it gets too hot for us to handle; I'm keeping an eye on those Iranians personally.

Now let's crack open a beer and enjoy the impending improvement in the weather. Just let Mother Nature play her game.

God won't let us destroy our own planet - it took him six whole days to make this baby.

Results from last week's poll:

Should we lament

the death of ideology in politics?

Yes: 45%

No: 55%

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

Illustration: Becky Jones



Global warming is NOT a myth. If you believe it is, you also believe that simple physics is incorrect. What is more, you are a grossly negligent, irresponsible and supremely unintelligent human being. Let your education begin.

First, what the sceptics say. Global warming sceptics have argued that since 1998, the temperature records of the earth have shown no increase. They have also argued that the earth has been warmer in the recent past and that we simply do not have, and have not had the correct apparatus to make reliable judgements on this issue. There are arguments that global warming is a natural occurrence which is dictated by natural variations in the sun's magnetic field and solar winds, and lastly, my personal favourite, that CO₂ is largely unimportant. Water vapour is the major greenhouse gas, not CO₂, and has shown no signs of adversely affecting our climate.

Ah yes, water vapour. Let's start with that. Wouldn't it be lovely to imagine that this friendly little greenhouse gas is innocently accountable for all the panic over global warming? Wouldn't it be so much easier to believe that 98% of the

warming process is due to water vapour and that our contribution to the earth's temperature in CO₂ or methane levels would therefore have little, if any impact on the warming process? Oh and by the by, it doesn't even matter if water vapour levels are on the rise because it is a simple case of how the water vapour is distributed that affects the warming process. Well as nice as it sounds, it ain't true. Firstly water vapour only accounts for under half of the total warming process; the rest is CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. And since the industrial revolution, mankind has pushed up CO₂ emissions by 30%. Simple climatology states that a rise in CO₂ leads to a rise in the temperature of the earth, and this temperature increase boosts water vapour levels, which seriously affects the warming process. So unfortunately, physics and history are simply not on your side if you refuse to believe in global warming. And I reckon that's cause enough for a rethink.

The problem with sceptics, (and there are many, probably the most interesting being that they all at one point in their life have been or will be committed to a lunatic asylum) is that they

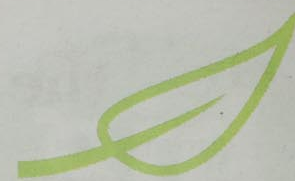
pick and choose their facts. For example, 1998 was the hottest year on record, and since then temperatures have never got as hot. But 1998 was a truly phenomenal year, caused by the El Niño southern oscillation, the phenomenon by which the Pacific Ocean flips between warmer and cooler states every few years. Therefore taking the subsequent years since the hottest year of the millennium as proof that the earth is cooling is grossly misleading, if not cheating. Had the sceptics picked 1997 or 1999 the results would still have displayed a sharp rise. What is more, climatologists announced in 2009 that the world was entering a new El Niño warm spell. A future episode could be expected to create a spike of equivalent magnitude on top of an even higher baseline, thus shattering the 1998 record. Bob Henson, of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, said: "To claim that global temperatures have cooled since 1998 and therefore that man-made climate change isn't happening is a bit like saying spring has gone away when you have a mild week after a scorching Easter."

Unfortunately, other arguments such as global warming being explained merely as the climate responding to variations in solar activities or attempts to claim that we have not had the appropriate apparatus to measure climate change simply don't wash. There has been no positive incline in any solar index since 1960, so the sun's activity cannot bear any responsibility for climate change. And although historical data may not be as complete as the sceptics want it to be, it has been collected since the late eighteenth century and is therefore complete enough to be able to draw strong conclusions.

Global warming is happening. It's easy to deny it because we love our polluting cars and hate having to sort our plastics from our papers, and because the view from our windows does not exactly represent a scene from *The Day After Tomorrow*. And maybe I'm just being cynical but I reckon deep down the prospect of the UK with a Mediterranean climate is secretly appealing, (despite it being at the expense of more flooding in Bangladesh and worsening droughts in Africa.) Whatever the reason for denying climate change (conspiracy to get us to pay higher taxes, anyone?), isn't it time to put the debate aside and reverse climate change, just in case it turns out that the sceptics got it wrong? Surely what's at stake is too valuable to risk not doing anything, and in reality, doing something isn't really that hard.

Your money or your planet

Can a green agenda and economic growth ever go hand in hand? Failure at Copenhagen, and our own lifestyles, suggest not



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What is more important, money, or the future of our planet? Apparently we can't have both. According to a recent report from the New Economics Foundation think tank, if we continue to strive for economic growth, then the prospects for future and sustained ecological survival are bleak; instead of celebrating our current, admittedly modest, economic recovery, we should in fact be lamenting the environmental impact of our culture of greed.

However, before we start mourning the inevitable loss of our planet, the Adam Smith

Institute, in reaction to this report, gives us a very different, antithetical message; that this very economic growth is helping to reduce inequality, whilst improving living and environmental standards across the world. According to Tom Clougherty, the executive director of the Adam Smith Institute, the NEF report simply shows that they "want us to be poorer and to lead more restricted lives for the sake of their faddish beliefs."

How very confusing. We are faced with a pretty impossible dilemma then. Either we continue to embrace economic growth and potentially push our planet past the point of no return, or we try and reverse our economic assumption that bigger is better, rejecting the positive effects of economic development whilst dramatically changing our lifestyles and the way that we interact.

Your money or your planet; are you sure that we can't have both?

Here we are clearly presented with two extreme points of view, based around differing perspectives of the free market in relation to the environment. Yet this conflict of opinion highlights an interesting question; are we willing to go further than our recycle bins to combat climate change? As a society, there seems to be a massive void between what we idealistically believe should be done about the environment, and what we are actually willing to do. 'Green issues' have become a political cliché, attempting to represent a modern environmentally aware society. Yet in reality, our

attitude is encapsulated by Mr Cameron's green actions, cycling to work, but only with our car following slightly behind. Middle class guilt may mean that we make sure that we buy fair-trade products, or that we remember not to keep our televisions on standby, but alongside these minute gestures, we are not willing to change our material and societal aspirations for wealth. Our lifestyle choices, which drive economic

Our lifestyle choices are incompatible with our idealistic green views

growth, are incompatible with our idealistic green views. We simply don't care as much as we should, or as much as we think we ought to. We know that the environment is paying for our consumption, yet society's greed does not align with any sort of radical green agenda as forwarded by the NEF.

And they aren't even that radical. Ultra

radical Deep ecologists for example, suggest that to protect our planet, we need to not only reverse the trend of an ever-growing economy, but should reverse the trend of an ever growing human race. If we weren't already uncertain about parting with our money, our lives seems like a pretty big leap.

It's not that our human nature makes us inherently greedy and selfish, or that we want to forward an environmentally damaging agenda, it just seems that our environmental consciousness is wholly paradoxical. Maybe the mammoth task of saving our environment is simply too overwhelming for an individual to attempt to conquer on their own - do we need proper legislative measures imposed from above, like countries and their carbon emission targets? Or is it almost better to leave the recycle bin empty, before we are drawn into trading in our cars and setting up self-sufficient communes in our gardens. Radical approaches just won't become reality, even though we know that if we are really going to take tackling climate change seriously, we need to go further than we are at the moment.

We care about the future of our planet, and any small-scale individual efforts to help combat growing environmental issues will clearly have some sort of positive effect, but a radical breakthrough, either socially or politically, in the way that we deal with these issues is not close at hand. Copenhagen showed us that, and so does the fact that we don't seem willing to reject economic growth any time soon.

Are we willing to go beyond our recycle bins to combat climate change

Kicking the bottle

LUU's ban on bottled water is coming into force, a rare victory for the Green agenda and an even rarer one for Union democracy



Hannah Greenslade
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This week, we sold our last ever bottles of water in our shops at LUU. This step to remove one of our previously highest selling products is surely a massive testament to the social consciousness of our students, and to our democratic values. When students from People and Planet society put this motion to referendum in November 2008 we were doubtful that the idea would be popular enough to pass but we needn't have worried. It passed with a massive 2701 'yes' votes. It seems that students had the same realisation as us, that water should be free.

This motion is, perhaps, the most significant in recent years in terms of tangible effect. It was a perfect example of an issue both large and controversial enough to be considered by cross-campus ballot. The action required to implement the motion have required dedication from staff who should be thanked for the effort they have put into implementing the change (Jackie Berry and Kevin Hogarth in particular).

However the fact that this motion stands

out in our minds is also indicative of the passive nature of the student body. So rarely does debate extend past the political élite (hacks) or those with the time or inclination to engage, that factionalism rules supreme. Union Council has no basis in genuine representation and has become a breeding ground for ego and unpleasantness, culminating recently in the boycott by seven of its members. This action has made the current democratic review process all the more pertinent.

The review is looking to replace Union Council with three monthly forums ('Better Union', 'Better Uni' and 'Better Leeds') to which any student could submit a proposal or be asked to be part of the student panel, which decides on the outcome. (read more about these ideas and comment here: <http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/ne>

A dig at runaway capitalism right here in our Union

[ws/article/6314/808/](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/ne/ws/article/6314/808/))

It is vital that we undertake these reforms now, particularly as we enter difficult times with regards University cuts; it is fundamental that we have the structures in place to deal with difficult issues so that everyone feels represented.

But what about the wider impact of the bottled water ban? The biggest consequence reaches way beyond the union building. We are actively tackling one of the most needlessly environmentally destructive products available. The amount of oil used in the production of PET plastic for the bottles and in transportation across the world is vast. Another under-publicised fact is that the production of a bottle of mineral water requires 10 times that amount in ordinary mains water. In a world where water is in short supply and the extraction of oil is devastating communities, this is mad. The most pertinent point about this issue is the needless production and marketisation of a freely available product. We are spun stories about the health benefits of mineral water in comparison to tap, conned into parting with our hard earned cash to buy it. Maybe next, Coca-Cola will attempt to sell us oxygen? For me, this isn't an altruistic move to care for the ice-caps; it's a rejection of a culture of buying stuff. A dig at runaway capitalism right here in our building, brilliant.

Bottle ban: the facts

In Green Week 2009, we installed water fountains and began to sell the reusable bottles which you now see in the shops. The results have been really encouraging, especially as this was before we stopped the sale of bottled water. LUU sales figures tell the story:

*** Between August and November 2009 sales of bottled water were down 22% on the previous year. That equates to 105 fewer bottles per day.**

*** When converting the bottles into litres consumed, we sold 26,345 litres of still water between August & November 2008 compared to 20,655 litres between August & November 2009. (A reduction of 5,690 litres)**

*** The amount of free still water dispensed from the water coolers between August & November 2009 was 11,654 litres.**

*** There has been an increase of 20% in the amount of water consumed by students between August & November 2009 - they are more hydrated!**

*** 35% of all still water consumed by students in the Union between August & November 2009 Union came free & via the water coolers**

*** Not selling bottled water at LUU will mean saving 632,433 litres of water, place 146,365 fewer plastic bottles in landfill sites and save 22,587 litres of oil every year.**

The final countdown

New Economics Foundation warned we had only 100 months to save the planet from climate meltdown - quite some time ago



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Starting the decade – only a few weeks ago – it crossed my mind that quite some time had passed since a rather stark declaration had been made. This declaration, made by the New Economics Foundation, stated that there remained only One Hundred Months left to save the planet.

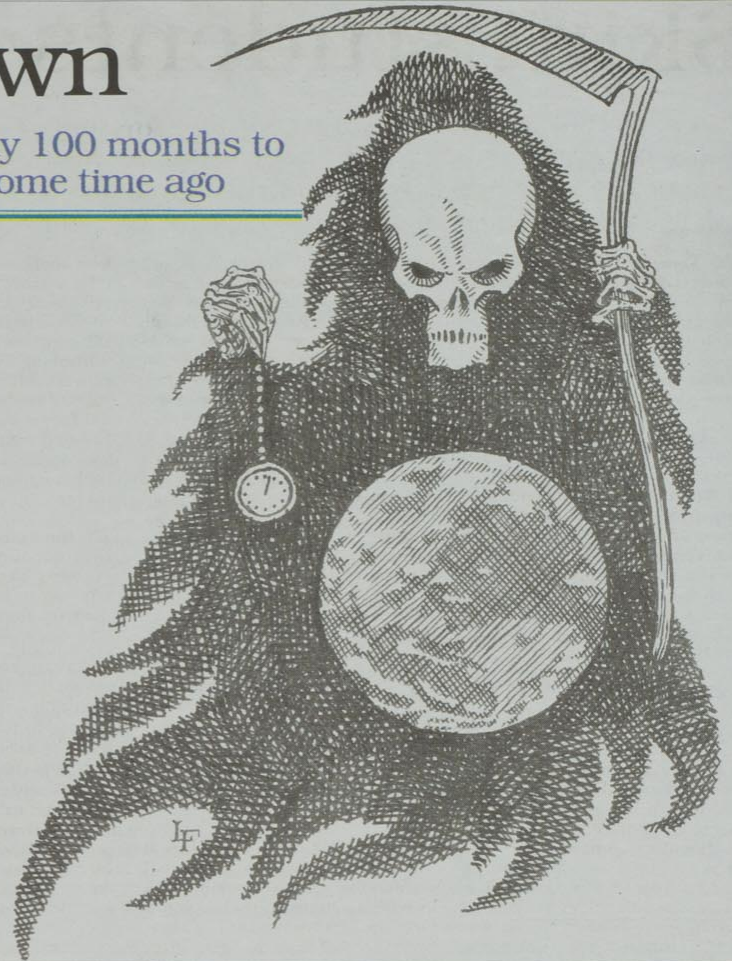
This declaration laid out a time limit for averting a terminal spiral of decline – these One Hundred Months were all we had to avoid reaching an irreversible ‘tipping point’. When we consider the seemingly vast and endless array of great green challenges staring our generation in the face – and when we try to answer the big question of ‘what is to be done?’ – it ought to be remembered that the setting of targets and timeframes is a fairly imprecise science based on quite uncertain projections.

Three years of studying in the School of Earth and Environment here at the University of Leeds have led me to the realisation that the level of uncertainty about the future is fairly massive. Navigating toward reaching what is an unforeseeable

destination would therefore be near enough impossible, given the complexity and unpredictability of the issues involved. Even in the face of uncertainty we still must try to chart a adaptive and nuanced course in order to deal with all sorts of ‘known unknowns’ and ‘unknown unknowns’ as it is often put. Timeframes such as the One Hundred Months campaign are good ways of helping individual citizens relate to the global issue – an embodiment of one of the core tenets of sustainable development, the notion of ‘thinking global – acting local’, not just in relation to location but also with regard to time.

We all know that the green bandwagon is supposed to head toward the general direction of a ‘sustainable future’ – but there is no singularly quantifiable point at which we can say that we have successfully arrived. Even as this special edition of Leeds Student contributes to that worthwhile aim of raising awareness and trying to increase engagement in respect of these worthy causes, it is difficult to imagine that there are many people who fail to understand the gravity of the environmental challenge – or at least comprehend some of the social and economic issues which tie-in in various ways.

We have now only 82 months to go for drastic and radical action to be taken to avoid the dreaded ‘tipping point’ of no return.



Why Blair will never say sorry

Hopes for repentance or punishment from the Chilcot Inquiry will be frustrated: Blair is deluded and the Inquiry spineless



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I woke up with good intentions last Friday morning - Blair appearing at the Chilcot Inquiry, 10 o'clock; but four hours later, I had to give up. Where was this going? This inquiry is a PR exercise that seeks the intangible goals of ‘learning lessons’ and ‘improving processes.’ We know what happened, and we know that there is no way Blair could be held accountable for ‘war crimes’ under the legal definition, yet the public seem to be waiting for some admission of guilt, some sense of closure that seems unlikely to arrive.

What we can draw from Blair’s appearance is that he is the only person in Britain who does not seek this closure. Those hoping for an emotive apology, some sense of regret, must have been bitterly disappointed. The public have overlooked the fact that from 9/11 onwards, Blair switched from adoration-seeking spinner-in-chief to a ‘Conviction Politician.’ He is not a malicious war-mongering demon, but a zealot, so sure he was doing the right thing that mere facts must not stand in his way.

Throughout the Hutton Inquiry, and with his remorseless transparency hitting its peak last week, Blair and Campbell have barely concealed their stretching of the facts during that September. If the charge is fitting the ‘evidence’ to the policy, rather than the other way round, they came close to admitting guilt. Although loath to use the term ‘sexed up,’ and technically cleared of blatant lying, we can safely assume that there

Blair is a zealot, so sure he was doing the right thing that mere facts won't stand in his way

was embellishment to serve a policy that was probably decided on September 12th 2001, as Blair rushed to stand ‘shoulder to shoulder’ with Bush. He must have been the least surprised person in Britain when no weapons were found, having spent months elaborating on what was little more than second hand whispers from a Baghdad taxi driver.

Weapons of mass destruction were a convenient excuse for Blair’s real agenda- unconditional support for America’s determination to rid the world of Saddam, a former friend of the West (we supplied the arms he fought Iran with), who was now out of control. Therefore his main line of defence is the ‘2010 question,’ the ‘what ifs’ of Saddam Hussein remaining in power. Many, including weapons inspector Hans Blix, think he would have been contained or, more likely, have been overthrown by his own people. Pity we can’t ask the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who have died since 2003.

Blair’s six-hour appearance before the Inquiry has exposed two things, neither of which will satisfy the public. Firstly, Blair was and always will be a believer in interventionist foreign policy. And arguably, following his work in Sierra Leone and Kosovo, why wouldn’t he be? Before Iraq, he was hailed as a hero for his democratizing tendencies. He has always seen delivering liberal democracy as an

antidote to extremism, and it is this perception of the world that has left him so convinced of his own rightness, so indifferent to a national need for repentance.

Secondly, Blair divulged his own weakness in negotiating with America. He admitted that he had talked to Bush about the Palestinian peace process, encouraged him to cease co-operation with Israel in order to improve relations with the region, and yet he failed to utilise his chief bargaining tool by committing military aid at such an early stage. Blair was left ‘disappointed’ by Bush’s reluctance to act on his wishes. The one positive thing that could have come out of the invasion of Iraq – namely America finally committing to peace in the Middle East – was lost within weeks.

Unfortunately, Chilcot is not looking to condemn anyone, and the public will ultimately be unsatisfied. It is naive to expect some sort of repentance for ‘bending the rules’ when Blair staunchly believes that he had to make a decision based on what he thought was right, the facts relegated to an inconvenience and off-loaded onto ‘king of spin’ Campbell. Perhaps rather than pouring money into inquiries that will only be celebrated if they manage to extract the impossible apology of a self-styled crusader for righteousness, we should concentrate our efforts on repairing the damage that his convictions have caused.

Skint students seek alternatives

With some students still waiting for their student loans, *Leeds Student* met with Oliver Holt of Toothfairy Finance, a new kind of loan company offering four-week or "bridging" loans. We were given access to the Toothfairy loan system, processes and communications to help us better understand what was on offer. With students vulnerable to financial difficulties, we asked Mr Holt whether he thought it was appropriate for his company to be actively seeking them out as customers.

Leeds Student: Explain why your product is designed for students.

Oliver Holt: We offer a short term bridging loan product, specifically designed for students, to help with temporary short falls of cash, which usually occur when waiting for student loan or parental contribution to come through. This is available credited to your account in 10 minutes, online or by text.

LS: Why do you think that Chris Tapp from debt charity Credit Action advised students not to touch Toothfairy with a barge pole?

OH: This surprises us. We provide a two to four week bridging facility which is massively cheaper than unauthorised borrowing from a high street bank. We identified this as a need and created a special product that we believe is well suited to this student need.

LS: You say this is a product needed by students. Students, however, don't have full time jobs. Why do you believe short-term loans to be appropriate for people with irregular incomes?

OH: A bridging loan tides you over from when your funds go out to when your next income comes in. Student loans only come through every quarter and therefore if the student has a shortfall, this helps bridge that gap without incurring the penalty charges levied by say the high street banks. And that is the point of this loan. As a bridging loan, it is a short-term solution - two to four weeks, that's it.

LS: But do you appreciate that not all students are able to get part-time jobs or have parents who contribute, further they are not financially aware. Is it not irresponsible to lend to those students?

OH: This is a convenient and transparent product to bridge a funding gap, be that student loan, parents or wage cheques. Students are the best and the brightest of their generation. They are the most educated; they are the most responsible. They research dissertations, what university to go to, what course to do, a wide variety of things. Students are aware, when taking out our loans, of the terms and conditions that are associated with that, and competent to make a decision as to what best meets their needs. We pride ourselves on the clarity and transparency of our pricing. Unlike a high street bank, we will not charge you £15 to £20 for a reminder letter / email, unlike some high street banks we will not charge you £5 a day if you are overdrawn for unauthorised borrowing. The premise on which the company was built was clear and based on transparent pricing and using new technology to deliver this quickly and conveniently.

LS: The problem seems to lie when students take out these loans with you and their student loans don't come in time to enable them to make the repayments.

OH: We recognise the problem this has caused students and have allowed

extra extensions on their loans, not taken legal proceedings nor put marks on credit reports in these cases. You cannot hold us responsible for the late payments of student loans but we do understand. Students will have a cash requirement during this short fall. There are a number of ways for a student to bridge that: a job, parental help or third-party borrowing. If they are already maxed out at the bank then it becomes very difficult, expensive and dangerous to borrow any more from them. We're one of a number of ways of filling that gap. They can go to their university's emergency fund or negotiate with the bank, but all of these things take time. They can apply to us which is quick and easy. And the key thing here is about it being transparent. You know what you are getting yourself into, no hidden charges, transaction charges or arrangement fees - one simple headline figure.

LS: What percentage of your customers are students?

OH: The vast majority are. It is a student product.

LS: If you had a son or daughter at university, would you feel comfortable with them taking out a loan from a company such as yours.

OH: Yes, for a brief period. For a brief period it makes economic sense. In the long term it is expensive. Imagine if you did unauthorised borrowing from a high street bank. You would receive a letter from the bank that would cost about £20 and that is before you have even started. You will then, depending on the bank, get charged £5 per day for unauthorised borrowing. Furthermore, they will register a mark on your credit report as someone who borrows and had failed to repay, which can last six years affecting future employment, borrowing etc. If you come to us then you will know exactly what you are paying, and be constantly reminded how much you owe and when you have got to pay; to help you keep on top and manage your debt, all completely free. By way of example, when you take out the loan you immediately get an email and an SMS telling you the loan has arrived, then the day before you are due to repay you get another email and SMS automatically reminding you, and then if you miss your payment you get another email and SMS telling you not to forget to pay it and when it is due and so on. So you get a constant stream of reminder emails and messages to keep you in control.

LS: So anyone who says they haven't received reminders or haven't been able to contact you isn't telling the truth?

OH: Yes, as I have shown you, it is simply not possible. The lady on the television would have had to have taken the loan out for 67 weeks, been 33 times overdrawn and received over 70 automated correspondences.

LS: Are you suggesting that she was lying?

OH: Yes. There is no ambiguity over this.

LS: What is your process for vetting

loan applicants?

OH: As I have shown you, we perform very detailed credit checks using three sources. It all flows automatically through the system. It is called 'scrubbing', where you compare a person's details against the profile that you are looking for. Fully automated this happens sub-second. We have to loan responsibly as we have to recover the money. Unlike the high street banks we are not subsidised by the taxpayer!

LS: But a credit check doesn't take into account whether or not a student has a part-time job or whether or not their parents help them out financially.

OH: No, so we have to be even more careful and look at their history e.g. mobile phones, insurance, credit card etc. This is designed as a quick and automated service based on sophisticated credit profiling.

LS: Why is it in your interest to specifically target students when they are in a more vulnerable financial situation than other groups in society?

OH: Because students have this need, we are catering for that need. We are confident that Students will repay as they are a responsible and educated customer. Don't you think it is slightly insulting to students to say they cannot understand the options available to them and the simple pricing of this product?

LS: But why are the interest rates so high if you are catering for a student need?

OH: Good question. If you go online for a credit check this will cost you £15 before you start. Of course we don't pay that rate, because we do thousands of these, but to loan responsibly we still have to credit check all our applicants which costs money. We have to administer all the funding, emails and SMSs which costs money and we do have to make a little profit as well. We are a commercial organisation and we are not subsidised by the tax-payer.

LS: Can you tell us how much profit you make seeing as the interest rate is so high?

OH: As a start-up we are still recovering the investment in our systems which make this possible.

LS: What percentage of your customers are unable to repay their loans?

OH: The percentage of 'bad debt' is extremely low. We're talking easily less than 10 per cent, because people understand what they are borrowing and pay it back. This is a useful service. There are thousands of people who sensibly use us on a regular basis to help smooth blips in their cash flow.

LS: If a student did find themselves unable to make their repayments, what would you advise them to do?

OH: The most important thing, and why we agreed to this interview is to advise students NOT TO BURY THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND. If they are having problems repaying then

contact your lender, explain your situation and then things don't spiral out of control. The minute that a lender doesn't hear from somebody then they start to get nervous and that is when the loan is typically escalated and passed to loan recovery agents or solicitors. If you stay in contact with Toothfairy then your loan will not get passed to solicitors or debt collectors. We attempt to understand the situation that students are in, that is why we invented the product.

LS: How can students who are having difficulties making repayments contact you?

OH: Phone us, email us, SMS us, fax us.

LS: You say customers experiencing repayment difficulties should phone you, but at the beginning of December I rang the number on the website leaving a message. On your answer-phone it says that you will return messages within five minutes. It is now February and I am yet to receive a phone call from Toothfairy. Why did no one get back to me?

OH: I can only apologise for that. It is highly unusual as we have complete monitoring systems. I will look into that.

LS: Northern Debt Recovery Limited is the debt recovery company that you employ to use against those customers who are still defaulting on their repayments 56 days after they were originally due. According to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT)'s Public Register the license was applied for by a director with the same name as Toothfairy Finance. How do you justify this on a moral basis? Is there not a conflict of interests there?

OH: The name you see is a third party industry advisor working for several companies, this is not uncommon. This is typical of the problems of consumer forums which take a largely irrelevant fact and pretend that this means you don't have to pay! These forums are dangerous as they offer poorly researched pseudo legal advice with no recourse to themselves, which inevitably lead to consumers "trying it on", and incurring extra charges when this turns out to be irrelevant. If you have concerns, approach reputable organisations such as the Citizens Advice. It would, however, be naive to assume organisations would lend vast sums of money without the necessary due diligence.

LS: Should Toothfairy not give students advice before lending to them?

OH: Interestingly enough, we wrote to Chris Tapp to ask him if we could use the series of budgeting tools he produces to post on our website and ask if we could put a link into his website so borrowers could seek his advice, but we have had no response.

LS: Maybe because he says that Toothfairy shouldn't be touched with a barge pole?

OH: I think he is confusing us with the high street banks and their hidden charges. We price transparently, are cheaper than the high street banks and we remind people on a very regular basis when they need to repay and how much they need to repay. I wouldn't mind if the high street banks were doing this as well, but we're several levels clearer than them. FACT. The lean of your questions insists that students are being taken advantage of and don't understand basic financial products. Doesn't it surprise you that an audience that has researched so much is unable to Google and compare loans products available to them? Students are able to research the financial structure, social implications and impact of the Marshall plan after the Second World War, but not able to put into Google 'My student loan has run out. What should I do?' If you do that then you will get a list of advice sites as well as us.

