

LS2 guide to ghost hunting in Leeds
plus Hallowe'en fashion shoot

is?

leedsstudent

29.10.10
Volume 41 Issue 4

www.leedsstudent.org

Violent drinking game leaves fresher in coma



West Yorkshire Police are appealing to students with any further information to contact DS Gary Taylor, or police student liaison officer, Carole Munsey, on 0113 2053032.

Students affected by this issue are being urged to contact the Student Counselling Centre. Details can be found on their website at: www.leeds.ac.uk/studentcounselling.

Jess Elliott
News Editor

A student has been left in a critical condition following a drinking game that went wrong.

First year student Benedict Cadwallader is currently lying in a coma in Leeds General Infirmary following a play-fight that led to him sustaining "serious head injuries".

At the time of going to print Leeds Student understood Benedict's condition to be

deteriorating.

Two 19 year olds were arrested in relation to the incident and have now been released on bail pending further enquiries.

The incident took place in one of the 'G' block flats of Devonshire halls of residence in the early hours of Wednesday 20 October.

Initial enquiries had led the police to appeal for information from anyone who had been at Bourbon bar on the evening of

Tuesday 19 October. It is now clear that the injuries were sustained later that night, however.

The police have stressed that Benedict's injuries were not the result of a violent altercation but rather a punch received during a drinking game played by the students on their return from the night out. Leeds Student has received unconfirmed reports from students at Devonshire that the punch came during a game of 'Ring of Fire'.

Earlier this week a journalist from a regional newspaper was asked to leave the site by security after asking students for information on the incident. Messages wishing Benedict well have been flooding onto the Liverpool student's facebook page.

One friend named Jess Snowball, wrote: "ben, iv had words with the big man up there so i know he'll bring you back to us all soon! keep fighting buddy X."

Another post from Francesca Olley read: "Please pray for Benedict Cadwallader and his family they need all the hope and support from those who know them to help them through this hard time."

The University has issued a statement, saying: "We are sorry to confirm that one of our students was injured in an incident at Devonshire Hall student accommodation. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

Boy about campus//



The clocks haven't even gone back yet and already Boy About Campus is finding himself stuck in the library day in, day out with no end in sight.

Long gone are the days of pretending to be a fresher again and staying in bed until the sweet melody of the 'Neighbours' theme tune floated up through the floorboards. Where once Boy About Campus' days were filled with drinking and prepping for a night of pulling at Jagerbomb and Gatecrasher, they're now filled with finding books in the Edward Boyle and pretending to read them while actually staring at the semi-fit girl in front of him.

All of this pretending-to-read-while-secretly-having-a-perve might be just about bearable if it weren't for the fact that Boy About Campus is also dying of thirst after having his bottle of water confiscated by the Library Police. He could go down to the special designated 'drinking and eating zone' on Level 8 but he can't be arsed. Plus, everyone knows that the only reason anyone ever goes down to the pit of the Eddy B is if you've got to meet up with randomers from your seminar for a group presentation. Boy About Campus has had to resort to drinking from the taps in the boys' loos while trying to avoid staring at his fellow students taking a slash.

It seems as though the whole of the campus has gone dry; even the Roger Stevens pool is water-

less, which means no more jumping in there after a drunken night out.

Boy About Campus is devastated, what's he going to do to look well truelead.com after a night out at Fruity now?

In other news, no, Boy About Campus doesn't want a fucking toothbrush thanks, he's already got one. He also has a phone thanks O2, and if he didn't he's sure he'd be capable of going into the shop and sorting one out for himself. He did make it into uni after all. Boy About Campus is pretty sure that the Union foyer was made 'open plan' so that societies could have more stalls out to promote their causes not so that multi-billion pound companies could fob their plastic shit off on us.

With talk that the upstairs of the Union is going to be re-designed soon too, Boy About Campus can only presume that it won't be long before he's confronted with toothbrush-brandishing PR companies in the ARC too. Boy About Campus is quite confused about where the Union is finding the money for this interior design budget though, he thought they were skint. Maybe it's from the overpriced roasts they're selling in the Terrace.

Word out.

Have you experienced the new levels of 'fun' in the Edward Boyle library?

Get in touch with us at editor@leedsstudent.org

Level 10

Science and Engineering

Biological Sciences

Botany

Food

NO FUN

Leaders

Leeds Student's views on this week's hot topics

-Vodafone a tax advisor-

This week it has been announced that Vodafone, you know, that struggling business upstart, have been let off £1.25 billion in tax.