LS: Lastly, can you tell me whether Toothfairy advertises on Facebook?

OH: Yes we do.

LS: Do you advertise on Facebook under the slogan, 'money all students are entitled to'?

OH: We run a series of advertisements designed to encourage students to research our product further.

In issue 9 we made a number of statements in our article which may have misled our readers. Having discussed these with a representative of Toothfairy Finance, we would like to make the following corrections:

• Toothfairy have evidenced to us that they are fully regulated by the OFT and hold a valid consumer credit license.

• Toothfairy confirm that their loan contract is fully compliant with and enforceable under the Consumer Credit Act

• Toothfairy have shown us extracts from their integrated credit checking system which they have demonstrated performs credit checks sub-second across hundreds of fields helping ensure responsible lending.

• Toothfairy have shown us that they have an automated correspondence system with lenders of which we have seen some examples including reminders

• Toothfairy have stated that their website and the automated correspondence system are intended to ensure that customers are informed of the banking details and charges in a transparent manner to facilitate easy repayment.

• Toothfairy state that all their correspondence is reviewed by Trading Standards with a view to making it as clear, non confrontational and as professional as possible.

Students at the University of Leeds who are experiencing financial difficulties may be eligible for an Access to Learning Fund (ALF) bursary from the University. To apply contact Financial Aid in Central Student Administration on 0113 343 2007, or visit: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/studentservice/centres/financial_admin/alf.htm.

For further help and advice on financial issues students can visit the Student Advice Centre upstairs in the Union.

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LS
2

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photo: Richard Smith
Reel Big Fish, 26/01/10
turn to LS2 page 9 for full review

...that make recycling
easy.

Most people seem to associate recycling with a lot of effort, when actually it's not! For the ridiculously lazy amongst you, here are five really, really easy ways to do your bit:

1

Google less

Did you know that every time you search something on Google, you use about 7g of carbon dioxide, which is roughly the same amount of energy as boiling half a kettle full of water? Because Google is made up of such big computers to search through the whole internet and give you the superfast results it's always showing off about, it uses up a lot of energy. So rather than just writing 'Facebook' in your search bar and clicking on the link in Google, bookmark Facebook and it'll never be more than a click away, saving you precious seconds that you can spend boggling at last night's photos, and you'll have taken a small step towards us all living a few more years and having more time to continue amusing each other with drunken antics.

2

Go out less

Well, bone up about nights out. Studies show that the UK uses about 10.2 million tonnes of paper a year and given the massive pile of club leaflets stacked up in the corner of all our rooms, our clubbing habits have got to be contributing a fair bit to that. This illustrates a clear link between organisation and saving the environment – just plan where you're going the night beforehand and don't be tempted by the offers. Stop feeling bad about the people giving them out standing in the cold, they're the one who chose to take the job and don't take flyers you're not going to use. Or, don't swot up and just recycle them!

3

Go to the gym less

A special treat for the laziest out there. The average gym treadmill apparently gives out 5kg of CO₂ per year – the equivalent of driving 19 miles, and that's not including the energy lights, air conditioning and things to entertain us while running give out – so why bother? This will also save you money and guilt about not joining the gym, so really it's a win-win situation. But if you are still feeling the chub, running around the park will sort you out nicely. As students are known as classic fit freaks, I'm sure all the energy saved by less gym usage will change the climate soon enough that there'll even be nice weather to go jogging in.

4

Eat more

According to lovefoodhatewaste.com you can save up to £50 by 'managing' your food properly – turns out only 'use by' labels refer to food that actually goes off after the date specified, 'best before' is merely warnings about how old the food is and 'sell by' is only for the shop, not the person who buys the food. The website advises keeping tabs on what food goes off when to maximise the choice you have of what to eat, as well as freezing meat and extra portions of bigger dishes you cook and using it at a later date. Which all means you'll buy less food, having had it sitting in the fridge for two weeks, and save on packaging while you're doing it. Result!

5

Swap clothes with your friends

If you've followed these steps to the last word you'll probably be a bit of a fat hippy by this point, so why not get some friends back by inviting them round to wear your clothes? Weird? Not so much actually. If you're bored with your wardrobe, instead of binning it all and starting again, just borrow your friends clothes for a night out, or organise an evening where you all swap old clothes you never wear anyway. Given that we all pick our friends for their acute sense of style, you should end up with some real gems. These are actually meant to be a lot of fun, and one for the budget conscious too. Recycling clothes saves energy that would come from the transportation and particularly the dyeing and colour fixing processes applied to new, raw cloth when we all go out and buy the same new top from Topshop.

Clearly the world's environment is a pressing issue, but unfortunately the main reason for its coming to such prominence is because, let's face it, it sells. 'Eco-bling' is the new, grotesquely irritating, soundbite environmental campaigners have come up with to describe the shallow way in which people now express their dedication to the preservation of the planet. The given example is wind turbines that sit on the rooftops of middle class households, which although sending out a good message, are about as effective for generating electricity as a windmill on a crazy golf course.

However, one only needs to look around in a supermarket to note the sheer number of products now purporting to be good for the environment. Green now makes up the dominant colour on the packaging of items that we know for a fact are wasteful. We know mother earth is pleading for us to not buy anything at all, but that's no fun. Instead schemes such as carbon offsetting now waive the guilt the consumer is forced to feel for buying too many mangoes during winter, driving to the gym or throwing away a ripe banana "because it's all brown and icky now".

Last night I watched the classic Godard film *Breathless (A Bout Le Souffle)* and it made me think a bit about this issue. Anyone who has seen it will know that it has nothing whatsoever to do with the environment. Instead it follows car thief Michel around Paris as he tries to pick up girls while casually dodging the police, having carelessly killed a cop early on in the film.

The character of Michel is imbued with a cool nonchalance that reverberates off the screen to this day but, as with many of the iconic characters these chronicles of crime centre around, cool can only get you so far and with the final death scene the nonchalant visage disappears to reveal only human weakness. The ending of *Breathless* is no different.

What does this have to do with the environment, you might ask? Well, I worry. I worry that people today can still approach environmental issues with a similar nonchalance and cynicism to that Michel has towards his life of crime in Paris.

It stuns me that still some people think that global warming does not exist, that it is a ploy invented by the government to take

Patio heaters in particular have come to the attention of environmental campaigners, but a spokesperson for a producer responded that a patio heater only leaves the same carbon footprint as a goose. This reminds me of that other uselessly constructed statistic, that you are more likely to die from horse riding than taking ecstasy. True perhaps, but now fucking what? Perhaps, rather than offering to plant a tree every time we buy something bad, manufacturers can offer to murder some poultry. For something minor, like not putting a piece of paper in the recycling, we could just stamp on a mouse.

Of course, to offset the carbon for bigger things, like leaving your private jet on standby while you go shopping for 4x4s, you would have to organize the mass culling of badgers, or castrate an elephant. Looking back over the history of extinction, this isn't at all far from the realms of possibility.

In reality, carbon offsetting just covers up the fact that the best thing anyone can do for the planet is kill themselves.



Toby



Will

Going UP

Laziness
Now exams are finished, we can go back to doing what we we're here for: nothing.

Malt Loaf
The foodstuff of gods!

Leeds Student Editor Elections
Things are heating up! Are they? No, not so much.

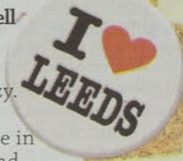
Going DOWN

Geese
At the rate we're going there won't be many left by the time Copenhagen sorts its shit out.

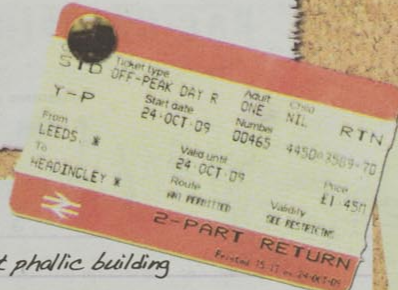
Bottled water
Millions of people die of thirst because they can't reach clean drinking water. We have it on tap yet we still insist on getting it imported from Fiji. If you love it so much just move to Fiji.

Joggers
New years resolution? Ha! You're getting it in next week's indiscriminate rant.

Will Coldwell

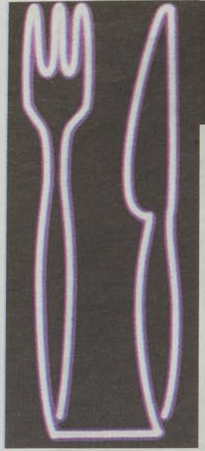


Toby Ginsberg



Overheards:

- "It looks like purple sperm is coming out of the most phallic building on campus"
- "It was nearly spring and then February said 'I'm still winter as well y'know'"
- "Yeah it's a lovely dog, it's a lovely dog, it's a lovely dog"
- "Sweets are better for you than fruit juice"



Food

This weeks' recipe in accord with the LUU Green Week is for delicious **vegan spicy lentil burgers**.

Animal agriculture takes a devastating toll on the Earth's environment and is an inefficient way of producing food. Eating meat and dairy free meals, even just

one or two days a week, can reduce your individual impact on the environment and contribute to a healthy diet.

Vegan Spicy Lentil Burgers

Ingredients

- 1 onion
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 chilli or a sprinkle of chilli flakes
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- Oil
- 250g puy lentils (tinned or dried)
- Sos mix (binding agent available in Green Action Food Co-op)

Method

- *Chop the onion and garlic until small and fry in a little oil until golden.
- *Add in all the chilli and spices. (You can use the ones suggested or substitute in others and experiment with different flavours).
- *Drain the lentils and stir in. (If you're using dried puy lentils you need to cover them in water and cook for 15-20 minutes until al dente before adding them).
- *Finally, take off the heat and mix a table spoon or two of Sos mix and a little oil to bind the mixture together.
- *The mixture should stick together and not fall apart, if it does, add more Sos mix.
- *Next heat a frying pan with a generous helping of oil. Once hot, fry spoonfuls of the mixture in burger shapes, for 5 minutes each side.
- *Once cooked place the burgers on a sheet of kitchen towel to absorb any excess oil.
- *Serve with a crispy salad, tomato relish or ketchup and pita bread.

You can make these burgers with different pulses or lentils following a similar method. Try using chickpeas, kidney beans or red lentils, you'll need to adjust the cooking time and play around with the consistency but they will taste great!

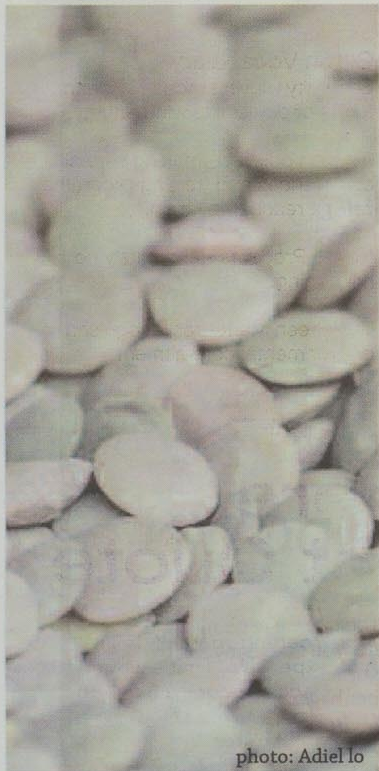


photo: Adiel lo

words: Lora Evans

Money

DIY money savers

It's Green Week, and *Elizabeth Holland* offers some green alternatives to going to IKEA

How to... make a clutch out of an old book!

Are your shelves stacked with old books? Your grandma having a clear out? An old, hard back book is the perfect base for a new bag!

What you need: A hard back book, large enough to fit all your going out stuff! Fabric as large as your book laid out flat twice and some fabric glue or super glue.

Step 1: Remove all the pages from the book. Use a knife to cut them free from the spine - pages from old books are easier to remove in one go, as they aren't usually directly attached to the spine.

Step 2: On a piece of paper, lay the book down on its end and open as wide as you want your clutch to open. Draw around this and cut out: it should look like a flat headed triangle.

Place these onto your chosen fabric and cut two out. These will form the ends of the clutch and need to be ironed with a fold down the middle.

Step 3: Lie the book flat out on another piece of paper, adding a few centimetres to the width of the book, cut this out. Place this template on your fabric and cut out once.

Step 4: Using fabric glue or super glue, glue along the outside edge of the spine. Place one of your triangular pieces of fabric onto the glue so that the edge of the material faces into the book, and the fold you ironed in, folds into the book.

Now glue along the edge of each side of the book, pressing the long sides of the triangle down, with the edge of the fabric facing into the book.

By gluing the fabric down with the edge facing in, it creates a seamless look on the outside. Repeat for the other end.

Step 5: Take the larger fabric piece, and place it inside the book cover to check that it fits - trim any excess material, (push the material all the way into the spine before trimming, and remember you will want a bit of give).

Glue-up the spine and press your fabric onto it - make sure you've lined up the middle part of the fabric!

Cover one side in glue, but leave about 1

cm at the top edge unglued. Press your fabric down. (it should be over laying the ends of the fabric you placed in step 4). Glue the 1cm you left and before pressing down your fabric, tuck in the end of the material between the rest of the fabric and book, to hide it. This gives a neater finish. Repeat for the other side.

Step 6: To finish the book off, attach a strap to keep it closed when you're out! I have used a popper and piece of ribbon - but you could glue on a button and coloured elastic.

How to... Make a basket out of an old newspaper!

All you hard working students will no doubt be reading numerous newspapers on a daily basis, so rather than scrapping your latest chunk of the education section, follow these simple steps to make a basket to store just about anything.

What you need: A newspaper, glue, stapler, and anything to decorate with.

Step 1: You need a big newspaper (the Daily Telegraph or the Times are best) and cut along the spine of it to release all the pages. Then fold these length ways three times.

Step 2: After you've folded around 10-15 pages, start weaving them together, gluing as you go. Keep them tightly weaved for a stronger basket. Fold more pages as you need them.

Step 3: When you have made the base to the size you want, simply fold the unwoven bits up. Then weave up the sides as deep as you want the basket to be.

Step 4 - When your basket is as deep as you want, trim any overhang or extra folds and staple along the top.

To decorate: ribbon along the top neatens up the look of the basket - if no one is looking closely just staple it in place - otherwise use glue. You can cover the whole thing in wallpaper or paint it to make it fit your room's décor!

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Going green, whilst looking pretty



Some aspects of life may have to be sacrificed for being green. Luckily, being beautiful is not one of them. *Evelyn Pryor-Jones* discovers why.

For some people, being 'green' means walking, recycling and looking like a hippy. This, however, is not the case. If you want to do your bit and you want to preserve the world we live in, but you would like to smell nice and look pretty while taking out your green bins, there are shops out there that will suit you perfectly.

The cosmetic industry isn't exactly famed for its caring attitude towards animals and the natural environment. Nobody likes animal testing, even the companies who partake in it don't enjoy doing it. Procter and Gamble invest over \$265 million into researching alternative methods, but previously there were laws stating that all products had to be tested to prove they were safe for human use, animals unfortunately were chosen to be the guinea-pigs, so to speak.

Most of the chemicals produced on a massive scale were not what we would call friendly to the environment. So, overall, cosmetic companies were not doing well on the green scale.

Nowadays, however, there is no excuse. Laws have been changed and science has progressed. Some companies have realised the benefits and genius of products that are produced from the natural world itself and have worked out many ways to be eco-friendly. This means no animal testing, limited, if no packaging and even going as far as aviation policies for their employees.

One of these companies is Lush. Lush hand-make animal friendly toiletries from natural plant products and essential oils. They also insist on not associating with any suppliers who test on animals, which is a unique policy that they are trying to encourage other cosmetic companies to follow. Other steps they follow are that every factory and retail shop must have a Green Helper to advise them how to be more efficient.

They use Ecotricity as their main power supply and even make their own furniture in

their own wood workshop from good quality and clean castoffs. They have reduced their consumption by increasing insulation and installing a wood burner, this paired with their naked products (no packaging) canvas bags and a policy on recycling means they have gained the Green Mark for their efforts.

Obviously, all this effort does increase the price of products a tad. The average price for soap: £2.60, shower gel: £6.25, shampoo: £8.00 but you can purchase solid bars of shampoo. These are only £4.50 and last as long as three bottles of shampoo, much better value. You can also get solid conditioners, massage bars, hair dyes, deodorants and bath oils. For the face: cleansers: £5, Body, moisturiser: £6.50.

Unfortunately, their make-up initiative, B (B never too busy to be beautiful) has closed down, but there are other companies that do not test their make-up on animals, even if they are not quite as green in other ways as Lush. The best thing to do is to go on www.peta.org.uk which campaigns against all cruelty against animals. There you can find a list of companies that are ethically OK to use, some include Urban Decay and Barry M.

In Leeds, places to trust are the own brands of Marks and Spencer and The Co-operative, Neal's Yard Remedies, Id Aromatics and the Body Shop, though their owner L'Oreal does test some products on animals. For cosmetics, if you feel like treating yourself, Origins, which has a stand in Debenhams, sells really nice toiletries

made from natural products. There are plenty of places online to look as well.

It still isn't possible to be completely green unless you want to go and live on a farm and be self-sufficient and never wash your hair, but for others it is possible to fight against animal testing and seriously reduce the carbon footprint of the cosmetic industry. Yes it might be a bit more expensive, so as with many things, it comes down to a battle between your purse and your conscience.

www.lush.co.uk
31 Commercial Street
Leeds, LS1 6EX
0113 245 5736

Green Vocabulary

Ecotricity - invest money in clean forms of power like wind energy.

Aviation policies - making sure all conferences and training programs can be reached by train.

Naked Products - absolutely no packaging.

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Skipping past the waste

From vegetarianism to veganism, more and more people are making dietary choices to help reduce their impact on the environment. *Leeds Student* investigates freeganism, a lifestyle based around a diet of salvaged food.

Freegan.org.uk defines a freegan as "someone who tries to live simply, reducing their consumption and the pressure they place on the environment."

In contrast to vegetarianism and veganism, freeganism is more than just a dietary choice. Instead it is a lifestyle choice with a political stance against consumerism. Freegans are opposed to working for money in order to be able to purchase goods and instead sustain themselves on food and goods that are wasted by supermarkets and other retailers.

The most common method of attaining goods is commonly known as "skipping." This involves retrieving wasted goods from bins and skips. While the idea of getting your dinner from a bin may repel many, "skippers" are very cautious and aware of the health risks and take a sensible approach to their selections.

Supermarkets discard goods for numerous reasons, a lot of which mean that foods are still safe for consumption. This can include products that have not been sold before reaching their sell by date yet are still within their use by date, products that have damaged packaging or are damaged themselves, seasonal products that are no longer of interest to shoppers, and even products that have competitions advertised on their packaging that are no longer running.

For each of these there is little impact on the food itself, a factor which is the key focus of many freegans. Of all of the freegans contacted, the high level of wastage from supermarkets was the key issue and motivation behind their lifestyle. It was explained by one anonymous source that supermarkets are responsible for putting too much pressure on the environment to supply goods, leading to farming becoming too intensive and a less a sustainable source.

Whilst many supermarkets employ procedures to reduce their impact on the

environment, such as one high-end store who gives all profits from plastic bag sales to an environmental charity, most fail to acknowledge or address their wastage. At least not on a public level.

Most of the freegans *LS* spoke to were vegans, however for some this was only unless they were "skipping." One freegan

I'm glad I became a freegan. I eat better now than I could afford to

who wanted to remain anonymous explained to me that they were vegan but did not have anything against those who chose to eat meat and dairy products. However, when "skipping," they would not like to see dairy products go to waste as much as any other product.

Freeganism among students is on the rise, perhaps due to necessity rather than morality. Student life is synonymous with financial struggle and freeganism seems to have provided a solution for some. It was assumed that freegans with more behind their choices than "to save money" would disapprove of such motives, however it was made clear that there is no rule book for freeganism. By choosing to skip instead of shop, individuals are reducing their impact on the environment, whether consciously or not, which can only be a good thing.

However, it is not just students who are struggling financially. I heard of one man who skipped in order to feed himself and his children and made £100s in savings by doing so. Nick, a long term freegan, told *Leeds Student*: "I'm glad I became a freegan. I eat



better now than I could afford to".

Aside from the obvious student benefit of saving some pennies, freeganism offers a range of advantages on a bigger scale, namely for the environment. Although it may seem that a packet of broken biscuits being saved from a bin would have little effect on the environment, the Baker's Federation have shown that it takes four times as much energy in fossil fuel to produce a kilogram of biscuits than the energy contained in the food itself. When foods like these are thrown away it requires additional fuel energy to transport it away as rubbish. This means wasted money, wasted energy and wasted environmental resources.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to get some first hand experience skipping for my supper with 'Ready, steady skip!' - an organised group skip in which the findings

and skippers have been known to get warnings from police. However, it is not taking the food that is the issue, rather it is an issue trespassing when accessing the bins. Some stores are more welcoming that others and leave their gates open with the knowledge that it is a skipping spot. Others however may exercise their right to ask you to leave their premises. Luckily, on my maiden voyage we were left to rummage undisturbed.

Approaching a spot for the first time was both exciting and nerve-wracking. I watched as some of the boys jumped in, passing bags out to the others gathered around, all the while nervous that someone would walk by and catch us. What we found was far beyond my expectations of a few sandwiches and some broken eggs. We gathered at least 6 loaves of bread, some pizzas and fresh veg. It was far cleaner than I had imagined with little dirt or grime on any of the food itself. I stuck with the group visiting about 4 spots before parting ways when they headed off into town.

Before I left, one of the more experienced freegans gathered the group around for a talk about being sensible and not being greedy. He made an important point that we are all lucky in that we have a choice on how we spend our money and that for some skipping is their only source of food. When speaking to me he felt that it was important to make those interested in freeganism aware of this and that it is not simply about taking as much as you can get. This particular skip was for the benefit of everyone involved, and so any food that was collected was to be shared at the vegan meal. Any non-vegan products were free to be taken home. Having been more of an observer, I hadn't found any goodies to take home, but some of the others were happy to share with me and I went home with a cottage pie dinner for two.

It takes four times as much energy in fossil fuel to produce a kilogram of biscuits than the energy contained in the biscuits themselves

will be put together to make a meal for everyone to share. The meal takes place at 7.30 this evening and is an open event at the Common Place, Wharf Street. Considering the amount of food collected from my group alone I am sure those who are new to skipping will be surprised at just how much food is wasted by both large supermarkets and smaller shops.

Skipping is not completely problem free

words and photos: Suisse Osborne-James



RECORDS

Charlotte Gainsbourg

IRM

Because

When last we saw la belle Gainsbourg, she was mutilating herself in a most private place at the behest of malevolent directing genius Lars von Trier in last year's harrowing *Antichrist*. This, hot on the heels of a near-fatal brain haemorrhage, has hardly left her in the best mindset to record the follow-up to 2006's critically acclaimed *5:55*. Fortunately, instead of working with songwriters (Air, Neil 'Divine Comedy' Hannon) who are almost as in thrall to her legendary father as Charlotte herself, *IRM* (that's French for MRI) is a collaboration with the king of PoMo pop himself, Beck.

Unlike its predecessor, the album is very much the sound of an artist starting to find herself. Gainsbourg's vocals have always been



seductive - a lush whisper which oozes Gallic cool while exuding a quaintly English restraint; on *IRM*, they truly shine. Hushed ballads like 'In the End' betray a spectrally alluring folk sound, showcasing the subtleties of Gainsbourg's voice, while the pitch black sultriness of 'Greenwich Mean Time' sounds like a missing track from PJ Harvey's classic *To Bring You My Love*. Meanwhile, a cover of Jean-Pierre Ferland's 'Le

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Chat du Café des Artistes' trades the original's Scott Walker-esque emotion for a more laconic tone, as if Gainsbourg is nervously taking notes on bohemian conversations, rather than instigating them herself.

Beck's grubby paws are all over some of the more esoteric numbers here, especially its arresting opener, 'Master's Hands' sounds like the claustrophobic cousin of Björk's 'Venus as a Boy'. As wonderful as it is, however, the darkly jaunty single 'Heaven Can Wait' sounds disappointingly like La Charlotte just dropped by to contribute backing vocals on someone else's song. Not cool, Beck. Not cool.

Sure, some tracks float by in the kind of monochrome fug of the artwork, but *IRM* remains a more consistent and enticing prospect than the self-consciously mysterious *5:55*. Sadly, having come out everywhere else at the tail end of 2009, it isn't quite the first great album of the decade, so it'll just have to content itself with being the noughties' last great LP instead. Regardless of who she works with next, it's refreshing to hear Charlotte Gainsbourg finally establishing herself in her own right.

words: Alex Wisgard

SINGLES

Field Music
'Them That Do Nothing'
Memphis Industries



Dancing between folk and seventies rock, they definitely have their heads stuck in the past; a salmon swimming upstream until the damning comparison to Supertramp or Fleetwood Mac.

This single sees familiar guitars set to McCartney-esque vocals. Uninspiring but well-executed pop that's surprisingly enjoyable.

words: Reece Stables

Various Artists
4x12" Volume 4
Dance To The Radio



You have to admire this label's tireless championing of Leeds' volatile music scene. From Paul Thomas Saunders' 'blissed out folk', to Milk White White Teeth's euphoric Arcade

Fire stylings, the final installment of the excellent *4x12* series profiles four artists more than deserving of an audience outside the city.

words: Benedict Taylor

Xiu Xiu
'Dear God, I Hate Myself'
Kill Rock Stars



The title-track from the album whose title you can't help remarking on at the start of a review is surprisingly upbeat. Stewart's vocal is as affectedly fragile as ever, and the staple tantrum noise is there but - no doubt influenced by his work in Former Ghosts - there is an electro-pop framework which seems to subscribe to the late noughties indie-acts-making-pop-records trend.

words: Michael Waters

Los Campesinos!
'Romance Is Boring'
Wichita



The title-track from the album whose title you can't help remarking on at the start of a review is surprisingly commercial. Stompy, petulant and

'catchy as fuck, this is authentic as LC! get. Meanwhile the image of Gareth attempting to "bake phallic cake" for the object of his indifference might just make the ladies in the house want to break his heart all the more.

words: Alex Wisgard

Owen Pallett
'Lewis Takes Off His Shirt'
Domino



Violin is usually his weapon of choice, but timid, bleepy synth lines seem to have been favoured in the lead single from *Heartland*. The track has a driving momentum and the familiar cinematic orchestration soon soars over the idiosyncratic and colourful imagery of Pallett's lyrics. A catchy, yet subtly dark, pop song.

words: Michael Waters

MORE ALBUMS

White Rabbits
It's Frightening

TDB



This second album from the Brooklyn six-piece is a mixed affair, veering from thoughtfully engaging lyrics of some songs to the bland, dreary moan that emerges from others. Armed with two drummers and three vocalists, *It's Frightening* suffers mostly from a glib indecisiveness on how to build on the foundations of their palatable 2007 debut record *Fort Nightly*.

It strives to be unpretentious whilst hoping to challenge listeners expectations, yet achieves neither and, just as some tracks get going, they taper off like a shy mouse retreating to its hole in the wall. The energy and bravado from the first record isn't there on this record and ballads such as 'Lioness' seem achingly self-conscious. Part of the problem is main vocalist Stephen Patterson's indistinct draws and chants, which is not helped by the unimaginative lyrics and underwhelming rhythm section. It is as though some elements of the songwriting were done half-heartedly; many tracks give the impression of being hurriedly cobbled together for an A-level music coursework deadline.

That said, some tracks warrant a second listen - the nice chords of 'Company I Keep' and the Lydian melody on 'The Lady Vanishes', owing harmonies to the Stereophonics or Guillemots, but without the gusto.

It's Frightening isn't really that bad, but there's little memorable to be found here; it's more of a step sideways and than a step forwards, and certainly too underwhelming to be frightening enough in the current indie climate.

words: Jack Stringer

Good Shoes

No Hope, No Future
Brille



The boys from Morden are back with a vengeance. *No Hope, No Future* is full of the same stuttery strumming and riotously catchy lyrics as their debut, and, while the times may have changed (think back to the ancient history of 2007 and the emergence of Jamie T and the Maccabees) Good Shoes' toe-tapping tunes have not. Breathe a sigh of relief.

Whereas *Think Before You Speak* was an optimistic, though highly-critical, exploration of the life and loves of a twenty-something male in Zone 4 of the tube map, their second album finds the boys rather down in the dumps. Break-ups seem to be the driving force behind many a second album these days, and Rhys Jones' distraught heart is used to the album's advantage. There is an aggressive undercurrent here, which makes for a darker sound, with some scathing comments unleashed on former girlfriends; opener 'The Way My Heart Beats' bursts through the speakers articulating Rhys' aversion to predatory girls who, "go on to your next conquest." Clearly, there's some hostility that needs to be gotten off the Good Shoes boys' chests. 'Under Control' relates the tale of a sexually eager female who leaves her lover consumed and deflated; in spite of the theme, it makes for a particularly raucous moment in the album, with frantic drumming and strumming making it very danceable indeed.

This is surely a coming of age album that confronts the realities of life experiences on the old heart. Older, wiser and a little less optimistic; the band have grown up, but luckily their sound hasn't suffered as a result. There is enough bounciness to enjoy and enough character for the album to hold its own.

words: Lucy Barnett

Mia Hope

We Are Just Satellites
Rising



I'm going to level with you. I'm not a metal fan. I went through a Trivium phase when I was 13, and the Killswitch cover of 'Holy Diver' was alright. Other than that, I struggle. We have a problem then, in that London quintet Mia Hope are a fair bit worse than the above bands.

No matter how bad it gets, most of the terrible music in the world has some redeeming feature. 'You're Beautiful' gave rise to the best piece of rhyming slang ever associated with popular music. 'Trapped in the Closet' was pretty much the funniest thing to happen in the noughties. Beyond one hilarious song title ('Eating Out Pandora's Box'), *We Are Just Satellites* has no such saving grace.

It's not that Mia Hope are talentless. These songs, performed live, have the potential to be decent (particularly if the audience were off their collective tits). On record, however, any power that might be found in the tunes is missing, sterilised by production that doesn't enhance the band's few qualities. What's left is a collection of tracks that sound like WWF theme songs from the late nineties.

'Glass Building With Amazing Lights' has some well-worked guitars - sort of Dragonforce Lite - and the rhythm section is suitably aggressive, but these positives fail to compensate for the glaring faults here. On several occasions, e.g. the woeful 'Now's Not a Good Time', the band commit one of the cardinal sins of guitar-based music: total abandon of any concept of melody.

Not this reviewer's cup of tea, then, but probably not anyone else's either.

words: Jack Ready

GENERIC COLUMN

Last week, the music editors 'humorously' predicted the advent of Snot Gaze and Post-Mortem. The terrifying truth is that we're snot far off these genres now. A genre is "a category of artistic endeavour having a particular form," and for some, it seems as if the greatest musical endeavour is avoiding the bloody thing. Everywhere you go, it's there. Lurking. Waiting to mercilessly categorise whatever you're doing. "Did you just have something to eat?" "Yeah." "Cool. What genre?" "Sandwich." "Sub-genre?" "Ham." The word 'genre' has the power to cause a greater kerfuffle than any other in music.

Herein lies the problem: critics and audiences will thrust genre on the artist, and it's down to them to elude or embrace what they're assigned. Its been going on for yonks; Dylan supposedly stopped being folk when he went electric and all that. Recently, genres have got sillier without challenge or classification. I have created a genre for these genres: Silly Genre.

Mid-noughties, one of the first and silliest appearances of a Silly Genre genre appeared. 2006: Steve Irwin cries his last "Crikey!", Germany hold the World Cup and perhaps most disgustingly of all, 'nu-rave' is coined. This moment in Silly Genre history was marked by Klaxons and Hadouken! running headfirst into this explosion of fluorescent dross, getting covered from head to toe in the stuff like it was going out of fashion. Which it was. Late of the Pier and New Young Pony Club, however, ran as if their credibility depended on it. Which it did. Luckily, LOTP sheltered under the umbrella of electroclash, to which I'd reply "What the fuck is electroclash? Oh! You mean Silly Genre!"

Back to 2010, with the appearance of 'shitgaze' and 'lo-fi', the Silly Genre genres are rampant and sillier than ever. 'Shitgaze', apparently, is like shoegaze, but shit. 'Lo-fi', however, just means straight-up shit. The combination of these two Silly Genres creates one intoxicating and near-omnipotent Silly Genre: tremble before 'lo-fi shitgaze'. Sadly, *Pitchfork's* powerful penchant allows bands like Times New Viking and Pens [ed.: see review, right] to use this supercilious, super-silly label for their own means, i.e. an excuse to be bloody awful. 'Yeah we're crap. We're Not-Very-Good-Core.' It ruddy makes my face do this it does >:(

Well fuck this. I'm making my own Silly Genre. You heard it here first. It's called Rick Rock; rock music made only by and for people called Rick. In fact you can hear a bit of it here (if your name is Rick): <http://tinyurl.com/yeto93c>

words: Simon Row-fi-botham



GIG OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Nation of Shopkeepers

29/01/10



Nation of Shopkeepers is not prepared for Real Estate. This relatively small act has catapulted their way up the alternative hierarchy through the influential media of *Pitchfork*. With a recent 8.5 album review there, Nation's space is too small for this hyped band. After extensive queuing outside, their distinctive yet oddly familiar sound becomes vaguely audible; vaguely, unfortunately, being the operative word. The crowd seems so hyped that they prefer to talk than listen, drowning out the band's minimal and subtle sounds.

On the singles 'Green River', 'Blake Lake', however, the crowd focuses, dances and, moreover, listens, allowing the band's summery



sound to shine on the leather-clad, winter-trodden, crowd.

With high-pitched reverb riffs tied to a floating, effects-laden guitar/bass combo, the

band has to be on form to hold it together, and they are. Lead guitarist Matthew Mondanile in particular has mastered the link between angular incisiveness and summery dreaminess. So far, I could be describing any of the various modern American indie acts, but where Real Estate differ from the likes of Wavves and the Pains of Being Pure at Heart is in their foundations - there is much more of a Neil Young influence than there is any trace of punk or post-punk. The folk-tinged drumming and vocals particularly unite wonderfully with the surfgaze of the rest of the band.

Vocalist Martin Courtney's dry, loose, yet intensely-focused delivery melds perfectly with the music. The sharp gaze, peeking out from behind his black locks, makes him the obvious focal point of the band, and his unnerving ability to stare straight into your eyes allows for a mesmerising level of intimacy, which the night lacked in other respects. However, this hypnosis is brief. In a flash it is all over. A brilliant, if somewhat muffled, flash.

words: Ed Dodson

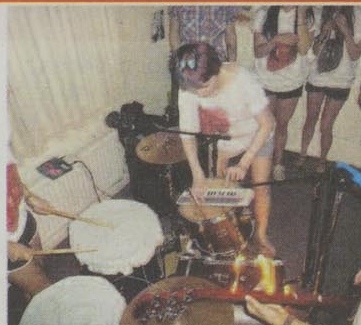
Pens Nation of Shopkeepers

31/01/10



The old maxim "There's no such thing as bad press" has once again proven itself to be true as ever in relation to contemptibly trendy, uber-urbane lo-fi indie-rockers, Pens. Opening with the soporific and uninspiring 'Hate Your Calendar', the band at least manage to create a connection between their song and myself; at this point in time, I *did* hate my calendar.

Their guitars are monotonous, grating, discordant, and cacophonous; the drummer lacks any sense of virtuosity, barely managing to demonstrate a basic grasp of rhythm, and the singer has all the stage presence of a dead gazelle. Most insultingly of all, there is something rudely nonchalant about the trio, as



if they wouldn't give a shit if the place were on fire, the audience were on fire, or if they were on fire. 'Being on fire' is the new 'not being on fire', apparently.

It is fortunate, then, that bore-fest 'Hate Your Calendar' gives way to 'Sorry'; its opening bass riff is simplistic, yet effective, and contrasts with an excellent guitar hook. The vocal interaction between the three is an absolute treat as the band implement a well maintained three-part

call and response. The song is quirky, fun and cute. However, it seems Pens are bent on avoiding this aesthetic, immediately regressing to their shambolic, contrived lo-fi tonings.

Pens contrived adherence to misinformed views of lo-fi values is what has me most riled up about this band. Lo-fi should not under any circumstances mean low quality, yet Pens are somehow able to assault ears across the country, as though lo-fi equates with lo-expectations [ed.: see column, left]. The true shame is that Pens are capable of so much more than what they are showcasing tonight; the omission of sole album highlight 'Freddy' is almost criminal.

'High in the Cinema' proves to be a mid-point between the cutesy quirk of 'Sorry' and the cruddy musicianship of tonight's opener. Using a distorted synth voicing and enthusiastic drums, Pens create a song that is lo-fi, minimalist and catchy. Catchy, however, doesn't necessarily mean good. The Frosties adverts were catchy. Leprosy is catchy. AIDS is catchy. This song is AIDS. Pens are AIDS.

words: Simon Rowbotham

ANOTHER GIG

Student Advice Centre.
Part of Leeds University Union.

House Hunting Contract Checks

If you're thinking about house hunting for next year, don't forget that there is no need to rush! There is a huge surplus of houses in the areas most students choose to live in, and if you leave it longer, you may get more value for your money in terms of quality of house and rent price!

If you do choose to start looking early, then be aware that the Unipol Accredited Houses are not released until January 16th!

Once you do find a house you like, don't forget to come and get your contract checked at the Student Advice Centre in the Union building before you sign anything and pay anything! We can help you understand your rights, the landlord/agents responsibilities and we can tell you what we know of the landlord/agent. We can help you make sure you are getting the best deal for you.

The Student Advice Centre is open 9.30am-4.30pm Monday-Friday, and there will be designated appointment slots available between 10am-4pm every day to have your contract checked. Please note that at some busy periods we may ask you to come back at a more suitable time.

Although it is best to have your contract checked in person, you can also check online at the www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/helpandadvice/

For more information on house hunting, please check www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/helpandadvice/ call us on 0113 380 1290 or email advice@tsu.leeds.ac.uk

KNOWLEDGE.

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

Call Amber taxis on 0113 231 1366, let them know you want to use the student ID payment scheme.

You can pay to get home using your student ID card.

After a few days your card will be returned to your Union and you can pay off your debt then.

FEATURED EVENT

REEL BIG FISH

COLUMN

MY YEAR IN LISTS



Reel Big Fish Academy

26/01/10



Supports Sonic Boom Six are not unfamiliar with large stages, having rocked the Main Stages at Leeds and Reading last summer. Proudly defending their most recent work, the Boom blitz through a set of new tracks fusing styles of rock, hardcore and of course skankable ska. We are still given a slice of their old school tunes for their final number 'Piggy in the Middle', but the crowd's reaction throughout the set proves that material from the band's latest album *City of Thieves* has great effect in the large scale venue, as their line-up gels energetically.

Big D and the Kids Table, on the other hand, play a set which fails to engage with the audience at all. Whilst Sonic Boom Six are a homegrown ska-punk band, Big D have come all the way from across the pond and it seems to have been a few years since their heyday. Their set consists of mostly new tunes from their recent release *Fluent in Stroll*, and these feel somewhat diluted compared to more well known songs like 'Noise Complaint' and 'Steady Riot'. Lead singer David McWane propels himself confidently around the stage, and the addition of two lovely-looking ladies on backing vocals makes all the tunes a little more soothing.

The venue is packed with adoring Reel Big Fish fans who know the words to every single track they pull out of their pocket. The Fish's latest release was a collection of ska-punk covers, including 'Brown-Eyed Girl' and

'Monkey Man', so they don't necessarily have a problem with new tunes not receiving a good reaction. Still, they play mostly their earliest and most popular songs, kicking off with 'Sell Out' - a track with a lovely layer of bitterness; after all, when you're in a band "nobody cares, nobody understands." Meanwhile, Sonic Boom Six's Laila contributes guest vocals on 'She Has a Girlfriend Now'.

RBF do, however, blitz through their set a little too briskly, failing to deliver any of that characteristically Fishy banter and silly gags that define them. 'Enter Sandman' has been heard before, and their guest star dressed as a hair metal icon is a predictable interlude from past shows. Not a bad set, but lacking the original zaniness you'd hope to find at a Reel Big Fish gig.

words: Henry Raby
photo: Richard Smith



"They have opinions and I have lists." So says the protagonist of every music-enthusiast's favorite book/film ever, Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*. He's spot on - a common trait of the music fan is the obsession with quantifying everything, and never has this been more evident than the past few months, in which journalists worldwide have littered the internet with lists; best album of the year, best roadie, best novelty beard (winner: Scroobius Pip).

The end of the 'noughties', as people have regrettably coined them, saw a great excuse for enormous features about the best of the new millennium to go to print. *Pitchfork* kicked things off early with a horrifyingly over-the-top 500 tracks list (whoever's going to sift through all that should be sat down and talked to), and before long lists emerged from *NME*, *Uncut*, *Rolling Stone* and many more, including the [ed.: sadly]-defunct *Stylus*, whose writers got back together one last time for a good old list.

They're all fantastically predictable, or at best predictably unpredictable. No prizes for those who guessed that *NME* would claim the Libertines and Strokes to have made the greatest albums of the noughties, or that *Pitchfork* would opt for the typically hip offerings from Arcade Fire and Radiohead. These best-ofs are perhaps the single easiest way of encompassing what a publication stands for. And aside from being arbitrary, the entire concept of a best of decade list is flawed. Records which seemed fantastic and original eight years ago have sunken into irrelevance and disregard. Would *Is This It?* have anywhere near the impact and critical acclaim which it had nine years ago were it released today? No. Are the *NME* currently quite so appraising of Spiritualized, to whom they awarded the second best album of the year in 2001? No. [ed.: Sadly.]

The concept of the term 'best' continually fails to be distinguished. Does the best record entail a cultural significance, a relevance to context and impact following its release? Or does the best record merely have to stand alone as a piece of work that creatively eclipses all others? To look once more at the Strokes, their debut album saw success largely because it was so fresh and exciting compared to the post-Britpop dregs filling the mainstream at the time. Yet it's hard to argue that it is any 'better' than subsequent mainstream indie offerings from Franz Ferdinand or Bloc Party.

Nonetheless, however arbitrary, flawed, and ultimately pointless these lists may be, it's always interesting to have a sift through and see what musical gems might have passed one by during the past decade. I've missed the Knife's *Deep Cuts* and the Antlers' *Hospice* among others. Most importantly of all, *NME* reminded me that 'Crazy in Love' by Beyoncé is literally the best thing of the millennium. Right? Guys?

words: Dan Lister

BiggerThan Barry Mint, 26/01/10

It's Tuesday, it's cold, your fresh loan has already taken a battering and the post exam freedom excitement is beginning to ebb away...luckily for us Barry is back for 2010 to cure our winter blues and certainly shows no signs of slowing down after dominating semester one. It was literally dog eat dog outside our favourite haunt Mint as I attempted to clamber my way into Barry's dirty cradle of bass. Last year was sick. People have heard. Now we can't move.

Regardless of this I braved the possibility of a fractured skull and permeated eardrums to get my weekly skank on. Following up from last weeks stonker which saw none other than Breakage gracing the decks, this Tuesday we were treated to Brixton's home-grown dubstep diablo Cotti, along with Leeds regular and Urban Nerds extraordinaire Rattus Rattus. Cotti smashed it, proving to Leeds that he really didn't give a dub (shit pun, had to be done though). Barry proved to keep up its standards of mess and

amalgamated vibes of dubstep and jump-up debauchery, with the club night stretching way past the 3:30 AM mark and Barry's own Bobby Barnes jumping up on the mic and treating a rinsed out crowd to some of his own lyrical home truths.

This term's line up doesn't seem as groundbreaking as the last's, but Barry is still proving to be a consistently sick night with ridonkulously cheap drink prices and banging beats for only a fiver. As I mentioned before, this week was seriously rammo (and when I say rammo I mean rammo and tiing) which, although a blessing for Barry's profits, not so good for the club night's vibes. However the label of vibe killer is mainly being addressed to the drone fuelled freshers out there. Sorry but sort it out. Essentially though, fat Barry pulled out all the stops once again and successfully turned my Wednesday into a fuzzy blur mixed with hazy recollections of DJ-booth-grabbing and dance floor flexing.

words: Monique Hall

LTJ Bukem- Momentum The Wire, 29/01/10

Last Friday Momentum took over the Wire for their first installment of 2010 with non other than the godfathers of Drum & Bass, LTJ Bukem & MC Conrad. These two are without a doubt the two biggest acts to grace Momentum since it started up in 2004.

3rd GD took control of the decks at 10 with a suitably melodic warm up. He played well on the crowd's anticipation and laid out a perfect platform for the night to come, even touching on a few classic tracks from 06/07 as well as some more up to date tracks from the Non Plus & Autonomic camp. By 11.30 the club was close to full capacity and ready to set it off. As always, there were great vibes for a Friday night at the Wire.

LTJ played a very refreshing set, dropping in big teasers along the way. He maintained a perfect direction at all times and kept the crowd on the same journey throughout. It was the first time in a while I'd been to the Wire and really experienced those 'hands in the air' rhythms from LTJ, and not once did he show any signs of predictability. The pair worked together in absolute harmony, Conrad's voice echoing around the club with such soulful intent.

Ant TC1 was next on the decks. With heavy rolling rhythms, the man behind Momentum managed to flip the scripts from the previous sets before and really catered well for the heavier followers of the night. Personally I believe he played a tighter set than LTJ, and showed the crowd a darker and heavier side to the night, giving everyone reason to stay beyond the previous showcase of soul.

It's been such a great start to the year for Drum & Bass in Leeds and Momentum proved itself with a timeless line-up for its first '10 session. We can only look in anticipation towards the February installment with Artificial Intelligence.

words: Tom Jessel

Etienne de Crécy O2 Academy, 29/01/10

'Beats N Cubes' is a unique event by Etienne de Crécy that has been performed 40 times throughout the world. Last Friday it was the turn of the people of Leeds to witness for themselves the much talked about concept that fuses audio and visual entertainment together. With great anticipation we waited for the French electronic giant who, alongside artists like Daft Punk and Cassius, has been at the forefront of the French electro movement since the 1990s. Excitement for the infamous light show involving crazy cubic flowing patterns was intensified with reports that it would be defined by a back to basics approach in terms of creating a live set. This involves using no laptops and remaining loyal to the sound of the scene from which he emerged. Drum machines, synthesizers, an MPC1000

sampler and various effects consoles were used in an impressive musical feat that required a certain skill sadly becoming less prevalent with the availability of other technology.

Etienne's approach encompasses an amalgamation of old and new styles, including many songs that are produced by the man himself. These include classics such as 'Fast Track' - one of the first electronic songs that encouraged me to explore house and electro. Played alongside 'Welcome' and 'Hope' - which were born out of the live show and are regularly reworked during the performance with plenty of distortions and synth effects helping to keep the atmosphere unique for each performance. However, I do feel the music was lost somewhat in the hype of the Cube, making it feeling like the visual experience was certainly the central theme to the evening.

The Cube didn't satisfy expectations and this could be due to the fact the venue was

too light or the videos on the internet were misleading because I was under the impression Etienne would be hidden and encased in a cubed fortress of colour, tessellating shapes and fluid patterns. Instead the scaffolding and canvas that made up the cube was in full view, leaving the visual patterns rather weak and unimpressive. This left the headliner standing illuminated in the middle of an elevated stage; giving strength to the opinion of those who saw this as a pretentious venture as the central feature complemented only Etienne's set. Paul Woolford was hidden behind curtains for the duration of his set. The concept that had excited us with so much hype and potential may have helped to hinder the progression of the music throughout the night and our ability to settle into a more structured club environment that focuses on DJs and the music.

The sets were good nonetheless,

although Etienne de Crécy played for an hour and this was not enough time to fully engage with the cube as it was the main feature after all. Paul Woolford went on after and although his set was played out of sight behind the curtains it was impressive considering it felt like a school disco with almost 2,000 people milling about in a large room because there was no DJ booth to focus the crowd's attention. The venue is usually more gig orientated and the vibe between a typical club night and a live show seemed somewhat confused even more so.

However, both sets were well worth their weight in Electro gold - with tunes like 'Serenity' by Popof providing a refreshing mix of sounds, ranging from the more progressive French electro, to bouncy bleeping techno from Paul Woolford.

words Michael Steele

Etienne de Crécy
photo: Imogen Roy



Zed Bias, DJ Format, Bullion, Zero 7
New Bohemia
The Faversham, 29/01/10

New Bohemia returned to the Faversham last week to commence their fresh monthly residency into the new decade. After five years of weekly events during term-time, the move to monthly events may seem a step backwards in terms of evolving the night, but this isn't case. New Bo has a strong and solid reputation amongst the student community (hence my nominal abbreviation) for its eclectic bookings and fun-loving, funk-fuelled, neo-soul approach...which isn't going anywhere. The decrease in events will allow them to focus on their other projects further afield, like the annual Soundwave Festival in Croatia, and making the events at the Faversham larger, more enjoyable and more memorable.

Friday's event seemed to tick all the boxes in this respect. Bringing three popular names to Leeds in the forms of Zero 7, DJ Format and Zed Bias is an achievement in itself, considering the eclecticism for musical scope that these three individually represent. However, this coalescence of styles and sounds is exactly what makes New Bohemia so unique a night in Leeds, and complementing these aural delights with the lesser-known talents of Bullion, regular agent Kidkanevil and impressive live art from Bestjoinedup, shows a real forward-thinking approach to promotion which guarantees fun and frivolity.

Arriving a little before midnight, I was lucky enough to catch the tail end of Sam Hardaker of Zero 7 spinning some tunes. Due to a clashing Haiti fundraiser in Manchester on the same night, the set had been pushed

forward, but his laid-back lounge-house grooves were a great start to the night, helping to get the crowd moving and bouncing. Funky cuts like Isolee's remix of Redloose's Cardiology, were perfect choices for inciting the dance in a sexy and sophisticated direction. However, this was immediately flipped-up by resident Kidkanevil's selection of classic 'hype' favourites like UK Apache's Original Nutta, increasing the energy tenfold as the Faversham slowly filled out. UK Hip-Hop purveyor DJ Format made his presence known, beginning his set with his track Ill-Culinary Behaviour, featuring MC Abdominal creating a splendid extended metaphor for music creation as cooking. However, Format's set was mostly filled with classic soul and funk cuts, away from his own creative endeavours. This was not to say it lacked in effect though, as there isn't a great deal more favourable to a crowd with glazed eyes than some infectious Rhodes piano riffs and diva vocals. Consequently, Format offered up one of the most pleasing performances of the evening, formidably cooking up nothing but good vibes.

Over in the second room, upcoming UK Hip-hop purveyor Bullion was playing some of his own favourites. Apart from the innovative wonky hip-hop of his own productions, his set was extremely diverse, encompassing all manner of directions and influences in contemporary music, and very interesting to hear. I'd advise you to check out his recent FACT mix to get a further impression of this young artist's musical capacity. The Faversham's white room had been taken over for this event, changing the layout from the normal lounge area to a second dance floor, and making the conservatory the creative art/lounge space. It was a good decision,

disregarding the side room of the building, (more affectionately known as the 'Gimp room') and aside from a few sound issues, the layout was more open and accessible, creating a larger space and display for the artists in the next room.

Zed Bias, accompanied by Broke n' English's MC Strategy, closed the main room, as headliner of the night. Apart from a sprinkling of tracks like his 2009 mix of his seminal UK Garage classic 'Neighbourhood', his selection was mostly comprised of abrasive dubstep wonk and wobble. This isn't necessarily a bad thing - Emalkay's 'When I Look At You', and Noah D's track 'Serious' are great productions, and are big crowd favourites, especially at three in the morning - but it didn't really fit the vibe of the night, nor the music which New Bo seems to best represent. After all, there is a vast plethora of nights in Leeds already offering dubstep b-lines in their droves, and Zed Bias was infinitely more successful in his garage/broken-beat aspirations over the years, than his limited dubstep releases. It would have been nice to hear more of his upcoming album, as well as his old syncopated work under the Phuturistix/Maddslinky monikers, but it was a fun set nonetheless.

New Bohemia has entered the new decade with an inspiring impact, offering up a great amalgamation of music and culture last week. Only time will tell if future events have the same scale and array of enjoyable elements which made Friday so entertaining. Look out for the next event in February, bringing original British selector David Rodigan to Leeds.

words: Ashby Field

Wax:On
LUU, 30/01/10

The last time I went to Wax:On was in Fresher's Week, to see Simian Mobile Disco's live show, and despite having a good night, I was left feeling that I hadn't really got my money's worth. I'd heard mixed things about the Wax:On nights since then, and it seemed there was a general consensus that although the nights were good, they weren't quite worth the £16+ ticket. This month's lineup was great, with the ever popular Erol Alkan joined in Stylus by Vitalic, fresh from the release of his first album in four years.

I arrived at the venue to catch the second half of Joker's set in the terrace. The room was packed early on and despite not liking the Terrace much as a venue, Joker's set was a great start to the night, with his Turboweekend remix the highlight for me. I then moved into the main room to see Filthy Dukes, whose set wasn't bad, but lacked a bit of spark in my opinion, so I headed over to Mine for DJ Zinc, who was absolutely smashing it. The room was rammed and the atmosphere was electric with Zinc's rapid mixing and great track selection being lapped up by the receptive crowd. Zinc's transition from Drum & Bass to House and Electro couldn't have gone any more smoothly, and I'm sure he's turned a lot of jungle heads onto a new scene. The peak of his set for me was when he dropped his new track 'Music Makers'.

It was now 2am and the man most people were here to see, Erol Alkan, took to the Stylus stage. I'd only seen Erol twice before, and neither time been too impressed by his set. Tonight however he was on top form, starting his set with the weird but effective 'We Love Animals' by Soulwax, Crookers and Mixhell, before moving through new stuff from Harvard Bass and Villa. 'Blueberry' the new single from Late of the Pier, out now on Erol's Phantasy Label sounded great on the big system before Erol moved into more acid-y electro banger territory, with the awesome new track from ZZT (Zombie Nation & Tiga) really going off. It was a great set, the best I've seen him play, and the crowd loved every minute of it.