The timing of this piece of information could not be better. Just last week we were allowed in on the big 'secret' that the Tories were going to hit the poor hardest with the spending review.

So let us review the situation. Those at the very bottom of the social spectrum, those with no voice and little hope of accessing the highest echelons of power are being made to pay for the corruption and greed of those that at the top. This doesn't seem like a very fair way of doing business.

The fact of the matter is this: The top 10% of people in the UK own nearly half the national private wealth, nearly £4000 billion. A five

percent tax on that would wipe out the country's debt.

This highlights magnificently the fallacy of the current idea the ConDem government is promoting. The apparent Big Society, where we are all in this balls up together, is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. On the one hand the general public are told that they must pay their fare share, see their services cut and their working lives prolonged for less benefit at the end.

While on the other they are told that those at the top must be taxed less or they will leave the country. Where is the social responsibility of these companies? Why are they not in this Big Society with the rest of us? Or is the Big Society a limited numbers club?

Or is it actually the fact that there are two rules, one for the rich and one

for the poor. George Osborne said recently that a benefit cheat was like a 'mugger' and that benefit 'money is paid through our taxes which is meant to be going to the most vulnerable in our society, not into the pockets of criminals.' While at the same time companies, like Vodafone are lauded as being the saviours of our failing economy.

So those at the bottom, eking out a living on £60 a week, are cast as 'muggers' and 'criminals' for 'stealing' £1.5 billion. While Vodafone, whose CEO was paid £2.67 million, are allowed to legally 'steal', and that is what they have done, £1.25 billion's worth.

The devil, as always, is in the detail. Vodafone are let off £1.25 billion in tax while benefits are cut by £7 billion. Fairness? In the words of Ricky Tomlinson: 'my arse'.

- Faulty Towers -

This week Leeds Met's Broadcasting Place has been voted 'Best Tall Building in the World 2010' by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats Awards. However, this is not the first award attributed to the tower. It won an award for architectural excellence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) last year.

The result has come as a shock to many, especially as the tower beat off competition from some of the world's most iconic buildings such as the Pinnacle of Duxton in Singapore and the 'Bank of America Tower' in New York City. It comes even more of a shock, as on its completion many were confused by its outlandish appearance and 'unfinished' look.

The 23 story tower has been coined 'freakish' by the Independent newspaper and the

general student consensus on the building is that it is 'ugly', 'vulgar' and completely out of place against the rest of the Leeds landscape.

However, here at the Leeds Student, we actually agree with the judges. Next to the classic structural design of Parkinson Building, Broadcasting Place may, as stated by a Leeds University student look as though 'Iron Man took a shit on the Leeds Landscape.' However, the tower is both individual and striking and certainly does 'contribute to the architectural legacy of the city'. Leeds Student thinks its brilliant that we can look across the cityscape and see such a variety of architecture.

Although the claim that the building's 'changing angular geometry and shear gusto of cladding blew the judges away

during deliberations,' may be a little too far; having such an iconic piece of architecture accredited to our city is something to be proud of. Other university cities have land-mark buildings such as the Edinburgh Castle, Newcastle's Angel of the North and London's numerous attractions. Leeds can now join this rank.

Furthermore, Broadcasting Place is a great talking point and opens another chapter in the ongoing Leeds Uni Vs Met debate. In terms of architecture, it would seem that Met has got one-upmanship. University will surely now be drafting in world-renowned architects to create something of equal stature. Maybe they can knock down Roger Stevens and build something new. Leeds Student lives in hope.

-Graduation ceremony on aisle six-

Haven't our supermarkets got our best interests at heart? They're constantly making life easier and so more convenient for us. A quick pop-in on the way home for a packet of hob nobs ends up with you coming out with pet insurance, a new mortgage and now a real, bonafide degree.

That's right, Morrisons are sponsoring students to take a degree in Business and Management- at a price of course.

Half students' time will be spent working in store and their holidays spent in the same way. In an age where 60 per cent of students surveyed by NUS said they would not

have attended university if Lord Browne's uncapped tuition fees had been in place now; maybe this will be the only way some could achieve a degree. It seems the new zeitgeist that students might find themselves on a production line, created, packaged and sold by and for the likes of big business such as Morrisons.

The government is making education so inaccessible, they are leaving a gap for corporate vultures to swoop in and prey on the most vulnerable of society. When education should be a fundamental right for every citizen, it seems those who can't afford a degree are going to be at the mercy of such companies.

Are we really going to revert back to the times when those less-off had to rely on a benefactor to better themselves? Welcome back Dickensian England.

Yet, Leeds Student can't help pondering: what companies will jump on the bandwagon next? Starbucks, if I buy nine coffees will my degree come free with the tenth? One day, will I be able to go into Argos and pick my degree from a catalogue? Will it then arrive side by side with my new toaster at collection point A?

Lets hope not. We're not sure we want our graduation ceremony alongside the frozen peas.

Movember: all fur a good cause



photo: Leeds University Union

Sarah Whitehead
News Reporter

A new look will begin to emerge right beneath our very noses next month.

Suave, sophisticated and worn by gentlemen all over, this new image will prove to be a clear cut above the lack lustre coarseness of the bearded faces seen around campus as the moustache is about to underline the face of men's health in aid of the annual charity raising event 'Movember'.

A challenge is posed to half the nation to start the first of Movember clean shaven and then to grow a moustache for the rest of the month and become one of the thousands of 'Mo brothers' who have taken part in recent years.

The campaign is targeted at raising awareness for cancer among males and raising money towards The Prostate Cancer Charity (TPCC), the number one cancer affecting men. In addition to being part of the campaign's image, you can get people to sponsor your Moustache progress by creating a 'Mo space' when you register on the Movember website. Here, a Leeds University team has been created where Leeds Students

can receive and give donations to the charity and see how many other members there are.

The University of Leeds charity organisation RAG will be teaming up with the student executive to promote the campaign and we should start to see the beginnings of growth among Union staff and sports team members.

There will also be student nights, including the last Fruity, where moustache wearers can parade their efforts and people can give donations to the charity.

Jack Cheyette, Leeds University Union Welfare Officer commented, 'We want students to participate in what is a fun way to raise awareness for charity. It would be great for Leeds student union to be actively involved in supporting the Movember campaign.'

Unlike marathons, bungee jumps and other charity raising events, Movember is a campaign that spans across a whole month and does not require any training! During this month the change in men's image will carry a message making people aware of the health issues affecting men today and encouraging people to donate to a worthwhile charity aimed at fighting one of the most common problems for men.

To set up a 'Mo space' or to donate visit

More reasons to shop at Morrisons

A trip to Morrisons could end up with more than the week's shop as the chain announce they will sponsor degrees.

Amy Coles
Online News Editor

Last week super market chain Morrisons announced its plan to sponsor a new degree programme.

With the future of higher education threatened by rising tuition fees and graduate unemployment at it's highest in seven years, corporate sponsored degrees could be the answer to these issues.

The supermarket is offering a three year BSc Hons degree in Business and Management to 20 applicants a year at the University of Bradford.

The course is not constructed like other conventional degrees. Students on the course will be expected to spend half their time at university working for Morrisons in their factories whilst also taking modules in food manufacturing.

Unlike most students, they will not have long breaks but will work for the supermarket in their holidays.

Morrisons have admitted that students will lose a lot of recreational time at university. However, they will pay the full tuition fees of £3,290. In addition, students will receive an extra £15,000 per annum whilst they study. This degree also promises their graduates a guaranteed job.

All students are required to work for Morrisons for at least 3 years after

they complete their degree

The University of Bradford claims 'The course provides candidates with a debt-free university education whilst working in a fast paced business and then an exciting career on graduation, making it an attractive option for those looking to develop a career in the retail industry at Morrisons.'

The company already currently employs around 40,000 16-24 year olds and has 3,500 employees set to achieve retail apprenticeships.

However, Morrisons is not the only company to have started sponsoring degree programmes. Harrods already sponsors an honours degree in sales at Anglia Ruskin University, designed to teach students 'The art of sales' with a mixture of business and psychology.

In addition, Tesco offer a similar degree program in retailing at Manchester Metropolitan University. Many companies across the U.K do already offer sponsorship in some form to students. Many specialist companies such as Kier construction and BAE Systems offer to pay for students third year, after they have completed an industrial placement with them.