Following Erol in the main room were People Get Real, given a rare peak-time set, which started off well, although they didn't quite manage to keep up the buzz after Erol, which I can imagine is a pretty hard task. I went for a wander around the other rooms to watch A1 Bassline and Klose One playing equally forgettable sets, so headed back over to Stylus for Vitalic.

His recent album, Flashmob, was a big hit for me last year, so I was really looking forward to his set. It was just a shame that he was on so late, as the stuff he was playing would have much suited a set time a couple of hours earlier. Also it's a little disappointing that he didn't play a live show, but his Selector Set (a DJ set with a pointless name) was a good end to the night nonetheless, keeping the dancefloor packed till the close.

All in all this was a very good night, definitely worth the ticket price. If Wax:On keep this up and book more names like Vitalic and Joker then they'll be back on top in no time.

words: Dom Donnelly



Zed Bias & MC Strategy
photo: Coco Cunningham

Preview: 'Hands Up for Haiti' at The Faversham. Friday 5th February 2010

Gracing the 'Clubs' section for the Leeds Student Green Week edition is 'Hands Up For Haiti' taking place Fri. 5th Feb at The Faversham. This will be an incredible night from your favourite masters of music which aim to provide you with stellar sets from the most reputable events in town and who have come together to spread love, show solidarity and raise some serious money for this desperate cause. Subdub, Vagabondz, New Bohemia, Hang the DJ, Winston's Garden, and Bigger Than Barry are just some of the heavyweights who'll be spinning in the name of the human, as well as a few other surprises left to spring. For a minimum donation of £5 O.T.D, 'Hands Up for Haiti' will provide an epic soundtrack to a night that is all about the people uniting in the face of disaster.



FEATURES

05210

Recycling: Far from a waste of time

Recycling has become a huge issue politically, ethically and environmentally. *Lorna Gledhill* asks whether it is worth all the hassle

Modern life functions on a very careful balance of production and consumption. As a society, we happily take up the role of the gluttonous consumer who insatiably eats their way through the products of the earth. We gorge ourselves on mountains of food, clothes and other stuff, but we're getting a little chubby around the edges. In fact, we're heading towards morbid obesity.

Continual consumption, by its very nature, runs parallel to a steady increase in waste products; heaps of products very quickly become equivalent mountains of waste as we hastily discard the old for the new. Our planet is fast becoming the mountain of waste.

According to DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), the average British citizen sent 295 kilograms of household waste to landfill in 2008/2009. In the average five-person student house in Leeds, this amounts to 1,475 kilograms per year. The residual waste of solely University of Leeds students can be calculated at 8,997,500 kilograms in 2008/2009, despite government recycling schemes.

These tonnes of waste are left stagnant in landfills, building up year upon year despite independent groups claiming that up to 60% of all waste sent to landfill could actually be recycled. The process of recycling is crucial to help combat and curtail the effects of our incessantly consumptive lifestyle. It allows us to conserve what we have already consumed and keep original products in the circle of consumption for a considerably longer time. Whether it's food, clothing or electrical items, recycling previously discarded products allows us to treat our waste as a valuable resource in a

It is only difficult to be green when you don't have the right information

productive rather than destructive manner.

There's a common myth often drawn



upon by environmentally retrogressive political parties that plagues any conservation driven ideas. In general, people seem to believe that it's not easy to

be green, and that any environmentally positive changes are tiresome, troublesome and expensive. It is this type of negative mindset that needs to be

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Future graduate vacancies

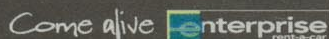
Information about postgraduate courses

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Full details on careerweb.leeds.ac.uk

This event is sponsored by



revoked in order to create a positive change.

A recent survey of University of Leeds students highlights that whilst 40.7% of respondents felt that recycling was 'very important', less than one fifth recycled everything that could actually be recycled. Almost 50% of respondents were unaware of which plastics the council recycled in Leeds, but around a third of respondents stated that they would recycle more if they knew what could be recycled. In fact, it is only difficult to be green when you don't have the right information to help you along the way.

Once the logistics are sorted out, 'being green' does not become a drastic lifestyle choice, but a simple and efficient way to dispose of waste.

Paying attention to recycling does not mean that you have to be an obsessive-compulsive bin filterer. In fact, the whole ideology of reducing waste and reusing discarded products is a great deal more exciting. Green Streets, is a Leeds based

organisation that reclaims abandoned items left by students at the end of each academic year. They have created a free shop, which redistributes other peoples' waste to new consumers. At the end of last year, volunteers acquired 1297 pairs of shoes, about 1000 bags of clothes, 262 saucepans and even a rabbit hutch.

Kim Cooper, Green Streets co-ordinator said: "If people are involved in more direct recycling like free shops they are made more aware of the situation and are taking a proactive role in reducing waste. The education side to free shops are just as important as the actual reusing of goods."

Equally, there has been a birth of a whole new consumer system in which recycled goods have re-entered the purchasing stream as desired products. From vintage clothes to fabric carrier bags, recycled goods are becoming acceptable new commodities, helping to erase what waste operatives have dubbed the 'Primark effect' of huge quantities of cheap and disposable products.

While we may be changing our attitudes towards commodious shopping, it still remains that 10 million tonnes of packaging enters the UK waste stream every year. This is mainly from food produce. While our use of disposable plastic carrier bags may have dropped by almost a quarter from 2007, the food which we carry in our reusable bags is still swamped in plastics that can take up to 500 years to decompose. The Waste Resource Action Programme's research states that up to a third of all food bought in the UK ends up being thrown away, and Leeds City Council estimates that Leeds itself wastes around 70,000 tonnes of food every year.

However, we need not drown in our own waste. Composting is an efficient way of preventing food waste from going to landfill, while buying unpackaged fruit and vegetables severely reduces the amount of un-recyclable plastics entering the waste stream. Local greengrocers are often not only cheaper than supermarkets but also

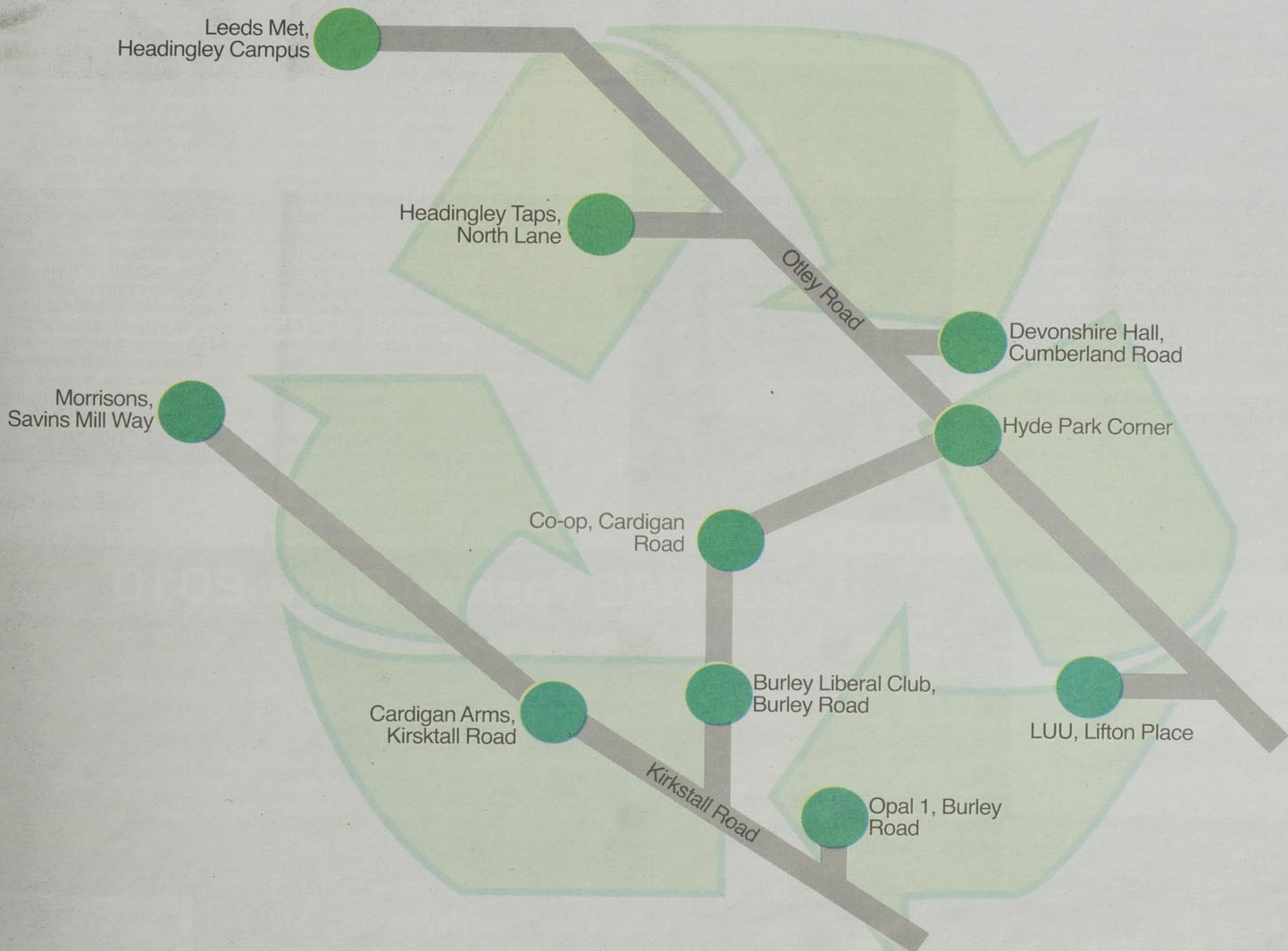
provide a greater selection of unpackaged foods, allowing you to easily avoid the plastic-filled supermarkets.

There is no longer a question about the 'usefulness' of recycling; as part of a modern consumer run economy, it is essential. For that very reason, it is the consumer that holds the power to enforce changes in both ideological and consumer aspects. Whilst consumption and conservation are hard to marry in modern society, they cannot be mutually exclusive. Recycling is vital, and if we, as the consumer, start to limit our consumption and manage our waste through recycling, the necessary conservation of our planet need not evade our grasp.

Useful Contacts

www.leeds.gov.uk
www.wrap.org.uk
<http://www.leaveleedstidy.com/greenstreets.htm>

LS guide to recycling in Leeds



As it's the Green Issue this week we are looking at environmentally ethical issues within the fashion industry and finding ways that we can all do our bit to address them. To kick off we have an interview with Laura Butler of Ringlit*, a Leeds based clothing line that offers an alternative to fast fashion through the reworking of vintage clothes...

What is the ethos behind Ringlit* and why the name Ringlit*? Ringlit* is a Leeds based clothing line, where each range gives you 100% exclusivity. Specialising in re-styled vintage clothing and accessories, Ringlit* has a strong ethical policy and all collections are made in Britain. The name Ringlit* was chosen as I have a head of ringlettes which depict me and my personality. Ringlit* therefore is an abbreviation of ringlette, and at the time many corporations were starting to use abbreviated words and acronyms as brand labels.

When and who was Ringlit* set up by? Ringlit*'s first garments were designed and made seven years ago by myself, Laura Butler. This was while at university where I started to tag all my designs with Ringlit* labels. Today I am establishing Ringlit* as a unique brand concept, creating a successful business.

What is your background as a designer? I have a strong background of experience in the industry. Graduating from Leeds College of Art (2004) with a degree in fashion/clothing, I went on to achieve four years experience as a garment technician. Working with small businesses during the latter three years I also gained experience in merchandising, shipping, sales and commercial design.

Where do you get your inspiration from for your designs? I am inspired by vintage clothing especially, and draw general inspiration from colour, fabric, culture, travel, fashion magazines, movies and so on. Other important things to consider from a commercial perspective are the current lifestyle trends. This falls in line with media and economic influences, and affects what is inspiring people to buy.

What are your views on fast fashion i.e. the Primark generation? Hmmm, I don't tend to shop in Primark, and quality on the high street has declined since the fast fashion fad. It's also caused clothing manufacture to move abroad, predominantly to the Far East, which I feel is a shame, and not healthy for our economy. Britain once led the world in producing quality clothing. Now the clothing industry is merely another manufacturing industry which has almost completely depleted in this country.

What are your views on eco-fashion and how do you think this fits in with Ringlit*? Well, eco-fashion in terms of re-styling and recycling is fun and unique. It is also great value for money and if you know enough about the origins of clothing on the high street, purchasing eco-fashion will leave you with a clear conscience.

What is it that you particularly like about vintage clothing? The quality of vintage clothing is so much better, especially the attention to detail. It's funky and exclusive, while keeping it REAL.

Why did you decide to re-work vintage clothing? I've always loved customising, and making a lil something out of a bit of nothing'. I have channelled and developed these skills throughout my career and will continue doing so.

What do you think Ringlit* offers that cannot be found on the High Street? Individual glamour which exudes style at very affordable prices, while being 100% exclusive and in keeping with current trends.

Do you ever/ would you ever consider working with eco-friendly materials i.e. hemp etc? As the journey of the label evolves, yes.

How do you think students can save the environment through fashion? By being more aware when they purchase something, where it was made, how and what from. Therefore, being aware of conscious consumer buying and the AWESOME effect that this could have if everybody began to adopt the same awareness.

Ringlit*'s exclusive range of re-styled vintage is on sale in FOUND, St John's Centre, Leeds or visit www.ringlit.co.uk

**questions: Anna Temby
answers: Laura Butler
image: Courtesy of Ringlit***



Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

Child labour, sweatshops and the neglect and waste of our world's resources are just some of the problems caused by unethical clothing and trading in the fashion industry. Textile waste goes straight to landfill, that not only creates green house emissions, but does so at the expense of all the oil, energy, water etc that went into the initial production of the textiles. This stems from a constant desire in today's society to replace old clothes with new designs in a search to stay on trend and keep up to date with the fashion industry and our friends. This encourages places like Primark and other High Street stores to offer cheap, affordable fashions at the expense of morality. However, there are alternatives to just heading down the High Street every time you need a new dress. This is not to say that being ethical with our style doesn't mean we all have to stop washing our hair, shaving our legs and start wearing clothes made of hemp. There are some simpler ways to stay stylish while still being good to the environment...

Clothes swapping is a phenomenon that was first introduced to me through a night in London called 'Swaporama' at 'Favella Chic' in Shoreditch. The idea was to swap clothes with people throughout the night. Whilst this allowed me to unearth some interesting clothes finds, it was also a great way to meet new people. Although swapping clothes with sweaty clubbers may not appeal to most, clothes swapping can be made a lot simpler and be done in the comfort of your own home. You could get a group of friends together and all swap some clothes with each other over some wine; a great way to update your wardrobe for free or just another excuse to get your friends together. It also allows you to try styles which you may not have been confident enough to try in the past, or even to wear that dress of your friend's that you secretly wanted without having to spend a penny.

Anna Wintour, Editor of American Vogue was recently

quoted as saying "I think it's always fun to have something new, but it doesn't mean that everything you already have in your closet has to be thrown out, you know? Recycle." A survey of 3,500 UK women revealed that on average £470 was spent on items in 2008 that were never worn - an estimated UK total of £11.1 billion. To add insult to injury, one in ten women confessed that they chucked their unworn items straight in the bin. Recycling clothes is one of the most important and easiest ways you can be ethical with your clothes. Instead of just throwing them in the bin you should take them to your nearest charity shop or donate them to a local hospice. A survey by Global Cool suggests that "over half of all the clothes, shoes and accessories bought by British women during 2008 have not been worn". If you have a look in your wardrobe you'll realise that you probably only make use of half the items in your wardrobe.

So have a good root through and find items that are not being used and either wear them or recycle them. Recycling clothes doesn't mean you have to take a trip down to your local recycling bank or pile bags. For example that pair of old jeans you never wear could be made into a new denim skirt or pair of shorts for the summer, all it takes is a little bit of imagination. Other ideas could be cutting the bottom and sleeves off an old T-shirt to make a tank top, which are currently in style. You could even get really creative and use some old clothes as cushion covers or cut them up and use them as cleaning cloths. Recycling your old clothes by making something new from something old allows you to be creative and produce a completely unique and bespoke new item. It allows you to make use out of your clothes in a positive and pragmatic way without adding to the two million tonnes of landfill caused by the clothes thrown away annually.

words: Olivia Cadoni

Leeds RAG Fashion Show 2010

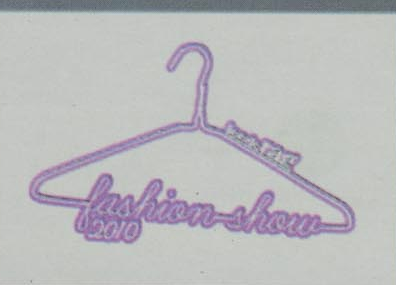
Are you ready for the hottest event of the year????

This year's RAG Fashion Show is being held on Thursday 25th February and it is GUARANTEED to be a night not to miss... LOOK OUT FOR THE START OF TICKET SALES SOON!

The proceeds of this must-see show are going to: House Children's Hospice and Refuge, a charity that supports victims of domestic violence and in the run up to the main event we will be doing various fundraising nights to ensure that these charities receive as much money as possible...

These events will include:

- ⇒ DJ Stand-off - 9th February (Tuesday) - in Mine : 10pm-2am
- ⇒ Clothes Swap - details to be confirmed (either 10th/11th Feb!)
- ⇒ Model Auction - 12th February (Friday) - in Mine : 7pm-10pm



N.B. If you are interested in helping out at any of the fundraising events mentioned, or at the night itself, please contact our Head of Support Groups (Emily Barton)... either on: 07731047038 or via email on: emilybarton276@yahoo.com





Hippie Hippie Shake

Eco-friendly fashion doesn't mean dressing like a hippie (though teaming vegan Dr Martens with grey opaque tights and a pastel-hued floral dress is one of the most stylish steps into spring).

Look to brands like People Tree who offer eco-friendly clothes that don't substitute on design or value. In a recent collaboration with Emma Watson, the brand is sure to rise to coveted status. Watson, who has transformed from the awkward schoolgirl Hermione Granger to a Burberry billboard beauty, believes that more labels should follow People Tree's example in promoting a fair trade and ethical ethos. The new collection is simple, young and modern, with personal highlights being the 'daisy chain vest' (£18; displaying Emma's original artwork) and 'rookwood lion tank' (£65; 100% Merino wool and perfect preppy

chic). All items will be available for order from February 8th at www.peopletree.co.uk.

Yet it is not only these lesser-known designers who are embracing all things environmental. Stella McCartney, daughter of Beatles legend Paul McCartney, is the epitome of the high-end eco warrior. Being brought up as a vegetarian, McCartney's ethics even diffuse into her clothing line. The designer avoids the use of animal materials in her products, choosing a plastic alternative to leather. This does not seem to have fazed the rich and beautiful with Stella McCartney being the label of choice among numerous celebrities and fashion gurus alike.

So how can students (on a budget rather a lot less than Kate Moss's) achieve the same? Look into the brands you are buying; often fast-fashion equals slave labour, where children as young as six are being made to work in an appalling environment, all so you can add another pair of leggings to that already burgeoning pile. Check the label; garments that use natural materials or are 'handmade' are more likely to be encouraging ecological practices in their production. Or check out local designers and help to support the economy around you, particularly if you are travelling over the coming months.

words: Vicky James
image: Emma Watson for People Tree

Four Ways To Wear A Jumper

Using your wardrobe more creatively will not only save you pennies but will stop you wastefully buying multiple items that will never be worn.

For more ideas on how to re-work your wardrobe visit <http://theuniformproject.com/> where Sheena Matheiken has been wearing the same style of black dress every day since May 2007, pairing it with different accessories, as an exercise in sustainable fashion.



Feminine Take

Wear the jumper under a summer dress teamed with a chunky scarf and leggings. Who said you couldn't wear your wardrobe all year round?



Modern Twist

Can't afford a new cardigan? Use your jumper as one.



Dress Down

Use your jumper to dress down a silk skirt or pretty dress. Wear woollen tights to keep you warm and fingerless gloves to add a grunge appeal.



Layer Up

Fight the cold with layers upon layers. Add a vintage twist with a skinny belt and polka dot tights but don't forget that chunky scarf.

words: Alice Tate

The Leeds Community Clothes Exchange runs once a month at a workshop called 25 Spaces, near Hyde Park corner (see the Facebook group of the same name). On Saturday 20th February, HiFi club will also be running a swap shop. Take along your unwanted clothes, shoes, accessories and bags in good condition and get a brand new wardrobe. Don't be put off by the donations. They may only be 'unwanted' simply because they no longer fit or don't suit the donor. There will also be workshops at the event to help with alterations to make your new goods fit you perfectly. New clothes have never been this healthy to your bank balance.

Clothes Exchange, 20th February, 2-5.30pm. Search for the Clothes Exchange and Competitive Cupcakes group on Facebook or email sophie@theficclub.co.uk for more details.

Stylish Swapping

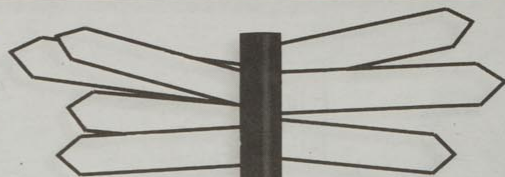
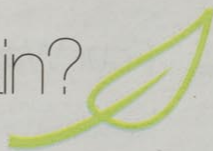
Spring is on its way and this means only one thing. Birds cheeping? Blossom blooming? No, spring cleaning. It's about time your wardrobe got a sort out, isn't it?

Wondering what you're going to do with the sequin hot-pants you bought last season for, well, last season Or perhaps the tasselled dress from the season before? Maybe it's the sky-high shoes you spent a fortune on, but wore only once as you've since learnt alcohol and towering heels lead to inevitable disaster. Well, good news, there is a solution - clothes swapping. With eco-concerns becoming a major factor in fashion, and society growing more and more wasteful by the day, swap shops have been popping up all around the UK, providing an easy and guilt-free way to get rid of old clothes, yet get new ones on the same day. The concept is simple - exchange your unwanted clothes for tokens, which can then be used to obtain someone else's donated treasures.

So where is the one in Leeds, you ask?

words and styling: Emma Kniveton
model: Anna McCurry

Recycling: Vital or a pain?



As we battle our way through Green Week, hundreds of issues about being eco-friendly will raise their controversial heads. As students we are expected to care, to protest and to support those who fight to save the world but recycling requires direct commitment and effort, so when it comes down to it, can we be bothered?

What is the point?

Recycle recycle recycle! We're told endlessly to recycle. If I could get arrested or shot for not recycling, then of course I would colour code my bins and do the exciting chore of separating my rubbish, but I honestly can't be bothered.

Being told to recycle is like being told to save up now for the mortgage you'll have in ten years. The effect of global warming and greenhouse gases seems so far in the future, that we don't feel the need to worry about it now.

Of course recycling is important or else it wouldn't be such an issue but we're in a world where it's only a problem if it directly affects us.

At the same time, how can we blame ourselves? We're told that despite performing the tedious task of separating rubbish, it all ends up on the back streets of China anyway.

So we can ask ourselves, does recycling really work? Is our Government stressing this topic to appear favourable to other nations in our quest to save the world?

In all honesty, global warming is inevitable. As long as technology exists, so will this problem. The world will end because of human activity, if it's not from recycling, it will be from the lack of trees, if it's not from the lack of trees, it will be the war! The list goes on.

Humans are destructive animals. Recycling will only prolong our existence but the world will end anyway.

Marian Edusei

Blame the manufacturers

In Fresher's week we used our recycling bin as an avant-garde outfit. Halfway through our first year, we still haven't found its true purpose.

The complex procedure of what goes in which bin is beyond me. One conscientious flatmate gets increasingly angered as I throw yet another milk carton in the wrong bin. I'm sorry but they all look the same. It's not like they have labels on. Well, they did, but they ruined the aforementioned avant-garde outfit, so they had to go.

Recycling is also made difficult by the cleaner, ironically. Otherwise known as 'Fishface,' she never takes our proper bins so the recycling bins get filled up with normal rubbish. In fact the cleaners have taken to entering our flat in pairs, for back up presumably (in case one faints from the overwhelming stench of student living). Or perhaps it's for mutual support; our kitchen can be a scary place because God forbid the rubbish might not be entirely in the bag, because SOMEONE has failed to collect it due to a self given long-weekend. Thus recycling for students living in halls is a nightmare, finding the communal recycling bins is like trying to find a needle in a haystack and forging your way down three flights of stairs with a bin the size of a child is harder than reverse parking.

Despite the rant about cleaners and my blatant laziness and incompetence, I blame the manufacturers. All this excess packaging is a pain; I don't want multitudinous amounts of cardboard, I would be very happy to collect my food in my hands or something. Plastic case, plastic sleeve and then the cardboard over the top: What the hell?

In a suitably bizarre turn of events they've

now introduced wrapped bananas. Sorry but surely that's what nature's very own invention of banana skin is for?

Charlotte Grant-West

An essential difficulty

Recycling is certainly a total pain. Washing out plastic bottles and glass jars is time consuming and just adds to the mass of washing up already going in the sink.

It's often too cold to go outside to the green bins, which inevitably leads to the kitchen corner becoming a recycling refuse, posing a health hazard. I've found myself thinking that if we just threw out those plastic bottles piling up in the corner, the amount of oil resources used to replace them with new bottles would at least be oil that couldn't be put to any other environmentally detrimental use i.e. putting more cars on the road or munitions production.

Yet I still force myself and my poor housemates down the recycling route. I remind myself that such justifications (including the familiar 'well it can't make that much difference anyway') are petulant, and that the efforts of recycling contribute towards a wider significance.

Recycling may be a pain, but it isn't about personal inconvenience, but about the world as a whole. Yes, that may be a cliché, and yes everyone says it, but scientists' figures are there, proving it will help our environment and indeed our economy in the long term. I think if we all don't make the effort now, 50 years down the line the damage done to our

natural resources will be more of a 'pain' than the extra three minutes spent taking the recyclable rubbish out to the green bins.

Virginia Beardsall

Doing our bit

Being green is tough, or it is at least alleged to be.

I admit, it can take an act of some courage to haul out the recycling to that green bin outside your home, and admittedly, there isn't a huge warm glow inside when you do it, but recycling is helping the environment, not matter how little you think it helps.

As students, we enjoy a drink or five (personally, my tippie is about three cans of Strongbow), and the bottles we buy often get nonchalantly thrown in the rubbish. But it takes just five minutes to take them to the recycling bins behind Co-Op. See it as taking a break from work, or alternatively the time it takes for the average student kettle to boil.

It's not glamorous, it's not warm and fuzzy, but recycling is just our way of trying to help our environment.