These are the first instances of companies tailor making degrees in the interest of recruiting graduates. It offers an interesting insight into the future of higher education.



photo: Felicity Hewitt-Dutton

Police warn: phone theft is on the rise

Female students are being targeted by thieves patrolling popular bars and nightclubs in Leeds.

Jane Woodvine
News Reporter

Police have urged students to be vigilant with their valuables when socialising in Leeds.

Thieves are preying particularly on vulnerable students in licensed premises throughout the city, taking mobile phones from bags on tables when their victims are distracted on nights out.

Blackberries and iPhones are the principal items reported as stolen and the majority of these reports are made by female students who have left their bags unattended.

Suzi Rankine, a Biology student, recently had her phone and camera stolen whilst on a night out in Fruity at Leeds University Union (LUU). "I like to think I am quite a vigilant person where my possessions are concerned, but this has made me realise that I need to be extra careful," she said.

Leaving bags unzipped or placing phones on tables so that they are on display is only creating an easy opportunity for pickpockets.

LUU Community Officer Paul

Gold warned: "It's very easy to think yourself immune inside the student bubble, but being aware of your belongings, especially when drinking, should be something we all do automatically all of the time."

You can increase the chances of your mobile phone being recovered by marking your post code on the back of your phone underneath the battery. If your phone is handed in to the police and you have reported it as lost or stolen they can then trace it back to you.

If you think you may have lost your mobile phone after a night out in Leeds, the police are advising that you ring the premises first to see if anything has been handed in. If nothing transpires you can then report your phone as lost. You will not need a crime number if it has been lost as police will issue a lost property reference, which will be accepted by your phone operator or insurance company.

Police will be on duty outside certain premises over the weekend reminding students of the importance of keeping their valuables safe and within sight at all times to avoid further mobile phone thefts.



photo: Joel Harratt

Better Union referendum to be held next week

Fiona Lamont
Blogs Editor

The first referendum of the year is to be held between November 1 - 5.

This will be the first chance students will have to vote on ideas put through the Better Union forum.

Only two motions will be in next week's referendum as all other issues obtained a majority vote.

The first motion is in regards to creating a lounge space specifically for post-graduate students, whilst the second asks whether the Union should oppose commercial bar crawls, such as the increasingly popular 'Carnage'.

The union democracy system was changed this year after a student poll deemed it irrelevant and exclusivist. Instead of holding bi-annual referendums, three forums have now been formed to discuss and vote on any union issues.

If a majority decision cannot be achieved then the issue is taken to referendum, where the entire student body has the opportunity to vote.

Many students have argued that previous referendums contained issues of little interest or relevance to them and it is hoped that this new system will eradicate this problem.

However, it is worried that by having only two issues, of which one could be seen as irrelevant to undergraduate students, the Union will once again fail to interest and involve all students.

James Robertson, Campaigns and Democracy officer, hopes that this is not the case as both issues will have an effect on all students.

In regards to the post-graduate lounge, he stated that students need to think about whether it's correct for the union to "focus on one particular demographic."

The issue of whether the Union should oppose commercial bar crawls was proposed by Welfare Officer Jack Cheyette, arguing that these events encourage excessive and irresponsible drinking. For a more detailed account of his views on the topic, see his Big Debate on page 9 of this weeks Leeds Student.

It failed to pass in the forum as it was believed by some that students should be able to make their own choices about drinking and do not need the Union acting as a parent.

The results of the referendum will be considered extremely telling as to the success of the new democracy system.

Robertson already believes the new system is a change for the better after 100 per cent of students who attended the forums found the sessions to be "incredibly participative," with just under 80 per cent stating it to be a "friendly atmosphere."

Those supporting the new democratic structure see voting numbers as an important indicator of how successful the new system is. They will be encouraging students to vote through banners and posters throughout the Union building.

Are you being servered?

Slow and unreliable internet service is causing uproar amongst residents of St Marks halls.



photo: Joel Harratt

Hannah Candy
News Reporter

Students at St Marks halls are speaking out about the slow and unreliable internet service provided in their residences.

A formal request was drawn up after numerous complaints by students who are disgusted with the 'snail pace' internet service and 'unreliable connection'.

In early October, a petition was

e-mailed to inform us that they are aware of the problem yet nothing has been done. It's been weeks."

Adam Klimkiewi, another resident of St Marks commented: "My contract started on the 15th of September, however I did not have internet access until the 19th."

"I informed the supervisor that I was still without an internet connection and was told over the phone by staff that they were aware of the problems, but they were not planning on updating the system."

"I'm unable to load videos that I need for my studies and it's almost impossible to download PowerPoints for lectures. It's stressful and frustrating."

On October 26, Leeds Student received a statement from Residential Services stating that they have recently received some complaints about the internet service. The statement outlined that they have been working closely with Keysurf, a broadband provider, to establish any issues interfering with the internet connection and will continue to do so at students request.

Disappointed resident Elizabeth Slattery remarks "I wish someone would take ownership of the problem because we just feel like we are being shafted from one organisation to another without getting results."

"I could not even apply for the St Marks residency committee as the internet was down at the time. When the internet finally surfaced the connection was too slow to actually upload my application to the online application system."

A reputable online source suggested that St Marks, located in the LS2 area, should receive 'excellent coverage' running an average download speed of 1.3Mbps.

St Marks' average download speed is a mere 0.06 Mbps.

St Mark's Residences is privately owned by the University of Leeds. Adam Klimkiewi remarks: "You have made a contract with a reputable organization so you expect certain standards."

"If it states in your contract that rent includes a toilet you wouldn't expect a hole in the ground. It wouldn't be good enough if you phoned the company responsible for them to tell you 'sorry we will not be installing a toilet until next year.' How is this any different?"

If you are experiencing problems with your internet at St Marks, contact Leeds Student on editor@leedsstudent.org.

Towering above the rest

Anusha Mata, Katriona Ormiston and Ina Strander
News Reporters

Leeds Metropolitan's tower building Broadcasting Place has been voted 'The Best Tall Building in the World 2010' by Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats Awards (CTBUH).

The CTBUH issues the Tall Building Awards electing buildings around the world recognizing excellence in design and construction.

After being elected 'Best Tall Building in Europe' in June, the rust-coloured steel tower on Woodhouse Lane was shortlisted for the world award together with the best tallest buildings from three other world regions including Middle East/Africa, Asia/Australasia and North/South America.

Broadcasting Place was praised by the CTBUH jury for "showing a respect for the scale and grain of the surrounding listed buildings" and because the "changing angular geometry and shear gusto of cladding simply blew the judges away during deliberations."

The 23-story Leeds tower, designed by Sterling Prize-winning architects Feilden Clegg Bradley was completed in 2009. At 70m, Broadcasting Place is a low skyscraper compared to its competitors.

It beat off Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world at 828m and current holder of the

'New Tall Building Global Icon' Award.

The other buildings awarded by the CTBUH was the Pinnacle at Duxton in Singapore at 163 m and the 366m Bank of America tower in New York.

Alex Whitbread, Partner and Architect at Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios said: "To win this award against such a remarkable shortlist is both an honour and a coup for everyone involved in the project. This is a testament to the collaboration between Downing, Leeds Metropolitan University and the overall design team to create a major new academic focus and significant new piece of city and skyline."

"We hope that Broadcasting Place shows that it is possible to build bold contemporary architecture in sensitive contexts and that tall buildings can both complement and contrast successfully with their surroundings."

"I was born and brought up in Leeds and it makes me very proud that we have been able to contribute to the architectural legacy of the city."

The £50 million building is owned by student accommodation developer Downing and is pre-let by Leeds Metropolitan University. It houses the faculty of Art, Environment & Technology, 240 student residences and a Baptist church.

Leeds Metropolitan University Director of Estates, Sue Holmes, comments: "We are thrilled that

Broadcasting Place has won this prestigious international award. Leeds as a city has taken this building to its heart and the building is home to students and staff from out Arts, Environment and Technology Faculty and provides a fantastic learning and working environment. Many of our students also choose to live in the tower which has some wonderful views over the city as well as providing an inspirational addition to the skyline."

The CTBUH award is not the first official critical appraisal of Broadcasting Place. Earlier this year, Broadcasting Place has also received an award for architectural excellence from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). As a city landmark, the building was praised as "truly iconic". It also won the title "Best Commercial Development 2010" at the Yorkshire Property Awards. Broadcasting Place was also voted third place in Leeds' favourite Building Shortlist by the people of Leeds themselves at the 2009 Leeds Architecture Awards.

Despite the awards, Broadcasting place does not hold the same position in all the hearts of Leeds' inhabitants. The tower has been subject to lively debates about its excellence with *The Independent* calling the building "freakish."