Adam Richardson

Next week:
Valentines Day: Too com-
merical or totally serious?
If you have an opinion on this and wish to
share it with the student body, send
about 250 words to:
dilemma@leedsstudent.org

Crossword

Across:

1. Sign of the Zodiac (7)
6. Case for seeds (3)
8. Not expected (13)
10. Changeable (6)
11. City in India (5)
12. Collectively gathering ideas (13)
16. A look (5)
18. Sour (6)
19. Selfish (13)
21. Happy (3)
22. Not one or the other (7)

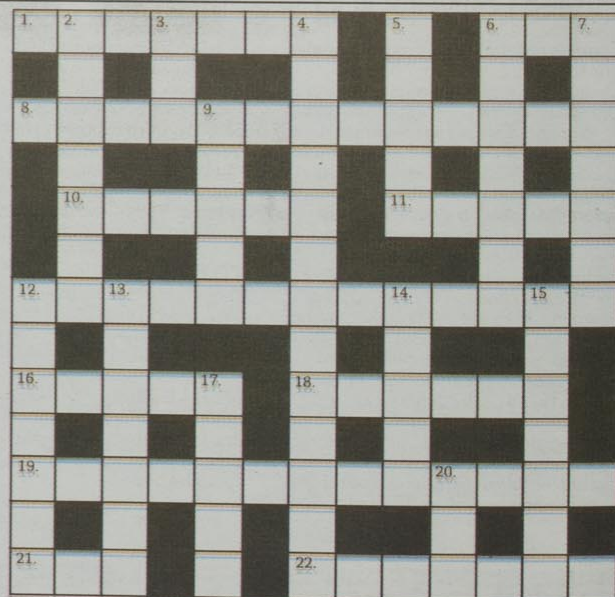
Down:

2. Tree (7)
3. Pour out (3)
4. Writing for large ensemble (13)
5. Son of Venus (5)
6. Mathematical game (7)
7. Avoiding (7)
9. Gesture (5)
12. Cooks in water (7)
13. Without law (7)
14. Heighten (5)
15. Fabric worn close to the throat (7)
17. Tedium (5)
20. Rodent (3)

The answers to last week's crossword:

Across: 1. Pocketful, 5. Tan, 8. Armguard, 10. Arse, 11. Heater, 12. Repeat, 13. Art, 14. Zodiac, 17. Absent, 19. Ask, 20. Gifted, 21. Eldest, 23. Soon, 24. Baseball, 26. Use, 27. Cambridge.

Down: 1. Peach, 2. Command, 3. Emu, 4. Undertakers, 6. Abstain, 7. Campus, 9. Abracadabra, 15. Ominous, 16. Intend, 18. Emerald, 22. Tulle, 25. Ear



050210
COMEDY

Kill For A Seat Comedy: Markus Birdman, Andrew Bird and Dan Bland Seven Arts Centre, 27/01

Markus Birdman and Andrew Bird may have outgrown their comedy beginnings on the London circuit to become nationally successful side-splitters. Luckily, they along with local stand up talent Dan Bland still have time to sit down with Leeds Student to talk tabloids, vicars, and ill-fated wedding speeches.

Comparisons to Russell Howard's cheekiness seem appropriate, but Andrew Bird possesses his own original mixture of rehearsed wit and uncontrived conversation. In our conversation, as on stage, his anecdotes flow thick and fast. His wife is Slovakian and he recounts various 'meet the parents' mishaps, blending bemusement with enthusiasm. Has he thought of doing a gig in Slovakia?

"Not after we got married - I died on my arse in my wedding speech," he winces. "It's not a good feeling dying on your arse at your own wedding."

What about cultural difference in Britain; is there a noticeable north-south divide in terms of humour?

"I think in the south it doesn't matter where you're from - funny is funny," Andrew says. "But in the north, if you prove you're funny early on then you're alright, but they'd much rather you were northern and funny."

"I don't think they necessarily prefer you to be northern," Markus suggests, "but it's definitely an issue that has to be addressed - who you are and where you're from."

Some of Markus' comedy - articulately delivered with Pythonesque pomp - bounces ideas about social codes and regional difference, leading him to suggest that we should all be made to read a broadsheet and a tabloid.

"In an ideal world, everybody just shouldn't read tabloids, but you can't get away with that on stage."

Markus's dad being a vicar, his digs at religion come from a less ignorant position than the run-of-the-mill mick-taking. I'm interested to know if his dad comes to his gigs.

"Yes quite a lot! The religious stuff he finds fine - it's not like I'm slagging him off, and it is done with a certain amount of knowledge and experience on my part. But I think some of the filth - that he finds difficult." His skit about good and bad pom (Busty Housewives versus Anus Wreckers), which brings the audience to the floor with laughter, is what he might have in mind. "But the things about religion I think he finds quite interesting really. I sometimes say we've got similar jobs - we both get up in front of a room full of strangers and lie to them."

That night, the Chapel Allerton audience is a varied crowd, but Markus has played at the The Library and Original Oak's student-gear'd Thursday comedy nights.

"Student audiences often know and understand subjects far better than most people because they are more intelligent. Depending on the university," Markus adds. "For example a Leeds University gig is going to be good because it's a good university, whereas Billericay University is probably going to be hard work."

"I like student gigs - for the record."

"I'd just like to say that I love students. They're a very important part of the economy. Another wicked laugh."

"I've noticed actually, student pubs attract students and mental old people - it's a lovely mixture of hope and despair."

Dan Bland, is the second performer of the night's three-strong lineup. His name could not be more apt. Flanking his monotone delivery of superbly morose one-liners with hilariously depressive silences, this deadpan talent stares persistently at a space somewhere just above the audience's heads. It's a mournful appearance that an ever-so-slightly lazy eye and pale skin only adds to.

The chattier and marginally more enthusiastic off-stage version of Dan joins us at the table, and, being a local himself, we soon begin comparing notes on Leeds' nightlife.

"If you're driving through Leeds very slowly, the hoards are banging on your car - it's like a safari park. Someone will be on your bonnet chewing your wind-screen wipers off."

And if they weren't in comedy, what do they see themselves as being?

Markus: "Divorced. Or a virgin."

Andrew is considering his answer slightly more carefully. "I'd be an art restorer - I got an A in A level Art. Not very funny, but accurate. Or maybe I could be a funny art restorer, cracking jokes: 'Ooh I thought my white spirit was my tea again... Oh I put my paintbrush in my cup of tea...'"

"Well the sad thing is I've got a day job in market research," Dan tells us. "But if I didn't do stand up comedy I'd have killed myself."

We all laugh, but, typically, there is nothing in Dan's expression to suggest he is joking.

Brendon Burns and Danny Bucker headline the next Kill For A Seat Comedy Night at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, 07/02, £10/£8.



words:
Matt Hutchinson



up in the area. It culminates in a heated verbal and nearly physical confrontation between Chevron lawyers and Steven Donziger, a New York based attorney representing the Ecuadorians. Never has law appeared so dramatic.

Indeed, living in a Western society where lawyers often seem to merely represent the big businesses, it is refreshing to see lawyers like Donziger fighting for the cause of the underdog. Probably the most inspirational person in the film is Pablo Fajardo, lead attorney for the Ecuadorians, and an indigenous Ecuador who emerges as the Che Guevara of the legal world, passionately devoted to the cause of his people and willing to fight until the death. His earnestness and conviction defy the representation of indigenous populations as a community to be pitied, who passively suffer from the hands of their capitalist oppressors, by showing a spirit of resistance.

The conflict between the two factions is not just between American businesses and indigenous communities; the old Ecuadorian state oil company is also criticised for neglecting its people and refusing to admit its involvement in its peoples' suffering. Pretty heavy stuff. Luckily, Berlinger prevents the film from getting too bogged down in seriousness by presenting some comic and mellow moments, especially between Fajardo and Donziger. The beautiful, emotive music of the indigenous woman at the beginning and closing sequences of the film adds a poetic edge that speaks for the beauty of 'the lungs of the world', the Amazon, which has been relentlessly raped and pillaged by human greed.

words: Nali Sivathanan

THEATRE A Midsummer Night's Dream stage@leeds until 06/02



Tom Large and Francesca Stokes had the unenviable task of producing one of Shakespeare's most performed plays in a way that is both engaging and fresh. With the immediate rejection of the traditional Athenian visuals and the adoption of a set resembling a scrappy rubbish tip, one would be forgiven for assuming they had stumbled back into their living room rather than arriving at stage@leeds. But if you've wondered where that empty Morrisons shopping trolley or conspicuous traffic cone, previously abandoned outside your front door, has disappeared to, then it will come as a significant surprise to discover your drunken steals debuting in this classic comedy.

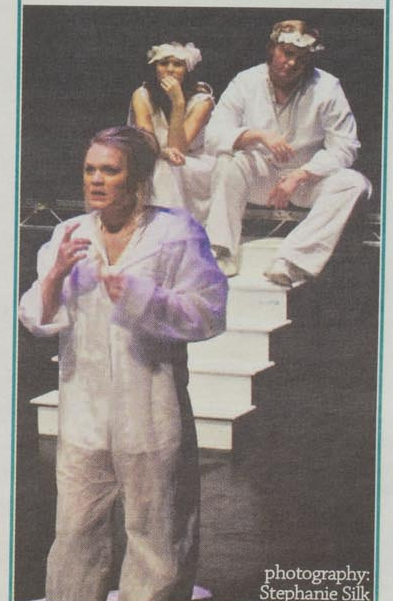
The set design at once suggests that this usually gentle play will be presented as a more peculiar and sinister tale, yet fortunately this is not the case. Directors Georgia Murphy and Laura Rolinson have stayed true to the essence of the script, sticking to the more popular *modus operandi* of playing out the narrative as a stary-eyed farce. Strong characterisation and quirky costumes undoubtedly add to the humour.

For even the least ardent of Shakespeare fans it is worth checking out. Despite sticking closely to Shakespeare's original text, it seems casually colloquial with contemporary gender relations resonating throughout.

There is a tendency of the production to make its audience laugh at all costs. They're brilliantly successful in this, but perhaps at the cost of at least some of the play's emotional depth. The Mechanicals are characterised as even more moronic than usual, and although this heightens the comedy of their scenes it leaves little room for the tenderness between them that some past productions have nuanced so well.

Nevertheless, the audience find that their laughter is as persistent as Helena's desperate lunges towards the dishy Demetrius.

words: Emily Coen



photography:
Stephanie Silk

FILM Crude Hyde Park Picture House



"Oil is like a wild animal. Whoever captures it has it." The words of oil tycoon Jean Paul Getty seem particularly pertinent now, in an era where capturing this elixir of modern life is becoming more difficult and lucrative. The Bush era will be posthumously remembered for its 'oil and gas administration', saturated with officials heavily involved in the oil industry. Yet even in the current age of Obama, oil exploration dominates many foreign policy decisions.

The effects of capturing this 'wild animal' are depicted in *Crude*, Joe Berlinger's latest documentary in which the Ecuadorian Amazon becomes the site of a bitter law suit between Chevron, formerly Texaco (a former employer of Condoleezza Rice) and the 30,000 Ecuadorians living in the

Amazon rainforest. The qualms of the indigenous population rest in the high incidence of cancer and other diseases that have arisen as a result of contaminated water from oil spills, which were not sufficiently dealt with by Chevron and Ecuador's state oil company when it took over the business in the 1990s.

This David and Goliath battle and the conceited negligence of Chevron towards the exploited indigenous population may come as no surprise to many, yet the intensity with which Chevron employees fervently defend their company and thrust the blame onto others is astounding. At times, the human faces of Chevron and their insistence on the moral superiority of Chevron seems chilling, especially amidst the overwhelming evidence of diseased and deformed children growing

FILM

Precious

Vue



Depressing, melodramatic and inappropriately humorous is *Precious*, director Lee Daniel's latest offering. *Precious* is the story of 16-year-old Claireece Precious Jones, a large, pregnant and illiterate African American girl living in Harlem, New York.

Strangely, the film reminded me of *Matilda* – if *Matilda* has been directed by Quentin Tarantino, that is. *Precious* is an intelligent but undereducated, underestimated teenager abused by her parents. The scenes in which *Precious* is attacked by her mother are gratuitously violent, and become irritating – there are far too many of them. Whilst being abused, *Precious* enters a fairytale world where she imagines herself as a star. It is a nice relief from the relentless harshness of the picture, but the mixture of arty surrealism and gritty realism fail to work.

Suspended from school for being pregnant, *Precious* is sent to a new institution, recommended by her former teacher for her ability at maths. *Precious*'s biggest hope comes in the form of this simpering, Miss Honey-esque teacher, Blu, who has faith in her abilities – so much faith that you might actually vomit in your cinema seat.

The film is a mess. It aims to be uplifting, but just as your mouth slowly arches into a smile – bam! – another depressing event hits you. If the storyline doesn't work for you, various celebrity appearances might do the trick: Lenny Kravitz plays *Precious*'s bezzzy-mate nurse, while Mariah Carey plays her social worker, investigating *Precious*'s incestuous relationship with her father

– pretty difficult when, at school, *Precious* has to have the difference between incest and insects explained to her. The film ends on a high. As Scarlett O'Hara said "After all, tomorrow is another day"; *Precious* knows that when life hits

you hard, you've got to keep going.

But despite a rare gleam of hope, the overarching misery of the film is likely to take the spring right out of your step.

words: Charlotte Gill



THEATRE

From Where I Am Standing

stage@leeds

30/01



Performing alongside their parents in *From Where I Am Standing*, the Glaswegian youth-group Junction 25 brought a moving yet hysterical exposé of real parent-child relationships.

Scenes move fluidly from one candid family monologue to the next, incorporating narration, dance sequences, and projections of family snapshots. A particularly watchable and tender sequence is delivered by father and son duo Kevin and Nathan Low, in which we witness the repetitive and desperate attempts by the elder son to be cradled protectively in his father's arms. Each time he runs and leaps into his father's tired body, a series of actions set to music, we expect the father to drop his son, to abandon the burden. But in the father's resilience the play delivers a heartfelt portrayal of the family as a support system.

Other scenes see two proud daughters introduce their 'rocker' mum via her old music video, a son cringing at his mother's jokes, a shouting match between a father and daughter that sees the father whistling to drown out her screams, and an energetic musical chair montage with children desperate to escape their makers.

This highly identifiable mediation highlights the angst but also the respect within the family unit. The chaotic pillow fight closing the play, where feathers and laughter fly and cascade down upon the actors, reminds us that family also means fun, and that, to quote Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw, "If you can't get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."

words: Chloe Davies

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OPERA

Ruddigore

Leeds Grand Theatre until 20/02



I am not sure how many students will have heard of *Ruddigore* – or even the duo behind it, Gilbert and Sullivan – and if this number is few then it really is a shame. With a beautiful lively score, a vast assortment of characters, and a plot that mixes comedy, ghosts, a love triangle and a dark family curse, it really does have everything a show could need.

Set in the Cornish village of Rederring, the plot initially centres on the beautiful (and aptly named) Rose Maybud, caught between the affections of bumbling farmer Robin Oakapple and his foster brother, the boisterous sailor Richard "Dick" Dauntless. We are simultaneously made aware of the omnipresent Murgatroyd family curse, forcing the present Baronet Murgatroyd to perform one crime a day or face death, the twist being that the supposedly innocent Robin Oakapple is in fact the true current Baronet who, out of fear of inheriting the title and its inevitable curse, has taken on another name. And throughout all of this, a group of ghosts and 'professional bridesmaids' flitter on and off stage, providing an extremely strong chorus, both creating and enhancing comedy.

In particular, Sir Despard Murgatroyd and Mad Margaret, played by Richard Burkhard and Heather Shipp, work perfectly together to create a hilarious pairing as cohesive in their rapport as in their dancing. Amy Freston makes a wonderful



ART

It's Not Funny

MAP Gallery until 04/02

It's Not Funny is all about taking humorous art seriously, a premise which is explored through a wide range of mediums at this playful and quirky exhibition. From the moment the visitor walks through the door, they are presented with a boldly painted floor by University of Leeds art student Thom Green, a symbolic frontier between artistic creation and curatorial involvement as well as a physical one between the outside world and this Aladdin's cave of wonders.

As well as supplying gallery space, the venue MAP (Music and Arts Production) provides art education and supports young artists, something which is reflected in the inclusion of several University of Leeds students both past and present in the show. These are featured alongside a collection of local artists, all of whom have something in common: they include humour in their work whether through subversion, incongruity or just plain silliness.

Many of the exhibits are interactive, inviting the viewer to influence the piece, such as Johnny White's *In and Out of the Doghouse* – a scrap metal dog, controllable via a lever to make its tail spin or eyes flash. Another piece, by third year fine art student Aoife Flynn, consists of a set of Rockband electrical drums in the corner accompanied by a stool, a set of drumsticks and a note encouraging you to sit down and play. The significance of the piece's title, *Humdrum*, soon becomes clear, and there is nothing mundane about it!

Among the other works are spying umbrellas, kitsch kittens, spinning coloured babies' heads and bottle teat chess pieces, all of which combine to create a refreshingly relaxed exhibition space. Here, it is not unusual to see someone break into a grin and giggle at the exhibits. In fact, it's expected. I dare you not to laugh.

words: Laura Crane



photography: Robert Workman

Rose Maybud, effortlessly capturing her primness and innocence, and doing so with a beautiful soprano voice. Grant Doyle and Hal Cazalet, playing Robin Oakapple and Richard Dauntless, provide the other two points of the love triangle, creating a compelling 'Will they? Won't they?' situation that lasts until the finale. Richard Hudson's set is also something of a marvel, the contrast between the airy seaside landscape of the first half and the gloomy portrait gallery of the second aligns well with the contrasting plot, at once drawing the audience in, allowing them to become part of Hudson's intricate creations.

Ruddigore's director, Jo Davies, has done a wonderful job of staging the opera thanks to a

lack of over-complication. This is important to any show, but with a plot as saturated as *Ruddigore's*, such simplicity becomes vital. By sticking to the original script and following original characterisation, Davies allows Gilbert's witty words to flourish with ease, matched also by Sullivan's catchy musical score which is, in turn, conducted by John Wilson.

It is said that on *Ruddigore's* initial opening night in 1887 the audience were left entirely unimpressed, booing and hissing as the curtain descended. However the opposite has to be said for Opera North's opening night, the curtain close being met with rapturous applause that was entirely deserved.

words: Hannah Astill

THEATRE PREVIEW

Henry IV Part II

stage@leeds 10/02-13/02

Interview with co-director Jimmy Walters and actor Edmund Digby-Jones

OK, so are you expecting me to have revised Part I?

Definitely not! You don't have to know *Part I* or *Henry V* to understand the play. Although it is part of a wider narrative, and we do open with a very brief section of *Part I* to contextualise, *Part II* has interesting qualities and subjects all of its own. The play centres around Prince Hal's fundamental dilemma: will he continue to enjoy his drunken lowlife in a tavern with Falstaff and his friends, or will he rise to the responsibility of taking over the country from his increasingly sick father and attempt to prevent chaos and disorder? This is what we will be focussing on in our portrayal. The politics is the circumstance, rather than the main subject.

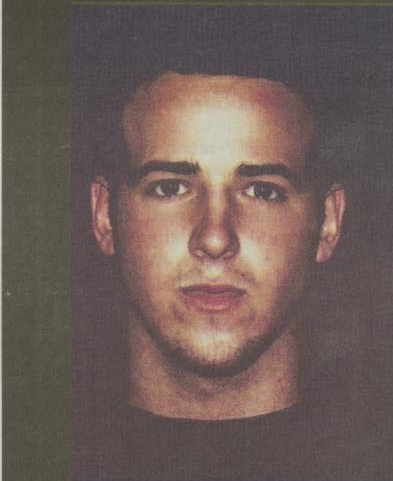
And did the politics attract you to the play?

Partly, but what is also appealing now is the fact that it's not frequently performed. I think that the sheer amount of particular Shakespearean reproductions results in a tendency of, "let's make Macbeth a caveman!" or "let's do Hamlet on Ice!" The Shakespeare often gets lost in the desire to just do something different, and there's an advantage in not having that anxiety.

No lions playing King Henry then. So would you recommend it as a Valentine's date?

Well, of a cast of eighteen strong, two are females, both of which are prostitutes, so it's certainly an alternative to Richard Curtis! But actually, the men are always at their most honest around the women; they can't spend too long around them, for fear of facing up to what they really are.

words: Amy Powell Yeates



photography: Nick Coupe

LOOKOUT POST



The History Boys

West Yorkshire Playhouse until 06/03

Alan Bennett's Olivier award winning play comes home to Leeds in Christopher Luscombe's brand new production. Intelligently funny and gently philosophical, Bennett's narrative follows a group of Oxbridge hopefuls from a Sheffield Grammar School during the Thatcherite 1980s. Concession tickets are from £13 – a bargain considering the inevitable critical acclaim.

Bollywood Show 2010

Riley Smith Hall 11/02, 6.30pm - 10pm

A spectacular smörgåsbord of Bollywood dance, bhangra dance, dhol players, street dance, and fashion show, this one night only event will inject some Indian summer into a dreary Leeds winter. All proceeds go to charity too, and you can't argue with that.

Sticks and Stones poetry night

Strawbs bar 08/02, 7.30pm

For the satiation of your versical greed, *Sticks and Stones* open mic poetry night bring you the magnificent Kayo Chingonyi. With performances at Buckingham Palace, the Globe and the Tate Modern under his belt, Kayo's performance of his latest lyrics is unmissable.

International Photography Exhibition

JobLink area, Union Building 08/02, 10am - 4pm

For one day only, the purple JobLink area will become an exhibition space where the photography of the university's most promising talents will be on show. Ranging from home towns to places of interest, the exhibition is part of the union's International Cultural Festival – a great escape.

Central do Brasil: film screening

Meeting Room 8, Union Building 11/02, 5pm - 7.30pm

Part blistering thriller, part reflective road trip, this excellent Brazilian/French film tells of the emotional journey of a former school teacher who earns a living writing letters for illiterate people at Rio de Janeiro's central station, Central do Brasil. When a young boy whose mother has just died in a car accident enlists her help to track down his father, she soon finds herself doing more than putting pen to paper. Showing as part of the union's International Cultural Festival.

words: Emily Coen

WHAT'S ONLINE
leedsstudent.org

Lex Guthrie offers his verdict ahead of the upcoming Oscars...

Travel Documentaries – leading way to a necessary future in virtual tourism?

Annabelle Hawes asks how travel documentaries can both help and hinder the environment

It's 2010. Copenhagen has come and gone, and the green issue hangs ever more incumbent over the policies of our world's leaders. In our time of globalisation, increased air travel and higher gas-guzzling, plans to reduce carbon footprints may well seem powerless to halt the destruction of our contemporary lifestyles. Widespread families will continue to travel the vast distances to visit expatriate relatives living out in Australia. Couples with kids and a bit of cash on them will continue to jet off to the latest exotic destination on summer breaks. And who's to deny them the spoils of a technologically advanced and global society?

Certainly not television. Since the likes of Michael Palin's *Around the World in 80 Days*, foreign travel has not only looked attractive, it's been outright encouraged. A tradition of travel programmes such as BBC's *Holiday* and ITV's *Wish You Were Here...*? have made their mark on British screens, seducing the public with picturesque visions of palm beaches off the Hawaiian coast and luxurious shopping exploits in Dubai. Even for holidaymakers on string-tight budgets, advice and enthusiasm from such programmes encourage viewers to chew up the scenery in places ranging from St. Lucia to Singapore. If you want to do it, do it, is the motto from our presenters – more recently, Channel 4's popular Indian Winter season started again

on 20th January, with a special series of reports and features from across India.

Yet, what real cost to the planet does such mass travelling entail? Is it right that television should promote foreign travel in such a way that has seen the number of planes in our skies double in the past decade? There is, of course, another side to the argument. While television could be blamed for encouraging us to leap out of sofas and plan the next great escape to St Mauritius, it could equally, perhaps, be blamed for encouraging us to stay in, and view the spectacular sights from the box. Travel documentaries, such as Palin's, take us on global journeys and exploits we are unlikely to encounter – or perhaps would wish to experience – while on our own exotic holidays. True, such vicarious experiences are certainly less intimate and meaningful than the real thing would be, but for sheer informative and entertainment factor, there's little to beat A-list celebrity Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman being aggressively massaged by locals at a spa in Kazakhstan. Sky One's *Long Way Round*, which narrates a series of motorcycle escapades from London to New York, kept audiences glued to their seats during its 2004-2005 run – and that wasn't for its presenter's Hollywood credentials. The incredulous exploits of the boys in such far reaching lands as Mongolia

and the Russian Steppe, provided a window onto another land, another culture, rarely, if ever, experienced by the average Brit. Although the smells and tastes of Latvian cuisine weren't forthcoming, sympathetic participation with the presenters, coupled with the sights and sounds captured by camera, allowed for a truly immersive experience – or at least the closest one can get – on the wrong side of the Channel. If anything else, for those unable to travel conventionally, it was a cheap and more environmentally friendly alternative!

With globalisation allowing crews to push into even more remote corners of the world, the range of travel documentaries have become even more daring in scope – check out BBC *Tribes*' Bruce Parry tripping out on iboga, a hallucinogen, native to western Central Africa in an initiation ceremony of the Sanema people. Yet more fascinating footage, no doubt, waits to be filmed. In days to come, one looking atavistically might welcome such an archive. Let's imagine, if you will, a future wherein we

have exhausted our fossil fuel supplies. International travel has become scarce, if not ceased altogether. People are once more isolated within small land-locked communities. Yet a global society still exists through the means of the internet – a virtual network of social hubbub and communication. A need for travel – for mutual cultural recognition and understanding remains as necessary and relevant, if not more so, than in our present day. Whereas in our age, television encourages tourism, perhaps in decades to come, it will serve as the sole means of experiencing the wonders of the world through a 'virtual' tourism. It may also serve as a necessary filmic reminder of a world and cultures we have lost.