Certainly the object of widely differing opinions, the word on the street is that the building is on the "Love to hate" list among students.



photo: Aidan Durbar

What do you think?

Leeds Student takes to the streets to investigate what the student population really think about Broadcasting Place. The results are not so pretty..



"It is definatley NOT the best tower in Leeds!!"

Scarlett Lam
Postgraduate English Literature



"I'm not that bothered but I certainly wouldn't put it in the top 10"

Richard Stacey
PHD English Literature



"It looks like Iron Man took a shit on the Leeds landscape. It is the worst tower in the world"

Rory Vierya
3rd year Classics



"It's unflattering to the Leeds landscape"

Laura Marston
3rd year Psychology

Police crackdown on laptop theft

New technology aims to locate laptops after theft.



Photo: Mark McKay

Sophie Morley
News Reporter

West Yorkshire Police are launching a new way to crack down on laptop theft.

The new hi-tech software is activated post theft and enables accurate tracking of the laptops whereabouts.

In Leeds last year 1500 laptops were stolen, with more than two

thirds of those belonging to students. The massive influx of new students at the start of term that leave doors open when moving in or getting to know the neighbours means a fresh batch of potential targets for burglary.

A pilot scheme was run last December in the Woodhouse area which saw police installing 500 laptops with the smart software. They hope to fit another 1000 by the end of October. A door-to-door approach has been taken on certain streets and areas regarded as burglary "hotspots".

Detective Chief Inspector Andy

Williams, Crime Manager at North West Leeds Division, said: "The areas we are targeting with the software have been identified through analysis of local burglary trends so we can have the biggest impact. We are also notifying known local criminals that this technology is in use."

Shared student houses are often considered a prime target due to their relatively high number of valuable items in comparison to family homes.

Laptops are particularly favoured as they're light and easy to sell on. Some machines have already been recovered, and arrests and charges have been made. The software is nearly undetectable on the computer which makes it very difficult to locate or remove. This means not only can the laptops be retrieved but also, often importantly for students, coursework and personal files are not lost.

Police still want to remind students to be vigilant and follow commonsense crime prevention advice as a lot of cases of student burglary still stem from unlocked windows and doors.

Highway Robbery

Bus fare increase enrages students and the local community

Constance Webber
News Reporter

Outrage has erupted amongst students and the Leeds community as a local bus company have increased some of their fares by over 10 per cent.

FirstBus have recently raised their minimum fare for its 'Longer Hop' from £1.70 to £1.90. A petition has been created in the hope of trying to improve the service that customers receive.

Although the fare for a short journey has remained at £1, the petition claims that this increase in fares for journeys over four stops was barely advertised. It came into force from September 26. The only place that seemed to notify passengers of this increase in price of a single journey was the Firstbus website; however there was nothing on board the buses to advertise this change.

A statement on the First group website said: "We are very conscious of the effect of price rises on bus travellers in West Yorkshire and consider very carefully any change that affects our customers. We are faced however, with rising costs in such areas as pensions and insurance."

The petition reads that "Regulation and support from Metro would help bring more standard fares across all

bus companies running a public service," and this would mean that the companies would get their fares subsidised for providing a proper service, and would mean that the public would receive a better service instead of companies merely improving their profit margins.

People who signed the petition said that the service which Firstbus provides is just not good enough for the price they are paying. One comment on the website's petition says:

"First are a joke. My bus route boasts a bus every ten mins or less. This is simply not true. I catch the bus from town at around 6pm every night and often wait for 15 mins or more. This is rush hour/prime time and on a major trunk route. The bus is also full and the queues speak for themselves. Rubbish. As for the fares a quid for 4 stops get real. How about a quid across Leeds."

The online petition is calling for people who live in Leeds to sign for a "better, more regular and economical service." The petition and its comments are being put together in order to induce a regular bus service at a reasonable price. They hope for "a regular service in our community with an honest fare"

The petition can be found at www.lovinleeds.com/first. There is also a Facebook Group called "Fair Fares for all in Leeds"

Campus Watch

Jessica Ware
News Reporter

Mexico

A 20 year old student has been appointed chief of police in Praxedis Guadalupe Guerrero, north Mexico – a town infamous for drug trafficking.

Criminology student Marisol Valles, who has an infant son, will be heading a team of just 13 agents, nine of which are women. The team boasts just three pistols and one car to police an area in which massacres, corruption and turf wars are commonplace.