[THE ARGUMENT] Recycling Reruns



Pick of the week

From Hell

8/2/10 at 10pm Channel 5

Fusing the charisma and wit of lead character Inspector Abberline (Johnny Depp) with a sinister undercurrent of the treacherous acts of Jack the Ripper, the Hughes brothers deliver a cinematic masterpiece that is indeed from hell itself. The inspired acting from Depp is itself worthy of mention, fully complemented by the real sense of grime and degradation of Victorian London. A far cry from the antics of Jack Sparrow, Depp delivers the blackest of humour and sarcasm in his pursuit of the Ripper himself. Whilst morbid in tone, his interaction with the prostitutes and lowlifes of London's Victorian underworld add to the character of the film and do provide relief from an otherwise grisly scene. While the horror genre may not be to everyone's liking, *From Hell* does provide memorable characters and a certain charm that immerses you in the film. A breath of fresh air from more modern crime films, the lack of political correctness (opium-induced visions constituting the majority of 'evidence' in the case) provides moments seldom found in films of the genre. An easy film to watch that still entertains and shocks; *From Hell* is definitely worth a viewing if you haven't seen it before.

words: Ben Heath

Take Me Out

Saturdays at 7.30pm ITV1

You may have dismissed this show based on the tacky advert full of tacky women judging tacky men. I thought this programme looked horrific, and I am happy to say I have never been so wrong in my life. It is amazing. Hosted by Paddy McGuinness, this is *Blind Date* with some new catchphrases and a variety of 30 ladies who judge the men brave (or stupid) enough to put themselves out there. There are three rounds, based on how the men look, an embarrassing video about them, and some sort of talent that normally results in a guy stripping and doing a back flip. At any point, the girls can take themselves out of the running for a date thanks to the rule, "No likey, no lighty", which sounds so much better in Paddy's accent. All 30 women can reject a guy, who has to walk off alone or if successful they'll go on a romantic date to Fernando's which we get to watch the next week. The best thing about this programme is that the same women take part until they find a date. There are the twins, Acrinton's questionable answer to Jedward, as well as the regulars like Rian and Emma who never quite manage to nab a date, and my favourite Siobhan. It is unadulterated trash, and its incredible. Watch it and you won't look back. You can also catch up on ITV Player.

words: Serena Peddle

The One with the Repeats

Dump the Trashy Reruns

The denouement of the final series of *Friends* left many with a void to fill in their lives. The unsuccessful spin off series *Joey* did not satisfy, and was laid to rest as a media and marketing bad dream. To demand more of the original would be a little much; after serving any more time cast members would surely struggle to distinguish between TV-set and reality. Eventually we realised that what made immensely entertaining viewing the first time round, if of high quality, could be entertaining again and again (and again)... Aside from this example of *Friends*, the rerunning of TV series, especially national treasures like *Fawlty Towers* is a good thing; it allows us to see classic shows from before our time, or resolve the aching discontinuity of a missed episode. It seems to me that reruns are a refuge against the new spawn of overproduced American sitcoms, and in that case will never die. So rest assured that if the nuclear bomb does end the world, all that will remain will be *Friends* reruns, and many sublimely entertained cockroaches.

words: Rachel Harvey

As the impending deadline for a draft chapter of my dissertation looms ever nearer, I decided the other day to take it upon myself to spend my time constructively. With a bowl of Morrisons own-brand cornflakes in one hand and a mug of tea in the other, I settled down on the sofa and began sinking into an afternoon of television escapism. Only I couldn't. For some reason, Dave was the first channel showing, and I was instantly hit with Jeremy Clarkson salivating over a car from five years ago. Moving up through the channels, it seemed like nothing was on but *Friends*, *Kirsty & Phil* or any generic 70s detective show. Yawn. Watching a repeat of an old show is like looking back into TV history. The moment *Friends* finished it stopped being an up-to-the-minute sitcom and became a dated example of what pop culture (and hair styling) was like in the 90s. Obviously, some TV shows are timeless classics, but that's what the DVD box set was created for. I mean, if TV was going to repeat quality, then BBC Three would be nothing but wall-to-wall *Buffey*. And then at least I'd stop complaining.

words: Thomas Bush

050210

Going Green

COMMENT

Will eBooks be the Books of the Future?

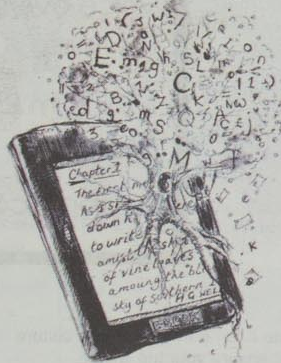
With the world locked in a continuous debate over how to be more environmentally friendly, it is now our faithful companion, the book, which is under threat of being deemed 'ungreen'. There are many arguments suggesting the eBook is far greener, yet can we really justify the possible extinction of the book as a means of saving a few trees? We are all aware of the damages that carbon emissions can inflict upon our environment and we have to acknowledge the ecological impact of tree demolition. With the eBook, these troubles would be considerably fewer. However, the image of grabbing a satisfyingly warm cup of tea and eagerly ascending the stairs to a nice, comfy bed, to then sit up with a flashing and humming laptop to get stuck into an exciting read, does not exactly strike my fancy.

Environmentalists inform us that printed books use three times more raw materials to produce than eBooks, but have they considered that computers, laptops, and eBook hand-held devices are not biodegradable? Which argument is stronger I will leave to the scientists. There are many ways in which books can be environmentally friendly too; for example Oxfam Bookshops recycle unwanted books and sell them on to new readers. Also the heritage of book sharing is not only 'green', but creates that warm, fuzzy feeling inside when you and your friends sit together and chat about your favourite books. As an English and History student, the eBook, or other electronically accessed material, is a lifesaver when the library copies have disappeared along with the enthusiasts. Nevertheless, after a couple of hours of squinting at a screen, my fingers aching, poised over the mouse, I am pining for a

book to sit down with wherever, and not just my computer chair, to flick through the pages with ease.

Gadget lovers will celebrate the eBook as another innovation of our age and it will hopefully encourage those who see reading as a boring pastime to take up it up. But do we really want the book to be replaced by yet another electronic contraption? It not only destroys what many people love about reading, an escape from the overly fast paced world, but it is arguably not that much 'greener' if you open your mind to other environmentally friendly methods. Next time you sit down for a good read, imagine the annoyance when the internet inevitably breaks or the batteries run out; nothing compares to the reliability of pen and paper!

words: Jodie Sellers
illustration: Meghan Allbright:



REVIEW

How the Rich are Destroying the Earth

Hervé Kempf
Hervé Kempf's new book, *How the Rich are Destroying the Earth*, is an invaluable up-to-date resource of information on climate change.

According to Kempf, the economic crisis we can observe across the world is inextricably entwined with the equally global ecological predicament we're in. We cannot solve climate change, or even attempt to appease it, without also radically reconstructing our economic desires. "Capitalism doesn't know how to do anything other than celebrate itself," the phrase may seem a throwback to an outdated communism era, but it is actually the carefully considered conclusion of a life engaged in the concerns of the environment and society. The rich grow richer while the poor become poorer, with the poor often literally living off the waste of the wealthy.

Kempf's book is undeniably passionate about the social and ecological causes, but his enthusiasm is consistently constrained, and upheld, by true anecdotes from his own experience and relevant statistics. Kempf assures us he is realistic without being catastrophist. There is a sense of growing frustration throughout the book reflecting the need to act if we are to preserve human life on Earth. This book provides the inspiration and information equally for anyone who cares about their society; hopefully, everyone.

words: Georgina Harmsworth



REVIEW

How to be a Student and not Destroy Planet Earth

Clift, Jon & Outhbert

I have to admit, I can be a bit cynical about books like this. The 'oh, so you want all the penguins to die' approach does nothing for me except tempt an ill advised 'yes'. Although this book is one of those, its patronising nature further exacerbated by jazzy clip art, I have to concede that I didn't want to immediately rip it to shreds, and that is a big step for me.

Saving money is certainly in everyone's interest, and many of the solutions presented here bear this in mind. Plus, the basic facts provided can prevent (or win, depends what kind of person you are) those pesky clashes over extortionate heating bills. It could have been reduced to 'turn off, turn down, and use less', and saved all that paper, but whatever, its heart is in the right place.

The solutions need a bit of working out – the section on insulation in housing concedes that we are only as good as our crappy landlords will allow us to be, which doesn't exactly help us – but it is at least highlighting the right issues. As soon as they realise we're not completely thick, we might actually get somewhere.

words: Sarah Hill

Both books reviewed this week are available to buy in Union Books



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COMMENT

Copyright: protecting artists or industry?

While the creator of 'Oink' (the English equivalent of the infamous Swedish 'Pirate Bay') has just been acquitted of conspiracy to defraud, the issue of protecting copyright seems to be indecisive concerning the future of many cultural industries.

Websites such as Oink, which make online music sharing easier, become a nightmare for music companies as they don't have clear legal status. The acquittal is all the more disappointing for the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) since it could set a legal precedent. In response, the BPI emphasise the idea "that artists and music companies need better protection" and demand a reinforcement of the laws protecting copyright.

Controlling the internet is almost impossible, yet Lord Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, plans to grant the government wide-ranging powers to combat online piracy through a law that allows Britain to keep up to pace with the rapidly-evolving online landscape; that is, a law that offers the possibility of modifying its contents via amendments.

This 'clause 17' of the Digital Economy Bill has raised the protest of, among others, big Internet companies such as Google and Yahoo. These companies fear

the creation of an all-powerful administration, emancipated from the judicial power in relation to internet users, that is able to produce new rules by itself according to the circumstances, which could lead to arbitrary, potentially punitive, measures.

Although this controversial aspect of the Digital Economy Bill has been a little bit watered down (that is, made dependent on a "significant" threat of infringement), this is a symbol of the tendency within the European countries to strengthen the fight against copyright infringement, sometimes even against the principle of access to information. This has already happened in France with a bill initially planned to introduce a new state surveillance agency that would have had the power to cut off the web access for internet users illegally downloading music. The Constitutional Court, France's highest legal authority, finally blocked this project, considering internet access as basic human right.

That is not to say that nothing has to be done to limit illegal downloads and to enable a fairer payment of artists, but music companies' fight to control the internet is for reasons of self-protection rather than a desire to protect the artist. While some artists strongly support the

governmental project, such as Lily Allen, other artists (like Nine Inch Nails and Radiohead, alongside several other artists in the Featured Artists Coalition) seem more inclined to explore relationships between artists and listeners more suitable in the digital age.

Last year, Radiohead expressed their disagreement with record labels, that, according to them, abuse copyrights for their own benefit, and leaked one of their songs to BitTorrent sites in protest. Likewise, in a recent interview given at the Midem, Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien said he does not blame file-sharers, but is trying to think about new alternatives to avoid piracy:

"You've got to license out more music, more Spotifys, more websites selling more music. You've got to make it slightly cheaper as well to get music in order to compete with the peer-to-peers."

These kind of

closer relations, adapted to the internet, reinforce the control of artists on their music and diminish the role of music companies, and could lead to the spread of a new business model.

This could be the reason why music companies prefer to defend an old business model for music, even if it means putting pressure on the government to introduce more and more restrictive laws.

words: Lucie Le Moine

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Euro-Fest Ltd provides travel tours to European music festivals and events, taking the hassle out of holiday planning and focusing more on mixing together friendship, travel and new experiences. A young and forward thinking company, their Founder & MD (Aaran Scott) came up with the idea of Euro-Fest in June 2008 whilst traveling himself. Currently based in Dalston, London, they have a friendly team who are working tirelessly towards providing unforgettable experiences in 2010.



You can visit Benicassim (Spain) or Roskilde (Denmark) Festivals in a comfortable, fully equipped coach, and all aspects of the tour are provided including the festival ticket, so forget worrying about your tent pegs or forgetting to pack your map as Euro-Fest do all the organising for you. All you need is your party hat and dancing shoes... and maybe your passport!

The Euro-Fest summer 2010-tour itinerary includes such festivals as Sonar (Spain), Roskilde (Denmark), Benicassim (Spain), Pukkelpop (Belgium) and Oktoberfest (Germany), and that list will likely only scratch the surface. Euro-Fest will give serious consideration to any event that people want to go to.

Euro-Fest will pick you up from designated pickup points and transfer you straight to the heart of the festival. If your mates weren't up for it and you are travelling alone, our tour team are with you every step of the way with icebreakers and team games in order

to create a fun & friendly group culture that will ensure your trip will be unforgettable for all the right reasons.

Euro-Fest offers a Student Deposit Scheme to try and offset the burden of planning a festival trip. They take a deposit followed by 3 smaller, more manageable payments before departure date.

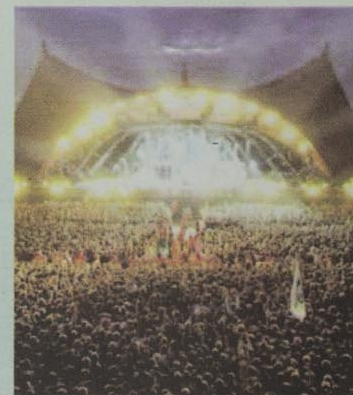
Euro-Fest is giving away 1 pair of Tickets for the Roskilde Festival Tour. Roskilde festival is credited with being continental Europe's largest festival and provides a platform for a variety of internationally renowned artists; previous acts include Coldplay, Oasis, Kanye West and Deadmau5 to name a few.

To be in with a chance to win this prize, just visit www.euro-fest.co.uk and Sign-Up to Euro-Fest's free newsletter. Then, in an email to us you will need to write the words, STUDENT ROSKILDE COMPETITION. More competitions will be announced through their newsletter & website.

If there's one festival to be recommended, it would be Benicassim. In recent years the event has become much more high-profile, and caters for all tastes. Last year saw some huge performances from the likes of Oasis and The Killers,

stunning DJ sets from 2ManyDJ's and Laurent Garnier and some great breakthrough acts like Friendly Fires and White Lies.

The weather makes a big difference too, and with guaranteed sunshine you're sure to return home with a great tan. Having the beach so close is also great and the best way to spend the day is recovering from the night before and preparing for the night ahead. There is such a friendly atmosphere in the campsites and the actual festival. If you want great music, a carnival atmosphere and amazing weather Benicassim really is the one for you!



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Why does green have to be ugly?

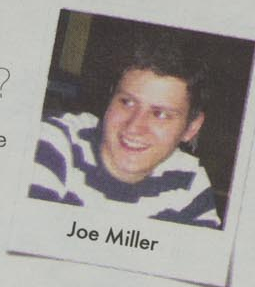
Studying: English and French
Favourite Chocolate: Crunchie
Favourite Film: *Apocalypse Now*
Unhealthy Pendant for: Asinthe



Imogen Roy

iPads: the greener future?

Studying: English Literature
Hates: Reality TV
Favourite Place: New York
Loves: Small-batch bourbon whiskeys



Joe Miller

Another green world

Studying: Law & European Law
Childhood Toy: *The Complete Works of Oscar Wilde*
If I had a Super Power: I'd like to write a novel



Chris Dietz

Environmentally-friendly. 'Green.' Ecological. 'Fair trade.' Giving Mother Nature a helping hand by buying products with planet-saving labels is all the rage these days, from lampshades to pet accessories. And even if it is that little bit more expensive, don't fret when buying your £5 organic cotton socks, you are doing your bit, feel better about yourself! However, there is one small drawback. Why does 'green' have to go hand-in-hand with 'goddamn ugly'? Take environmentally-friendly cars for instance. Perusing a catalogue of such vehicles, I read that they are reliable, cheap and 'future proof.' Some are electric, some are hybrids, some are totally fuel-free, run on air and still reach impressive speeds. But despite the lingo, they all look, well, rubbish. The Zero Pollution Motors 'Air Car' looks like something found in your little brother's Duplo set (minus the teeth marks.) The PiniFarina Nido (try getting your tongue round that one) 'Concept Car' resembles an even more desperately uncool Smart Car. With two doors and a perfectly rounded form, it belongs in a cartoon. What goes on in the minds of these autodesigners truly baffles me. Is it really so hard to envision a 'green' car that isn't completely and utterly hideous? There is one exception which the average car enthusiast might actually want to own. The sleek little sports car comes in crimson red, has those aggressive angular details that make young men stop and swoon, and even resembles a Porsche. But before you get too excited, the Tesla Roadster has a three hour charge, and the manufacturers have refused to add an artificial engine noise to these cars. So if those wayward pedestrians don't see you coming at 125mph, they definitely won't hear you.

The car industry has only recently caught on to the eco-friendly movement to be fair, so perhaps we can almost forgive them for not perfecting their style. The clothing industry on the other hand, has for several decades had an, albeit small, concern for the environment ad fair-trade, resulting in many a hemp hessian sack dress available in taupe, stone or faun. There has been a boom in the last five years or so in 'ethical' fashion, with big global companies like Marks & Spencer launching their own organic cotton range, while Stella McCartney has always proclaimed to use environmentally-friendly materials in all her products. Yet still, most eco-friendly fashion items seem to come in various shades of beige and in rather heavy, unsexy materials, suggesting a coconut husk. Even the most successful environmental fashion product of the last few years, Anya Hindmarch's 'Not a Plastic Bag' designed for Sainsburys was made of canvas. It's not rocket science; the cool kids aren't going to wear ugly shoes, even if they are good for the earth. These design teams need to seriously up their game, or otherwise pray that jute suddenly comes into style. Which is about as likely as catching me driving a PiniFarina Nido.

It's not easy being green, they say. In all honesty though, this maxim is rapidly becoming outdated, as more and more innovative products emerge from environmentally focused economies to ensure that the transition to a green utopia is as comfortable as possible. You can drive a hybrid luxury saloon, install solar panels to your semi-detached and go about cutting your carbon footprint without too much sacrifice.

However, there is one creature comfort that I will find difficult to relinquish come the 'Green Revolution'. I, along with 2.1 million other Britons, am of an endangered species; I indulge in the prehistoric ritual of reading a daily newspaper. Despite constant predictions by the harbingers of doom that the death of the newspaper is upon us, I am yet to find a satisfactory substitute for the fresh copy of the Guardian over breakfast.

It's not that I don't use other media to get my fix of news and comment. I visit the BBC website with sufficient frequency to notice the change in the title bar's colour and Huw Edwards' dulcet tones often serenade me as I go about my evening's work. I have also been known to wander aimlessly within the confines of various newspaper websites, mindlessly responding to 'ellis99's unprovoked attack on Martin Amis' literary credentials. Yet none of this will ever replace the 'daily' in my life.

But just when all hope seemed lost for us print enthusiasts, Apple's iPad came along, like a knight in rather shiny armour. In particular, the 'New York Times' application for the iPad came along. Jennifer Brook, the boffin sent by the NYT to present the app at the product launch, claimed, rather boldly, that they had 'captured the essence of reading a newspaper'. But - hold your breath - I think they may have done just that. For a start, the iPad is the perfect device. It has the portability of a tabloid; it won't be out of place on the bedside or the breakfast table. It will, I'll bet, come pretty close to the feel of holding a paper in your hand. Most importantly, though, the iPad digital edition of the NYT will be static. This means that you will get an edition of the paper when you login in the morning, and you will get to flick through the pages (albeit pages with added video and audio capability) in order, just like a daily. Should you wish to get an updated version of the edition at any point during the day you will be able to do so, but you still get a proper paper, not a bunch of characterless web pages. You will even be able to do the crossword. Sure, it won't leave your thumbs wonderfully black, and you won't be able to fight with the fold in the middle until you unwittingly tear something. But if my beloved daily must pass on, I really can't think of a better way for it to go.

"For being green there is great hope" suggests old Will Shakespeare in Henry VI (Act III, Scene I). We can safely assume that the messenger is describing naivety amongst the English soldiers after a rebel uprising, and not that the bard is reminding us to separate our glass from our cardboard.

The current building work going on outside our Union made me wonder if we are being similarly green in our attempts to be 'green'. The project of redeveloping the (puzzlingly named) University Square (the only squares I've ever spotted from the union steps are those with whom I socialise) has recently begun to gain momentum. On their morning walk, students are now confronted with the rather daunting prospect of a huge crater where once there was a road, and have to fight for their personal space on the tiny pathway that has been spared (for the time being). Once there were trees running alongside the Refectory, but they have been swallowed into the terrifying abyss; even the grassy area that hosts the welcome tent in freshers' week has been paved-over. What is the reason for the removal of all of this greenery? Is it simply a case the concrete jungle eating up anything remotely green in the name of progress?

After I consulted the University website, I discovered that the building work was being undertaken to fulfil the University's legal obligation to provide more green spaces in order to offset (somewhat ironically) the extension to the Earth and Environment building. So, paving over the green spaces and chopping down trees is actually furthering the green cause? It's certainly a novel idea.

Obviously the experts possess infinitely more knowledge than I do, and I am not suggesting that the 'independent surveyor' could not prove that the trees were dying. I am simply interested in the chronology of destruction before regeneration, and what it says about our society. As humans we nearly always favour action over inaction once we become passionate about a cause: it takes a monumental effort not call that pretty girl you met at your favourite nightspot; you can never get an early night before that impossible exam, even though you know it's the best plan; and when you finally arrive home from a long day you never give that bag of Earl Grey the full four minutes recommended on the side of the box before blasphemously crushing it against the side of the mug.

Can the same be said about climate change? Has the damage been done? Have our actions (and those of our ancestors) really affected the temperature? Or is the climate simply following its natural cycle (as that abhorrent Daily Mail journalist seen on *Question Time* would have us believe)? I couldn't say with any certainty, but what I do know is that we act (for good or for bad) simply because it feels better than standing idly by, and no-one will ever change that.

MINI OBSERVATIONS



"Why haven't all the girls in Leeds died of pneumonia yet - they barely wear any clothes on cold winter nights..."

Lrial Eno



"Why won't the snow just go away?"

James Rhodes



"Leaving an exam in Roger Stevens is hazardous, especially when climbing over benches!"

Ella Mayne



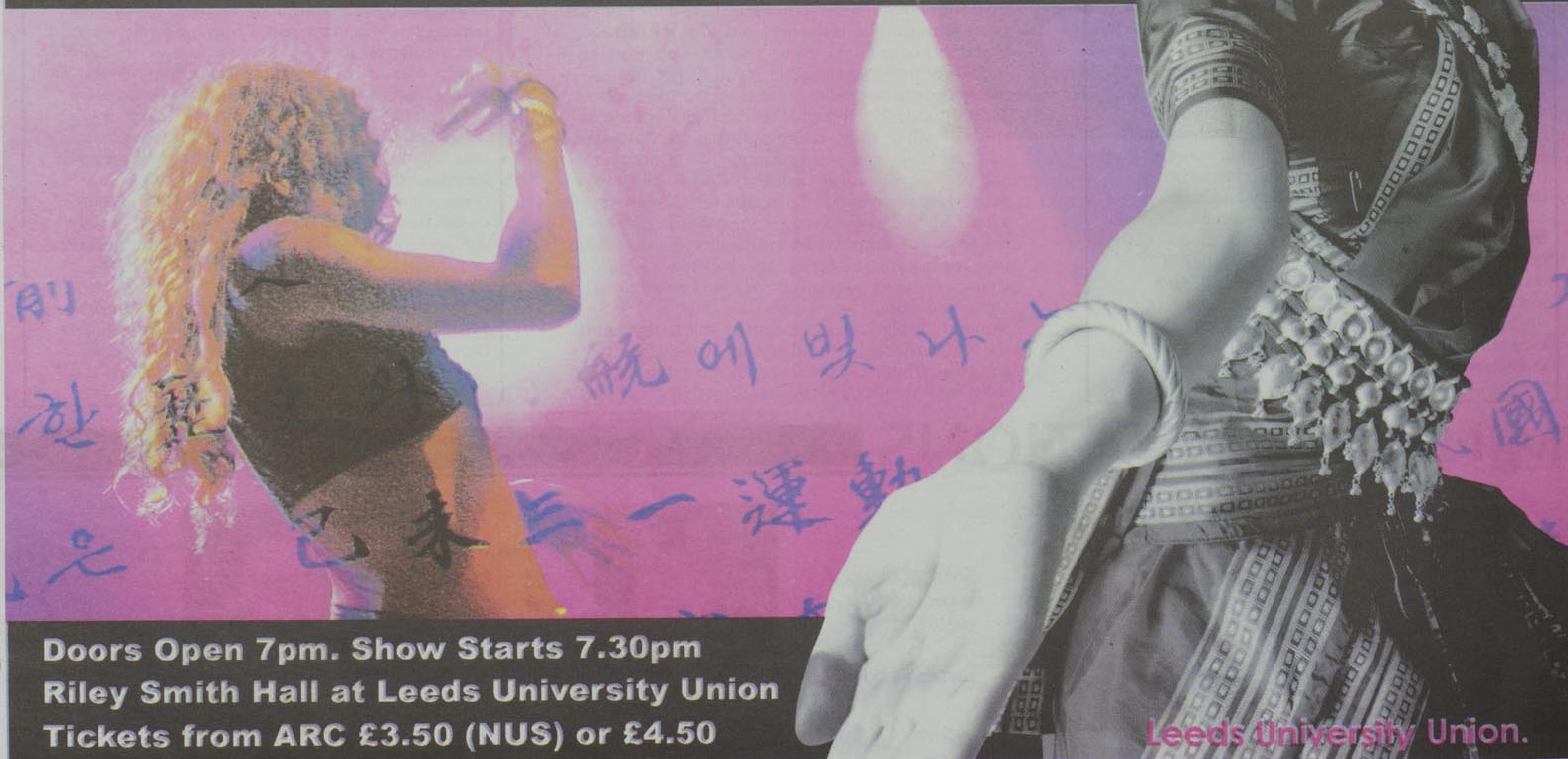
"The hardest thing about recycling is being bothered enough to leave the house."

Matthew Stylianou



Night
of a night of music dance fashion
INTERNATIONAL
performance

12.02.10



Doors Open 7pm. Show Starts 7.30pm
Riley Smith Hall at Leeds University Union
Tickets from ARC £3.50 (NUS) or £4.50

Leeds University Union.

Critical Analysis

Science
Commentary
with Fliss Inkpen

A winter of discontent

If the winter of 2009/2010 will be remembered for anything it will be the Big Freeze. Nowhere in the UK, it seemed, was immune to the snow that at first was greeted with festive joy, quickly followed by transport chaos and eventually scornful disdain. Some national newspapers, however, greeted the cold temperatures as something all together more moronic: evidence that global warming is not happening.

Farical anecdotal reports from journalists overruled the scientific consensus in some newspapers, with headlines including "Snow Chaos: and they still claim it's global warming." Blind to the simple concept of statistical fluctuation, the climate sceptics seek out a minority of scientists to dispute what is a very real and frightening truth.

Of course, those who have undermined the climate change argument to the largest extent have been the scientists who have manipulated or invented data, or otherwise not been transparent with it. Tremendous damage has been done to the credibility of these scientists; all their past and future work may now be dismissed as fraudulent. Data must stand up to scrutiny of both the scientific community and the general public; otherwise it is completely pointless.

In other news, researchers at the University of Leeds have this week published an investigation suggesting that excessive internet use is linked to depression. The media may jump on this report as proof of the dangers of the big bad internet, but as we all know, correlation does not imply causation. It may be that spending too much time on the internet makes you depressed, but it might also be that misery loves company, and social networking sites such as Facebook allow the most melancholic and self pitying to get their largest audience. Certainly the friends who appear on my Facebook feed most often are those with the gloomiest statuses; all the happy cool kids are too busy going out and having fun.

Still, maybe the internet can cause the glums; certainly it is rather depressing to log on to Facebook to find that your only notifications are more invitations to join Leeds Student editor election groups.

Alternative engineering

Researchers at the School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering are developing alternative fuels and new technologies to combat climate change and revolutionise the UK's energy consumption. With their research currently rated third after Cambridge and Oxford, students and staff are working together to conduct the "completely vital" front line research into biofuels, oxyfuel combustion and hydrogen fuel cells. Leeds Student met with four of the young researchers to find out just how the University of Leeds is making a difference.

Biofuels, made from vegetation, have been heralded as the green replacement for traditional oil, gas and coal resources. However, their development has faced controversy. Both sceptics and environmentalists have raised concerns over their efficiency, and fears that their production could lead to the destruction of natural diversity, or that governments could prioritise biofuel production over food growth.

PhD student Ida Shafagh, working



photos: Richard Smith

on the development of biofuel combustion models, addresses these issues: "The efficiency is less than that of traditional fuels, but we can use a mixture of traditional and biofuels; this way we're not only reducing the CO₂ emissions, but maintaining the high efficiency. The land that is used for growing biofuels is land that is unsuitable for the growth of food for humans or animals; there are areas we can use specifically for growing materials for biofuels."

"You have to pay some price when you want to have both the environmental concerns, efficiency and demand satisfied," explains Maryam Gharebaghi, researcher into oxyfuel combustion. "The demand for electricity just keeps increasing, and we can just stand on coal, it is available, but it is not clean. There is a price to be paid, but all this research is still in the very early stage of development."

The research group, lead by Professor Mohamed Pourkashanian, also specialises in carbon capture and sequestration, requiring the development of "oxyfuel combustion" techniques. Research fellow Richard Porter explains:

"In oxyfuel combustion we take the air in which you would normally burn the coal, separate out the nitrogen and oxygen and burn the coal in the higher oxygen gas. The exiting stream is very high purity CO₂."

"In this way we can capture it and put it under the ground, under the ocean, in disused mines or use it in oil fields to increase oil yield," continues Maryam. "Without the purity of CO₂ that we want there is too high a capital cost and not enough environmental benefit."

The work done in the school is often closely linked to industry and watched by political organisations. Politicians and scientists have not traditionally been the most comfortable of bedfellows, but with climate change becoming more of a



Researchers from the School of Process, Environmental and Materials Engineering. From left to right: Ida, Elena, Maryam and Richard.

political priority, they are seeing much more of each other:

"There are always politicians at the conferences, and they are always criticising what we do, they always have something to say" remarks Ida.

"There are too many parameters involved, we are only looking at the science part, not the economics," says Maryam. "It is the job of the politician to mix all of the issues that go along with climate change."

Despite the issues, the group acknowledges that the political pressure is "good for us" and believes that the UK government is investing enough in green technologies. According to Richard, "every household in the UK is now going to pay an extra £20 on a green tax that will go towards funding this type of research."

However, political hypocrisy is a sticking point within the world of environmental engineering:

"I didn't want to watch the climate change meeting in Copenhagen," says Maryam. "They were all talking about global warming and they had 24 hour lighting, electricity on all the time; it wasn't necessary. If there is action it

should be a proper action. When politicians do something, people will follow, but when they take planes from here to there, they cannot ask people not to use their cars."

Within the scientific community, some experts predict that we are already too late to combat climate change. With the increase in global temperatures apparently triggering a dramatic increase in the release of methane gas from the arctic seabed, the Earth could already be caught in a vicious cycle of irreversible climate change. However, the research group remains optimistic.

"It's never too late," argues Ida, "if we don't do anything we will regret it in the future and the next generation will blame us for not trying; at least we are showing that we are doing something. What is important at the moment is increasing the public's knowledge, teaching people how to use their cars less, use electricity less. We should be optimistic. If not, it will be very difficult to carry on this research, there would not be any hope."

Felicity Inkpen

Nuclear waste tackled by medical machinery

Scientists at the universities of Leeds and Manchester, working with the Nuclear Medicine Department at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, have discovered a potential method for reducing the environmental threat of nuclear waste.

Using medical machinery designed for diagnosing heart disease and cancer, scientists have been able to track the radioactivity in soil samples from a US nuclear site. The technique uses gamma-ray cameras to trace a specific isotope of technetium (Tc) in human bodies, the same element that is produced in bulk at nuclear facilities. For the first time, scientists have used this method to trace Tc in soil at nuclear facilities.

In the study, which took place at the University of Manchester, scientists took soil samples from the Oak Ridge nuclear site in the US and found they were able to determine the movement of Tc through the soil.

The study showed that some bacteria, particularly that which uses ferric iron for energy, could be added to soil in order to keep Tc from spreading. Scientists hope that this will allow more accurate monitoring of the success of biological methods to prevent the spreading of radioactive elements.

A team of scientists at the University of Leeds led by Dr Ian Burke from the School of Earth and Environment verified the results using transmission electron

microscopy (TEM), a special microscope technique where electrons are diffracted through scattering interactions with a thin sample of the specimen.

According to Dr Burke, this study "will help to predict how easily radioactive elements will spread in the environment."

"Using this medical scanning technique we were able to explore, in real time, the mobility of one of the most problematic and mobile radionuclides in sediments," said Professor Lloyd, from the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences at the University of Manchester.

This study follows earlier investigations by Prof Lloyd and his colleagues at the University of

Manchester that determined that microbes could perform this role in laboratory cultures.

With the recent opening of a new Research Centre for Geological Disposal at the University of Manchester and a new Nuclear Medicine Centre at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, Prof Lloyd stated "Investment in these two diverse but important areas of scientific research has helped bring about interesting and unexpected research findings that could ultimately have great benefits for society."

Jane Salmon, Billy Risbridger

Copenhagen summit special

COP15 failure: 82 months left to

It was the biggest climate summit since Kyoto. The world held its breath as world leaders came together and thousands of protesters descended on the Danish capital in what was hoped to be as defining a moment for mass protest as Seattle in 1999. In reality, it all went wrong. There was no binding deal at the conference and the mass social movement some had hoped for never materialised. *Leeds Student* was there as the time to save our planet slipped through the fingers of the world's politicians, and as helpless protesters could only choke back the tear gas.



STRONG ARM OF THE LAW: Police tactics were questioned during the summit

Photo: Joey Severn

"What's for breakfast?"
 "Salad and rye bread."
 "Right."
 "They got it from rubbish bins."
 "OK. Maybe I'll just have some tea then. Is there any milk?"
 "Yeah, well... soya milk anyway."

The sharp introduction to a communal, freegan, vegan way of living was a little hard to adapt to at first. Things were not going well. Three of us from *Leeds Student* had travelled down to Copenhagen (by plane) to report on student activists from Leeds and around the world who were planning to make their voices heard at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Having arrived two days late, we had already missed the mass arrest of protesters on Saturday in which hundreds had been forced to sit out in the freezing cold for hours, with no water, food or freedom to move about.

As reporters looking for the 'exciting stuff', we were not doing well. But keeping it somewhat under wraps that we were reporters, we were given a unique insight into the behind-the-scenes world of the activists in Copenhagen.

We stayed in a school provided by the Danish council. Classrooms became mass bedrooms for activists to roll their sleeping bags out on. The reception area became a place for morning meetings. The piano, presumably usually used for school assemblies and choir practice, now provided a soothing musical interlude

between mistreatment from police and planning the next protest. A feeling of education mixed with rebellion constantly lingered in the air.

The school canteen meanwhile was transformed into a freegan dream. Freeganism basically means searching for food that has been thrown out by shops but is still edible. After drawing a map of the four or five places where it would be best to raid food skips, a small group would head out each morning in search of free food that could feed hundreds of hungry activists. They would come back with bin bags full of untouched bread loaves, masses of fruit and vegetables, spreads, cheese and jam. Everything was very edible.

Meetings would be held each morning to discuss events from the day before and to plan upcoming actions. A lot of sign language was used. If a person agreed with someone and wanted to show their support for what they were saying, they would waggle their hands, much like a 'hear hear', except, well, funnier. Seeing forty people dotted across the room at a meeting making jazz hands whilst maintaining deadly earnest faces was a sight not easily forgotten.

By now you probably have images of goateed, sandal-wearing men and women chanting and eating lentil pies after a long day demonstrating against the use of fossil fuels. It would be wrong to say that there wasn't a bit of that, but some myths should be dispelled. Firstly, meat was eaten many

protesters, ham sandwiches weren't a rare sight in the kitchen. Secondly, idealism was grounded in reality. People knew a deal was unlikely to be made at the Bella Centre, they knew police and the council wouldn't treat them lightly, and they were very aware that their actions and way of living was not possible on a wide scale.

LUU Community Officer, Hannah Greenslade, who was at Copenhagen said: "I think it's idealistic to think that this is something that could spread out across the world. It was an empowering way of living. It demonstrated there are alternatives and we don't have to just sit down and say, 'this is the way things are and so we have to get on with it'. But I'm very aware that it is people with the money, or time, or luxury who can live like that, so it's definitely not a practical model that should be advocated throughout society."

Alternative structure

The idea of a non-hierarchical communal society also did not just mean stoned-out hippies. The school was run as like a structured co-op, with each person having a role that would benefit the next. Rotas and duties were established from the beginning:

"It's funny, once people accept that someone isn't going to do stuff for them, it's amazing how quickly people find their roles." Hannah commented. "There were two people there who

wanted the role of raiding skips every morning to find food, others wanted to organise meetings. Everyone played the role that needed doing or they wanted to play, and for me that seemed a really good way to operate."

Everyone was willing to act productively, spurred on perhaps by the significance of the event. There was a sense amongst activists in Copenhagen that a vital connection with people across the world who felt the same way about climate change was being established. Jesse Harris, a fourth year Spanish and Politics student, was also in Copenhagen at the time.

"It was a really inspiring moment to be with all these different people who were acting in hugely different contexts around the world. From people acting out of direct necessity in countries that are being affected by climate change, to people acting out of a more moral necessity. I learnt a lot about working with groups, styles of taking action and ways of debating."

But although this may have been the case at protests, the school we stayed in was predominantly white, middle class and in their twenties. Schools and sleeping places had also been allocated according to countries of origin. So for an event that was supposed to be about people joining together as one to fight climate change, there was always a feeling of boundaries and isolation. From the politicians locked away in conference rooms to protesters only hanging out with people from home, it's a small wonder everyone blamed each other when it all ended in failure.

But the strong commitment seen in the school to go out whatever the weather to demonstrate, to live sustainably, and to work well together throughout the week was an inspiring one. It made the three of us question our cynicism to the hippie dream. Our planet is in dire trouble but perhaps with dedicated people like this, changes can be made. It seems right to join them, even if that means soya milk teas.

Protests

Despite the strong commitment to go out on marches whatever the weather, it was interesting to see how little interaction there was with what was happening in talks at the Bella Centre.

"We were quite detached from what was going on," Hannah admitted. "We weren't reading the news and it was amazing how close we were to it without much awareness of what was going on. But people weren't hanging onto every word that came out of a politician's mouth because I think there was an assumption that whatever it was, it wasn't going to be what we needed. People were more focused on demonstrating the reasons why we

wouldn't get a good deal, and on taking actions together and kind of getting on with our own things.

Reclaim power

Given the number of arrests at the weekend, and the fact that the Danish police were seemingly using tear gas like it was going out of fashion, we were all pretty nervous about the 'Reclaim the power' day of action. There was an excited buzz as people made sandwiches, filled water bottles and tried to get their hands on as much maalox, an antacid that is supposed to help with the effects of tear gas, as they could. With cameras charged, an inordinate number of layers of clothing on and the hope that our press cards would stop us from being arrested, we bedded down for the night, one ear open for the blasts on the fog horn that would give us the warning of a police raid.

Fresh snow was falling as we awoke on the Wednesday morning. Two police were already vans parked outside. Everyone was searched on the way out, passports were checked and meticulously packed bags were forced open. The police officers were in good spirits, joking with protesters and warning us that it was going to be cold one. I could see why they were so happy after we finally got out - they got to be inside.

The protesters' main aim of the day was to get into the Bella Centre, where the meetings between politicians were occurring. They planned to set up a counter summit that would allow regular people, and not just politicians, to have their say on how climate change could be stopped. But despite hopes that the group could overcome 'any physical barriers that stand in our way' the ring of steel surrounding the Bella Centre made it look increasingly unlikely that their dreams would become reality.

After a short train journey to the meeting point we joined our 'bloc' and tried to warm up. The police presence was small and relatively non-confrontational as protesters waited to begin the walk. However once the march began it was clear the low police presence was not going to continue. A line of police flanked the right side of the march while police vans lined the left causing a moving wall to shepherd the protesters. Trouble flared early on in the march. Protesters were angered by the moving vans trapping people. Annoyance grew when undercover police pulled a protester from the crowd, pushing him into a waiting police van that sped off down a side street.

Just before the group got to the security fencing outside the Bella Centre they were joined by a number of cyclists from bike bloc, a collective of cyclists whose main aim was to annoy police by riding really slowly in front of their cars. As the group approached the police line the size of their task became clear: a line of police, a further line of police vans and a huge three meter high concrete bottomed fence, behind which were yet more police in riot gear with dogs.

The truck carrying the 'People's Assembly' stopped just in front of the police vans and a woman with an

avert disaster

incredibly annoying voice began to give a speech that culminated in a call to 'Push for climate justice!' The crowd linked arms and began to surge forward, only to be met by riot police, batons drawn and pepper spray at the ready. Around twenty protesters managed to reach the actual fencing and, in their attempts to scale it, received a face full of pepper spray.

Pepper spray

The sight of chemicals burning into the eyes of a young woman, in what was supposed to be a non-violent and peaceful protest, was difficult to come to terms with. The ferocity of the police forced protesters back. Riot vans began to pen in protesters in and force them down the road. Police suddenly declared the protest illegal. Protesters were told the Queen of Denmark didn't like the people on the street, exercising their democratic rights, and that if we didn't all want to get arrested then we best move. Many people did just that and simply walked off in the opposite direction of the main protest.

But many stayed. A large group of protesters managed to construct a huge raft made from inflatable mattresses roped together. They made their way to the canal flowing around the Bella Centre, breaking through fencing and edging the raft out onto the water. Police were waiting on the other side, their dogs yanking at the leads in anticipation of the first protesters disembarking from their vessel. Inevitably the few protesters that actually managed to cross the raft were beaten by police and dragged off over the bank and out of site. It was a futile effort but showed the resourcefulness of the activists and an unwillingness to give up in the face of a hopeless cause.

At the same time that protesters were being beaten outside, a similar sight was occurring within the Bella Centre itself. A number of developing

nations present at the conference had left the main talks in protest at being ignored and were attempting to join the peoples assembly outside.

Police had other ideas. As a mix of delegates, National Government Organisations representatives and critics of climate change attempted to leave they were violently beaten back by police and were forced to stage a sit-in within the centre. Police were now allowing the cold to batter off the protesters, waiting for them to essentially give up and walk home. Which is exactly what happened. In fact we literally walked all the way to the centre of Copenhagen.

Given the size of the events that occurred the weekend before, the number of arrests and the importance of the talks for the entire human race, the Reclaim the Power day of action seemed to be a culmination of all the previous marches and actions. In the end it wasn't.

Hannah Greenslade, LUU Community Officer, summed up the mood of many: "It could have been a really good thing that there were people from all over the world who were used to taking actions in different ways and that could be really useful, but I think what actually happened was that there was some confusion about how people should best operate.

"My impression was that in Denmark they work very closely together and move as 'one', whereas in the UK we tend to break into smaller groups and do swoops and form infinity groups etc, so those are completely different ways of operating, and I think there was a loss of communication between groups and it wasn't that well thought through.

I thought Wednesday was a bit of anti-climax and I was expecting more people to be there, as that seemed to be the main thing we had been organising for."



FUTILE: Prosters attempt to scale fencing

photo: Joey Severn



JUXTAPOSITION: Corporate companies overlook Hopenhagen

Photo: Virginia Newman

Hopenhagen greenwash?

Along side the main COP15 talks and events at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen, there were two other main movements. Ultimately all the organisations were working towards the same cause, but a clear-levelled hierarchy of aims was present. By far the Bella centre activities were the least progressive, but even the seemingly pro active, grassroots project 'Hopenhagen' was deemed to be stalling change by some.

Hopenhagen, a movement which saw itself as providing a chance for a new beginning with hope, filled the main town square with an inflatable globe and cabins. Companies deemed to be green or to have green initiatives held stalls and cabins to show case their products. Some appealing ideas included bicycles that powered the Christmas tree and solar powered bus stops.

The wider community was involved in Hopenhagen, unlike at the closed off Bella centre, with live bands and a coordinated power switch off. The global community that filled Copenhagen for the fortnight however did not as a whole support the movement. Hopenhagen was seen as a 'green wash'. Heavy security lined the edge of the square on the day of the 'Reclaim power' protest, demonstrating the police's consciousness of negative feeling.

The message of hope from Hopenhagen seemed to clash with the opposite sentiment from other movements pushing for change with feelings of despair.

The marketing of Hopenhagen suggested that climate solutions were already working, with messages such as: "When it comes to global warming, you've probably already read about all the negatives, but there's some good

news out there, too. That's because solving global warming brings with it both environmental and economic positives. For proof, just take a look at all the climate solution news that's already being made, all around the world."

Climate camp lead a protest at Hopenhegn on Thursday December 17, occupying the centre of the square with tents. They showed an unwillingness to cooperate in a climate change movement that involved big businesses. Rival publicity covered bus stops and notices.

The Hopenhagen slogan "When people lead, leaders follow" however was akin to those of the other climate organisations such as Climate Justice Action and Climate Camp. The question of what the people wanted therefore needed to be raised.

Greenwashing was coined in 1986 by a New York environmentalist. Now more than ever it has become crucial for companies to market their green credentials to an increasingly environmentally concerned audience.

The concept of green washing resonated greatly in Hopenhagen. A large inflatable globe, onto which videos of people were projected, was sponsored by none other than widely criticised Coca cola.

The videos were of people, always running for some reason, being asked what they thought of Coca Cola going green. It is unknown as to whether sales increased as a result, but it seems clear Coca Cola benefited immediately. It was, though, certainly a great marketing error by Hopenhagen promoters to have companies such as coca cola as sponsors.

Another debate that Hopenhagen entered itself into was that about whether combating climate change

should be a personal responsibility, that of big companies or both. With the big switch off the emphasis was on the individual saving electricity rather than an acknowledgement of the impact of the electricity usage of businesses.

The British government has already taken a line focusing on providing 'green' jobs rather than green solutions. Financial incentives for 'green' project are, however, greatly welcomed in a recession.

Any savvy businessperson launching a new product will be thinking green. And more jobs can only be a positive thing, especially in times such as these. Not in the way that the activists were thinking green or in the way the scientist are but in how to maximise profits from the green market. The climate change movement is growing, but it seems that businesses are growing their green outlets with great speed also.

This is what the activists took issue with. As part of the 'Reclaim power' protest shouts of 'go home, there is no need to protest' were heard from a group dressed as green capitalists aside of the main group. The ironic statement attacked movements such as Hopenhagen which they saw to be leading combating climate change with financial incentive rather than concern over the environmental impact.

The clashing movements are not set to unite as the question of how 'green' is 'green' is left unanswered. Is being, so called, 'green' now enough or is it too late?

words: Tom Knowles, Virginia Newman and Joey Severn

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How to enter

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Get your entries in

- 19 February – competition closing date
- 1 March – shortlist announced and voting begins
- 15 March – winner and runners up announced

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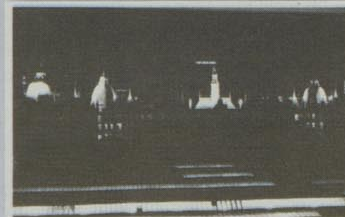
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John Roy, Leeds College of Art and Design



Mark Lilly, University of Leeds



Michael Crozier, University of Leeds



Joe Creffield, Leeds College of Art and Design



In association with **the faversham**

Searching for climate Gould

With the question of climate change being such a hot political issue, *Leeds Student* spoke to Professor Andy Gouldson, Director of the Sustainability Research Institute from 2006-2009, who is currently a Director of the European Social Research Council's Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy and is editor of the *Environmental Policy and Governance* journal about Copenhagen and climate change policy

As LUU's Green Week initiative concludes its first week on campus, arguably the issue of climate change is in the midst of the most controversial, destabilising and fractious debates that it has ever witnessed.

Both environmental activists and the scientific community have been rocked following the controversies at the University of East Anglia's Climate Change Research Institute, with hacked emails and apparent obstructions to Freedom of Information requests suggesting a certain degree of duplicity and data manipulation.

Now with reports that the UN's climate change watchdog, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), exaggerated claims as to the rate of Himalayan glacial melting, together with the disappointing result of the UN's Copenhagen talks, the climate change debate remains fraught with inconsistency and contradictory opinions.

The Leeds University website describes you as focusing on the management of the risks of climate change. Do you now believe that climate change is inevitable and we should be planning our adaptation to it?

Yes, I'm in line with many people within the science community who would say: 'mitigate to two degrees of warming and plan to adapt for up to four degrees of global warming.' I do think that climate change, to some degree, is inevitable. Whether global temperatures rise above two degrees or not depends on what happens through Copenhagen and related developments.

About Copenhagen, what was

your opinion on the outcome of the talks, or lack thereof?

In some ways it was massively disappointing, obviously. In other ways, it has opened up other possibilities. I think that the lack of a global agreement is a massive disappointment, but then again I think it is leading to a reevaluation of the role of the United Nations. One of the big benefits is that it got China and Brazil and India and the US, all of who are obviously major players, signed up to something. The optimistic take on it is that you need to lower the bar low enough to get all of those actors on board and without them, you can't really move forward. A lot now depends on whether, having got them on board, that A: they deliver and B: that the bar now starts to move up again.

Do you think that politicians, particularly in this country, take the issue of climate change seriously?

Yes, I think they do actually, in this country in particular. I think the Climate Change Act of 2008 is a world-leading piece of legislation. It shows that climate change is being taken seriously by many, though not all, politicians. One of the impacts of the Copenhagen debate was that a lot of the environmentalists assumed that there was a consensus on climate change, and I think that the climate sceptics' take on things, especially following the 'email-gate' [the leaking of emails from the University of East Anglia that raised concerns about the scientific predictions on climate change] and then more recently with a couple of other controversies, has resulted in the climate sceptics fighting back quite hard. We collectively all need

to work harder to convince people that addressing climate change needs to be a major priority.

Do you think that the IPCC report, and its ramifications, within the academic world at least, make environmentalism more of an uphill battle now?

Yeah, I think in the medium term we're going to have to get strong again. The media has had a massive role to play in changing public opinion and they seem to have set it as one climate sceptic against one climate scientist. I believe there are 999 climate scientists who would say that even if all the details are not absolutely proven or completely certain, that climate change is something that we can be very, very confident is a real phenomenon. The climate sceptics are picking on the areas of uncertainty and are trying to undermine all the areas where there's much more consensus that climate change is happening.

The line I've been using is that if someone said to you that if it's 95 per cent certain that your house is going to flood within 40 years, would you try to both stop it from flooding and spend 1 per cent of your income on an insurance policy? Not do that is completely stupid. Completely stupid.

In light of the many competing models of measuring climate change, what would you say is the most optimistic model of climate change, and alternatively the most bleak – in your opinion?

The most optimistic is that we could limit warming to one and a half or two degrees. With a little bit of adaptation through time we would be able to avoid dangerous



photo: Courtesy of Andy Gouldson

climate change. The most pessimistic is runaway climate change, where we will have six to seven degrees warmer weather. There will be major changes within our way of life, and the power structures within the world and so on and so on.

Do you think that effective environmental policy is in conflict with economic growth and political success?

Well good policy, that which is well designed and well delivered, needn't be against that at all. The problem is often that you don't get good policy. You can have really bad policies that undermine jobs and so on, but it needn't be like that.

So there still is a tension between economic and political processes and the actual

environmental lobby?

Yes obviously. People don't necessarily want to give up their foreign holidays. It's not an easy message to sell either politically or economically, but when it's done properly I think it can have major benefits. In the Yorkshire region, for example, there's enormous scope for huge numbers of jobs that could be created through new forms of carbon storage or new forms of clean, renewable energy.

LS: So that's good news for students looking for jobs I guess, isn't it?

AG: Yeah

Jack Drummond

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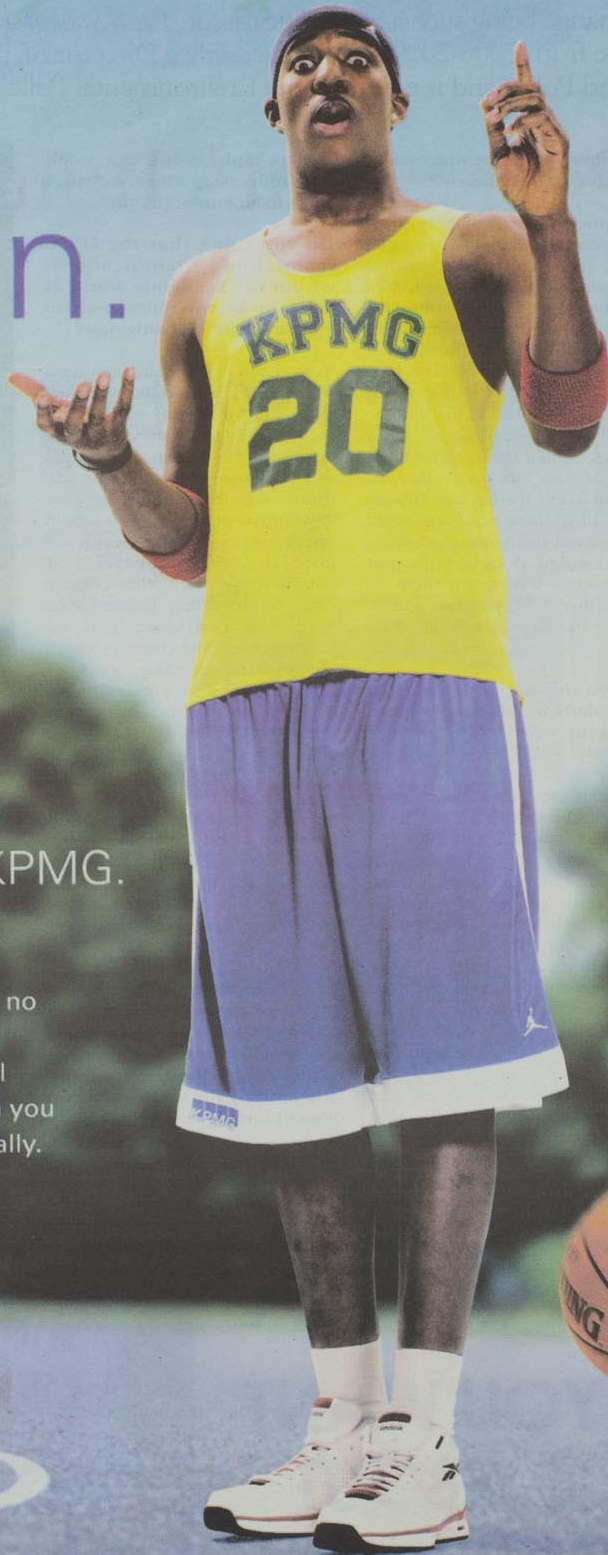
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LS Sport

COMMENT

Can Saints halt the Colts?

The powers that be at the NFL must have felt as though their prayers had been answered two weeks ago when the divisional finals set up the dream Superbowl match. Not only did the Indianapolis Colts rid us of the New York Jets - who, though undoubtedly bally, were boring us all to death with their strong defense/ cautious offense approach - but New Orleans Saints (who have never before won the trophy) set up a date with seeming destiny to rise from the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, which ravaged the Louisiana city five years ago.

In 2005 the Saints' home, The Superdome, was used as a giant shelter for those displaced by a hurricane and the team were forced to play in a variety of different stadia for the season. But two Sundays ago, after dispensing with the Minnesota Vikings, the dome throbbled with the triumph and renewed hope of a city reborn.

But enough of the sentimental subplots. The real winners in the divisional finals were fans of American Football who can look forward to one of the most tantalising Superbowl games ever.

Given the knockout nature of the NFL playoffs, it's incredibly rare that the teams who meet in the season



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning orders his troops.

finale have actually been the best throughout the season. But since the first kick-off in August the Saints and Colts have been the most dangerous sides in the league, even if San Diego Chargers did look almost as impressive until the aforementioned Jets neutered them in a divisional semi which was about as entertaining as watching the Iraq Inquiry live on the telly.

And spectators at the Dolphin Stadium in Miami this Sunday will see two of the finest quarterbacks in the game pitted against each other. Pundits see the Colts' Peyton Manning (left) as one of the greatest QBs in the game's history, but even he hasn't shone as brightly as his opposite number Drew Brees this season, who finished the regular-season campaign with the highest pass completion percentage in NFL history. Both have a superb passing game and are spoiled for choice with a diverse range of receivers to pick out - look out especially for Reggie Wayne and Pierre Garçon for Colts.

Saints will look to Marques Colston and Devery Henderson whilst praying that the sense of occasion brings out the best in the

mercurial Reggie Bush. Bush hasn't had his best season but on his day is one of the most worryingly versatile all-round offensive players there is and the New Orleans number 25 maintains the potential to give his team the edge.

Neither side has led the league defensively this season so expect a free-scoring, chain-moving game which will provide superb entertainment for long-term fans of the sport and newcomers alike. Get the nachos, guacamole and bottles of Bud, forget about the nine o'clock lecture on Monday to stay up till after 2am watching the planet's biggest sporting spectacle live on the BBC, with rock legends The Who providing some musical entertainment at half-time.

And to the first wanker who says something shit and predictable like, "It's just too stop-start for me" or, "look at all the padding!" shall be given the Shawn Merriman treatment - which, for anyone who doesn't know, involves the hasty and unapologetic delivery of a shoulder to the exposed midriff. Let's play ball!

James Legge

Six Nations of preparation

The first Six Nations of the decade, which begins this Saturday, is made all the more significant in the lead up to next year's World Cup. By the evening of Saturday 20th of March we will know which countries will have good or bad times in New Zealand 2011. This year's tournament will be viewed by many nations as an opportunity to gauge where they are in their respective roads to the World Cup.

While it remains my favourite sport to watch, second to Serie A that is (I don't know quite what that says about my taste of and judgement in sport), the Six Nations, and its former incarnations, have been devalued since the inception of the World Cup in 1987.

France look best placed on their development arc toward the world cup. Marc Lièvremont's embryonic side that emerged three years ago is forming into a very dynamic foetus. France have entrusted a young coach and afforded him the leeway to develop a young generation of players, sacrificing their potential for Grand Slam victory, for World Cup glory.

This was the very opposite view that was taken by another young coach in England's Martin Johnson whose hand is forced into a perpetual search for short-term success, by the English media. The English approach,

an approach based on an obsession with immediacy, has paradoxically produced an incredibly inconsistent side that remains static, unlike a French side that continues to grow toward their due date in autumn 2011.

Though I wouldn't be surprised if England mustered yet another World Cup final. If England end up at the final of a third World Cup in a row it will not be due to preparation or an eye on the long term, but instead on sheer bloody mindedness.

While France and England's recent Six Nations performances read identically, both finishing with 6 points in both. France do not perceive the Six Nations as the be all and end all any more and these could prove to be the better approach by the time the rugby world arrives in New Zealand.

But while this may be the better approach for teams preparing for the World Cup it seems to me that it ruins a fantastic tournament in the Six Nations, a tournament with great tradition. And what can be better preparation for winning the 'biggest tournament' in rugby than getting used to winning and having that winning mentality. So this year, coaches of the Six Nations, please take it seriously.

For Duncan and James Green

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

4

The number of different owners that Portsmouth have had this year

74

Years since the last British Male Tennis Singles Champion

58

Places between Notts County and Wigan

PUNDIT WATCH



"I can cry like Roger, it's just a shame I can't play like him"

Andy Murray shows he has a human side after his Australian defeat to Roger Federer

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Leeds University Union

Late substitution

Leeds Student Sport's **Simon Sandison** proves that adverse weather conditions need not prevent one from enjoying an afternoon of sport, even if it does mean raiding your nan's loft...

Feature

Simon Sandison

As February gave the ground staff of Weetwood playing fields a decidedly frosty reception this Wednesday, the University's sports men and women – as well as its reporters – were left searching for alternative ways to spend their afternoon.

Having received the cold shoulder I retired to the warmth of a gas fire and gave some consideration to the kinds of sporting activities that can stand up to the conditions which render even the 'all-weather' astroturf unplayable.

It was with dismay, however, that I slowly came to the realisation that, without the great outdoors, sport seems slightly unfulfilling.

Consider first the fixtures that did go ahead this week: Basketball is too American by some distance. Besides which, my lowly 5 foot 8 as always stood as a hindrance to my understanding of the game, and inevitably my enjoyment.

Netball, its close relation, offers little more pleasure. The game is too fast, and the scores that can be achieved in only an hour of play reveal a shortage of subtlety that leads to a lack of interest in this spectator at least.

Presumably the Squash survived the freeze as well. Any sport, however, in which the ball routinely moves at well over 100mph and protective goggles are not uncommon must attract the insanely fit and the plain insane. I am neither.

As a British man I have been conditioned to view tennis as a summer sport, and lawn tennis as its finest variation. As such, tennis

in February seems unnatural, even if I have been dragging myself from my bed early for the past fortnight to follow the Australian open.

Perhaps a shift in direction is needed. If indoor sports come up short time and time again then maybe it's time to consider simulations of outdoor sports to fulfil my desire for a competitive fix.

Computer games have never been my thing, and so my ill-

advisedly purchased Xbox offers little solace. Despite the religious fervour that heralds the yearly release of 'FIFA' and 'Pro Evo', there is no game that I have encountered that really recreates anything even approaching

the joy of real competition – or, more pertinently, that of viewing it.

Nevertheless, the idea of being able to recreate the sports that I love without even having to leave my front room is appealing, and I definitely feel as though I am on the right track. The answer is clear. The best replacement to Wednesday afternoon's cancelled games is the same substitute that served me so well during abandoned playtimes and wet afternoons as a child: Tabletop sports.

I immediately insist that the reader removes any visions of table football from their mind. There is no

virtue whatsoever in this poor pub game that forces its players to universally adopt a formation more rigid than Arsenal's mid 90's back four. Subbuteo is clearly a more comprehensive recreation of the beautiful game. The only true all weather pitch is made of green felt. The formations are wonderful, and the ability for a match to unfold

before you becomes a thing of beauty, as long as the groundsman (your mum) as taken good care of the pitch (ironed the felt). Even still, the pace is too slow and the game relies too much on chance. What's more, the less skilful player cannot resort to the long ball, and the risk of serious injury in the

The only true all weather pitch is made of green felt

form of fingernail bruising is a prohibitive to many.

So what's left? Rising majestically from the annals of my childhood memories, and more literally descending from my Nan's loft, is World Cup Cricket. The leisurely pace reflects perfectly the game it mimics. The emphasis is on field placements and subtlety of bowling. The batsman must find the perfect angles and the battle between bat and ball is miniaturised in a way that rewards invention. Real cricketers might well have the right idea in touring much warmer climates all winter, but in their absence a thing of beauty can take place on my own dining table, and it can last all afternoon.

I hope it freezes next week: I'm spending tomorrow on ebay.



Badminton

Leeds University Men's 2nds 0 - 8
Leeds Met 2nds

Basketball

Leeds University Men's 2nds 53 - 60
Huddersfield 1sts

Fencing

Leeds University Men's 2nds 135 - 101
York 2nds

Football

Leeds University Women's 1sts 0 - 2
Durham 1sts
Leeds University Women's 2nds 2 - 3
York 1sts

Hockey

Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 4 - 1
Hull 1sts

Netball

Leeds Gryphons 2nds 56 - 22
York St John 1sts
Leeds Gryphons 3rds 46 - 34
Northumbria 2nds
Leeds Gryphons 4ths 92 - 0
York St John 4ths
Leeds Gryphons 5ths 64 - 10
York St John 5ths

Rugby League

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 16 - 10
Bangor 1sts

Squash

Leeds University Men's 1sts 4 - 1
Sheffield 1sts
Leeds University Men's 2nds 0 - 5
York 1sts
Leeds University Men's 3rds 0 - 3
Durham 2nds
Leeds University Women's 2nds 4 - 0
Bradford 1sts

Tennis

Leeds University Men's 2nds 4 - 6
Leeds Met 3rds
Leeds University Women's 2nds 10 - 0
Sheffield Hallam 1sts

Volleyball

Leeds University Men 0 - 3
Sheffield Hallam 2nds

Leeds Darts team checkout early

Men's Darts

Dave Tuer

After a 9-6 friendly win over Liverpool John Moores earlier in the week, the Leeds University darts team travelled to the chilly surroundings of the Derwent Bar at York University, for their first ever foray into the UK University Darts Cup. Joining them and the hosts were Newcastle and Durham.

First up for Leeds was a Newcastle team formed less than a year previously. After a nervous opening, Andrew Fothergill and Mitch Travers took advantage of some poor Newcastle finishing to claim the first

leg. This set the tone for the doubles matches, as Leeds eased into a 4-0 lead.

The first of the best-of-3 singles rubbers saw Fothergill extend the lead, courtesy of a 72 finish. Newcastle finally found a foothold in the match, taking three of the next four rubbers as the Leeds players struggled. Ben Cushlow clinched the tie with a double 16, though, and the remaining legs also went to Leeds; despite none of the Leeds players really finding form, they were comfortable 9-3 winners.

Up next were a York team who had battled to a 7-5 win over Durham, and were expected to provide Leeds' toughest opposition. York had the better of the doubles, gaining a 3-1 advantage through more consistent scoring. In an increasingly vocal

atmosphere, the singles matches became a matter of who would produce the strong darts under pressure.

Fothergill won the first singles rubber, but York captain Andy Myhill dominated the next with 16- and 19-dart legs. Gareth Davies closed the gap, and the scores were level when Dan Banks hit a 60 finish to defeat Ze Zhou. York pulled away again, with solid play putting them on the brink of victory.

After Myhill's heroics for York, Dane Percival played a captain's knock of his own, with checkouts of 52 and 56 forcing the match into a decider. Despite this, Leeds' hopes of a draw were dashed by a nerveless Danny Diamond, who beat Josh Powell with

legs of 23 and 25 darts to clinch a 7-5 win.

Leeds and Durham had identical records after two games each, making their match a straight shootout for the second qualifying spot after York topped the group.

Leeds started well, with Fothergill and Travers claiming their third doubles success of the day, but finished level at 2-2.

Brumfield showed more impressive finishing in the first singles match, while Travers provided undoubtedly the finest moment of the day from a Leeds player; he finished 192 in 4 darts, hitting Leeds' sole 180 of the day before taking out double 6 at the first attempt.

This was as good as it got for Leeds,

for greater consistency allowed Durham to ease into a 6-3 lead.

Although Leeds came close to qualifying for the knockout stages of the cup, they ultimately missed too many chances at doubles. Inexperience also showed, with too many players struggling for form on the day.

However, there are grounds for optimism for next year, as the experience gained should aid an improved showing, which could well provide a better outcome.

the big debate:

We're doomed

Despite the success of football's 'Kick it out' campaign against racism, sport has often been accused of shirking away from its wider social responsibilities. *LS Sport* asks: **Does sport have a responsibility to become more environmentally friendly?**

YES
Simon Sandison

Of course they do. If we put aside for a moment the crackpot counter-theorists' stubbornness; that climate change is a figment of everybody's imagination, and we take it as a very real, very urgent problem, then everybody has to shoulder the responsibility for slowing its progression.

Sports teams are clearly no different. Furthermore, as both huge corporate consumers as well as social hubs, the expectation ought to be upon large sports teams, and even larger governing bodies such as the FA or the ECB to lead the way with positive action.

A clear place to start is match day travel. While most major sporting venues discourage fans from driving to games, primarily through parking restrictions, there is an alarming dearth, almost across the board, of useful and efficient public transport options acting in partnership.

It's unfair to suggest that this is universal, and there are notable omissions to the trend.

The majority of London's development plans for the 2012 Olympic games include no vehicular access and corresponding extensions to the Underground.

Obviously these kinds of schemes are easier to implement in new developments than in existing, inner-city stadia. This only makes it more startling that mooted new grounds for Spurs and Liverpool, both part of England's bid to host the 2018 football World Cup, come without any real proposals to improve access for public transport.

Current government initiatives are encouraging drivers to drive just five miles a week less. The FA could surely encourage a cut of similar significance.

Even Macclesfield Town have an average attendance of just below 2000, the lowest in the Football league. A reconsideration of how we travel to the match is required, and even Manchester United should aspire to vehicle-free matchdays.

This goes beyond football clubs, naturally, but they do stand as a prime example as the country's most followed sport, and as such perhaps their obligation is greater than that of, say, the Worcester Wolves basketball team.

Recycling at grounds is another issue that is

worth exploring, but perhaps there is more mileage in more outlandish considerations. The issue of Climate Change is one that demands a complete overhaul of many of our established ways of life, and why should the way we watch sport be any different?

One editor of this newspaper suggested, with his tongue in his cheek, that we could consider the regionalisation of the football league.

It seems flippant, but why not? Instead of having two tiered national leagues below the Coca-Cola Championship, why not have a North and a South division, with two teams promoted from each, and an enlarged relegation zone. The reduction in distances traveled by teams and fans alike would be huge.

There are other ideas that appear initially frivolous that could be considered. Evening games could be abolished in the interest of removing the electrical drain of floodlights. Teams could travel to matches by train instead of by plane.

Naturally there are plenty of arguments against these outlandish ideas, but consideration of the environment increasingly must take primacy over issues of convenience. Sport, as a centrepiece of so many people's lives, must take the initiative and lead by example.

NO
Johnathan Brewer

Picture the scene. The opening of the 2020 Formula One season and a 'dramatic' mid race pit stop sees Ferrari five minutes into refuelling their hydrogen fuel cells.

Meanwhile, Lewis Hamilton glides down the home straight - his car emitting minimal noise, leaving merely a trace of water vapour as the crowd sit silently feeling disenchanted with a sport that has lost the charm of its history.

Motor racing should be all about the smell of petroleum emissions with ear splitting engine sounds exciting a passionate crowd. If sport were to change to address its emissions, Formula One and other sports would be destroyed spectacles.

Formula One always has been the ultimate test of human endurance, high speed and driving ability. Sport has responsibility to entertain, not to protect the environment and therefore to adapt Formula One cars to reduce emissions would have a detrimental effect on the sport.

With less powerful cars or shorter races, we would never see again the drama of the concluding stages of the Brazilian Grand-Prix in 2008. Nor would Michael Schumacher's highly anticipated return in 2010 have anywhere near the same impact with

carbon-neutral vehicles.

Furthermore, it is a sign of man's accomplishment to break land-speed records, and these simply cannot be accomplished through 'green' vehicles. It has always been a prestigious honour to hold the title of 'fastest man in the world', and for this practice to effectively be outlawed due to carbon emissions would destroy one of man's great historic pursuits.

And if we take away motor racing from our sporting culture where would such action stop? Prevent European football competition due to the carbon footprint that travelling teams leave? Perhaps rebrand the Football League to create a series of local derbies where teams can walk to their opposition's grounds? Or ban Carlisle and Plymouth from competing due to the lengthy distances needed to travel to their respective grounds?

The FIFA World Cup is the pinnacle of football calendar. Indeed much has been written on the lack of green proposals put forward for the South African World Cup this year, both in the construction of the venues, and transport to the country.

But events like this bring nations together. In an age when we are increasingly 'diverse' as a country, the World Cup never fails to capture British attention and unite us. Why should we prevent people travelling from the world over to celebrate one of sports great events, simply because a group of scientists claim we are damaging our ozone layer in doing so?

Indeed, the furore over the Olympic Stadium and Olympic Village 'green' credentials is irrelevant. The Olympic Games' primary focus should be on creating sporting legacies alone. To waste what is already a stretched budget on renewable energy that will provide just three percent of the energy needed in the Olympic Village seems frivolous. Surely this money would be better used to ensure our venues are the best they can be for sporting purposes only.

There is no doubt sport must adapt in the future to survive, but sports such as Formula One would not sustain their appeal if they were changed today. The same level of competitiveness or drama that exists in 2010 cannot be provided by current 'green' alternatives, and therefore sport should not change to accommodate climate change proposals.



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Uni secure landmark Championship

The Leeds Gryphons became the University's first ever BUCS Premier champions last week to crown an undefeated season. **Joe Short** caught up with club captain Seb Coady and team captain Alun Griffiths to reveal the sporting success story of the season.

"We've been a team for two years now, and we've come a long way since our first training session." Pensive words from a club captain who has seen his Leeds side progress from a group of first year individuals to a solid team, masters of the BUCS championship. For Seb Coady, the recent success of the Gryphons was not something that was easily procured.

Two years ago the Uni first team was a smattering of individual talent without a spine. The team wasn't really going anywhere and, with an inundation of new players, future seasons were going to be unpredictable. The memories of the lowly days two years past are still fresh in the mind of Griffiths, who was on the receiving end of a 9-0 demolition from title rivals Loughborough. "In our first year, we got absolutely battered."

The solidarity of a regular side, with a group of enthusiastic, confident and most importantly competitive guys has propelled the team to league success. This is the winning formula Coady and Griffiths have been developing. As Coady gladly outlines, "We're very good individually, but as a collective we're far more effective than other teams."

Their team strength is clear when you examine this season's league table. With one game against bottom of the league Manchester left, Loughborough languishing nine points behind, an undefeated

Gryphons side have truly taken flight this season.

But how do you develop team spirit? One main contributor has been the willingness of the players to play in the local Leeds weekend league. Here, as Griffiths explains, the team has been able to play more together in differing scenarios: "It's more physically-competitive but less skilful, and we can experiment with

Premier North

Leeds	P	W	D	L	Pts
Leeds	9	8	1	0	25
Loughborough	10	4	4	2	16
Birmingham	10	4	1	5	13
Northumbria	10	3	3	4	12
Nottingham	10	3	2	5	11
Manchester	9	1	1	7	4

players and positions."

An ability and desire to try new things out on the field that would normally be too risky in a competitive BUCS game have helped the team get used to a variety of styles of play. This was most evident when the team played their first game against Loughborough at the beginning of the season. Although it ended 2-2, Griffiths explains how confidence soared: "We battered them. They didn't have a clue what had happened. From this, we knew we could beat them.

That gave us the confidence to go on. We knew we were better than them."

But confidence can only get you so far. Over a two-year period, an integral part of a team's performance is the development of its players. The Gryphons have not only shown group development, but also improvements individually. When asked whether any individual players had developed above expectations during the season? Both captains immediately pinpoint "Will".

Will Turl, Uni's marksman up front with Coady, who last season was playing in the fourths, is an evident man outlined for praise. With improvements in both physical and mental toughness, Turl has emerged as an essential cog to the mechanism of the team. And when he can't find the net, Coady, Jordan Barnes and Jack Palmer have covered sufficiently for him.

Barnes himself is another player Griffiths singled out for praise. "He knows now how good he is" laughed the team captain "so he just skins players for fun".

As the captains reflect on a fruitful league campaign, their attention is still very much focussed on the present. The BUCS Championships are approaching, with the 16 top university teams in the UK entering a knock-out competition. This will be a new experience for the team, who have only been tested by northern teams this summer. Now, with the

inclusion of teams from the south and Scotland, the potential to play unchartered opponents is an exciting proposition.

While present success is always the immediate concern, what about the future for the team beyond the 09/10 calendar? Both men are thinking of moving on from Leeds, and yet they are pleased with what they believe is a good foundation for years to come. "There's so much more scope to go further" Coady

states, in relation to the potential the team has for future success, "we're a bit more professional now, and this will only continue to improve next year".

So, with the team's first steps toward a victorious cup run against Nottingham Trent next week, the future looks healthy both in the short and long run for a squad built on solidarity of the team, rather than – as Coady cheekily remarks – "big time Charlies".



Champions: Back row left to right (looking at it) Jordan Barnes, Andrew Vernon, Matt Cook, Aaron Ratchford, Will Turl, Dave Syers, Craig Wood, Seb Coady; Front row left to right Jonny Hirst, Joji Kawaguchi, Alun Griffiths (c), Tom Pawley, Max Western, Sean Southall; In the squad but not on the photo: Jack Palmer, Scott Mummary, Daniel Johnson

Photo: Jonathan Hirst

Saints humbled

Gryphons



Netball

Leeds Gryphons 2nds 56 - 22 York St John 1sts

Jamie Presland

Leeds Gryphons 2nds Netball team stormed to a comprehensive victory over York St. John at the Gryphon Centre on Wednesday. Dominant throughout, the hosts' sharp passing and deadly finishing were too much for the visitors, for whom the final score line could have been much worse.

The result keeps the 2nds hot on the tails of Northern Conference 2B table-toppers Leeds Met, who played away at 3rd placed Sheffield Hallam, whilst York St. John remain pointless after seven games.

Gryphons started the game as they meant to go on, top scorer Alice Grimwood boosting her goal tally with unerring confidence in front of the net,

and goal attack Laura Smith adding further goals. The hosts soon fell into a period of dominance characterised by mesmerising passing and movement, orchestrated by their tireless centre Katie Williams.

Gryphons threatened to overrun their opponents, scoring four times in two minutes and snuffing out any opening the visitors created, going in at the break with a fully deserved 15-3 lead.

The second quarter saw an element of stability added to the game, as York tightened up defensively and created more chances in an attempt to reduce the deficit. Grimwood's usually faultless finishing failed her on several occasions and the visitors began to close the gap with well-taken goals, but nonetheless the home side's superiority showed as they maintained their twelve point advantage with a flurry of late scores.

Grimwood's substitution at the beginning of the third quarter looked to give the beleaguered visitors some hope of revival, but the reprieve was short-lived as replacement Natasha Khatib picked up where Grimwood had left off, scoring relentlessly to put the game further out of the away team's

reach. Her movement was too much for the visiting defence to handle, and she stormed to fifteen individual goals in just ten minutes, scoring some fantastic strikes from the edge of the tee en route.

Coupled with sturdy defensive play, the Gryphons controlled the third period, winning 18-4 to take an unassailable 41-15 overall lead.

Victory was confirmed as the hosts cruised through the final quarter, Khatib's accuracy providing her with further goals as she closed in on 30 for the match.

Resigned to defeat, York couldn't keep possession, relying on rare goals from their tall goal shooter to rescue some shreds of dignity. Yet as the whistle went it was Leeds who went marching on as the Saints took the long road home.

Player of the Match

Natasha Khatib

Replaced the outstanding Alice Grimwood and outshone her free-scoring team-mate with an almost

faultless display of finishing.

Men's Basketball

Leeds 1sts 65 - 52- Sunderland 1sts (late finish)

Joe Short

The knot binding Leeds at the top of the table is so firm not even a Boy Scout with three untying badges and a penknife could loosen it.

The Uni team, who have won all six of their matches in the BUCS Northern Conference 2B, were simply dominant over a poor Sunderland side.

The away side turned up half an hour late for the game, and to be honest should not have turned up at all.

Not that Leeds had it all their own way, however. Sunderland took an early lead of 8-4 as Leeds struggled to pick holes through what was really an undisciplined defence. Indeed, the Uni had to resort to quick counter-attacks to secure most of their points in the first quarter.

Their poor start was quickly forgotten after the brief break, however, with star man Krumesh Patel bagging two 3-pointers in quick succession.

Patel really did rule the play, dictating his men in attack and being just as noisy without the ball. An incredible amount of 3-pointers from Krumesh in the third quarter saw Leeds increase a lead to 19

points, with help from the bustling Serge Leschuk and springy Andreas Tsiatinis.

The game was all over in the fourth quarter with the Uni 65-52 up, but the deficit could have been so much greater as the Leeds attack fell victim to complacency at times.

A poorly co-ordinated Sunderland defence was not exploited as much as it could have been, with the home side quite often being forced to storm through their opponents rather than spread the play.

A back injury at the end of the fourth quarter forced a late finish to the game.

Leeds should be pleased with this result. The performance was maybe not as impressive as their league position suggests, but this game can be counted as one the team simply wanted to win, after waiting so long for their opponents to turn up.

Player of the Match

Krumesh Patel

Dictator in both defence and attack. Devastating from range, Patel evaded the Sunderland defence as he found space in every corner of the court.



Uni stay top despite loss

Women's Football

Leeds Uni 1sts 0-2 Durham 1sts

Josh Powling

An embattled Leeds Uni side were sunk by two late Durham goals on Wednesday.

Despite defeat they will remain top if Teesside fail to beat Newcastle by three goals. The result, nevertheless, is a bitter pill for the BUCS Women's Northern Conference 2B leaders to swallow.

They had totally dominated the first half, but failed to capitalise while they held the ascendancy, and were duly punished late on.

Unbeaten all season, and having dropped only two points in seven games, the home side should have been brimming with confidence. Having scored twenty-four goals in their last four games in all competitions, it looked like only a matter of time before the home side registered on the score sheet.

The attacking play pivoted around forwards Faye Shipman and Eve Baker, with one dropping short and the other running behind Durham's back line. A number of breathtaking manoeuvres scythed open the away side's defence, and only a few smart saves from the opposition's goalkeeper kept the visitors on level terms.

Uni continued to romp forward, staying almost continually in Durham's half in the first period. A number of clever through balls by Jodie Crofts and Morris brought wingers Hannah Roberts and Jennie Cottrell more into play, exposing Durham's frailties on the flanks.

Shipman and Baker both had early chances, but it was Shipman who had the two best opportunities of the half. Minutes before half-time Durham's back line started to push up the pitch, and Shipman very nearly punished them by beating the offside trap with two well timed runs, but was denied on both occasions by the Durham keeper.

Lucie Gyally's goal was threatened just once in the first half, but in an instant the home side's defensive frailties were exposed. Durham's strikers were not short of pace, something centre backs Gemma Lyall and Erica Morris struggled to deal with.

The second half brought around a total turnaround for Uni's fortunes, with Durham starting to dominate possession and territory. It became clear as the half progressed that the home side had wasted too much energy in search of the first goal, and general fatigue was evident all around the pitch.

Baker nursed an injury through most of the second half, while she and Shipman became isolated as the midfield dropped further and further back into their own half to help out the defence.

Ragged defending could only stem the inevitable for so long, even with keeper Gyally pulling off a wonder save with fifteen minutes left on the clock. More Durham pressure and some chaotic defending gifted the visitors the opener after eighty minutes. From then on there was only one winner, and Durham quickly added a second much to the dismay of the Uni players.

One player confided that the recent great results had masked some average performances, and Leeds were without their star left winger Natalie Brace, away on national trials. Afterwards Jodie Crofts showed her dissatisfaction with the result, but felt that Uni were still in a strong position with three league games to play, and still with a chance of cup success.



STRETCH: Leeds extend their lead at the top of the table

Photo: Sarah Greene

Pace-setters pile more pressure on the Met

Leeds University Men's Basketball 1sts showed why they are top of the league and unbeaten this season with a convincing victory over a lacklustre Sunderland side.

The Uni side dominated much of the play, impressing in their

counter attacking play and the quantity of chances created.

The league is likely to go down to the deciding match between Uni and Leeds Met to establish this seasons champions. Full report, page 47.

Northern Conference Men's 2B

	P	W	L	Pts
Leeds	6	6	0	18
Leeds Met 2nds	6	5	1	15
Teesside	6	4	2	12
Sunderland	6	2	4	6
Northumbria 2nds	6	1	5	3
Sheffield	6	0	6	0