Despite upsetting traditionalists, Valles is being hailed by many as Mexico's bravest woman. The community is hoping her fierce non-violent principles will trigger a positive change in the town – the previous chief of police, however, was beheaded.

Oxford

Researchers at Oxford University's heart unit have discovered that eating less meat could prevent up to 45,000 deaths in the UK a year.

Eating meat three times a week would prevent 31,000 deaths from

heart disease, 9,000 deaths from cancer and 5,000 deaths from strokes. Currently, Britons consume an average of 125kg of meat a year, and red meat in particular has strong links with bowel cancer and is high in saturated fat.

Dr Mike Rayner, of Oxford University's Department of Public Health, said: "This research demonstrates the clear health benefits of cutting down on meat and dairy in the UK and quantifies this more comprehensively than ever before."

This drop in deaths would save the NHS £1.2bn.

Manchester

The University of Manchester Student's Union has passed a motion to boycott RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland); all ties between the university and the bank are being severed.

The union believe RBS is in breach of their ethical code, following their heavy investment in controversial fossil fuel projects; such as drilling for oil in untouched reserves previously covered by icebergs.

The boycott requires RBS to vacate their premises on campus, and they have been barred from any future

marketing or recruiting events at the university.

Amanda Walters, Campaigns Officer at University of Manchester Students Union said "RBS is 84% owned by the UK tax payer. It's outrageous that this public money is being used to destroy our future".

Germany

A new craze is sweeping across student bars in Germany – Science Slams.

A typical Science Slam consists of a number of students who each present a fast-paced and interesting mini lecture on a topic of their choice, often to hundreds of their peers. The most interesting and engaging scientist receives a prize.

Bars in cities such as Hamburg and Cologne are experiencing a surge in Science Slam evenings, with its ever-growing cult following creating business on otherwise quiet nights of the week.

Poetry Slams are already popular in Germany and the Science Slam is becoming increasingly successful at making science more approachable and appealing to a wider audience.



Students say 'no' to University should tuition fees rise



Charlotte Brownridge
News Reporter

Almost half of current students would not attend university if the proposed increase in tuition fees come into practise, a new survey has revealed.

The study, carried out by the NUS and HSBC, enquired into how the Lord Browne Report on higher education, which recommends the total abolition on the current cap on tuition fees, would affect students.

The survey also exposed that 60 per cent of the 3,863 students surveyed believed that if it was not for the support of their families and friends they would not have been able to afford university.

NUS president, Aaron Porter, sees the survey as "clear evidence of the need to do away with the damaging and unpopular fees system, if we are not to shut out many thousands of young people from going to university, particularly those from poorer backgrounds."

However, this new survey is not the first to show such findings. The Sutton Trust issued a report earlier in the year inferring that if fees were raised to £7,000 students would be entirely put off university.

Rachel Wenstone, Leeds University Union Communications and Internal Affairs officer told Leeds Student: "This clearly demonstrates what Browne and the coalition have been denying; access to higher education will be based not on attainment, but on one financial situation of an individual student. We cannot accept such a fundamental assault on access to education."

New initiative supports community project

'Better Leeds' forum unanimously passes proposal to support local project, Royal Park Community Consortium.

Hermione Wright
News Reporter

A proposal for the Leeds University Union (LUU) to provide greater support to community projects was passed on Tuesday after a unanimous vote from the Better Leeds student forum.

The initiative will increase opportunities for the LUU to offer solidarity to local organisations such as the Royal Park Community Consortium (RPCC).

The idea, proposed by Civil Engineering student Jacob Mirzaian, was supported by all 16 members of the student panel and will remain LUU policy for the next three years.

Paul Gold, LUU Community Officer commented: "It's really important that local residents understand that students can be a positive force in the community, and this idea is a great way to get that concept across. I want to see LUU supporting our members to go out and get involved in community projects and groups; with 33,000 students our greatest resource is our time, energy and enthusiasm."

The RPCC is a community-run project, which aims to convert the currently derelict Royal Park School building into a multi-functional centre that will become a hub of activity for local residents.

Although the building has been empty since 2004, the local council have proposed plans to turn the site into flats.

The new proposal aims to bolster the RPCC's bid for the Royal Park School building by showing student support for the community centre and rejecting the council's bid for residential development.



photo: Jon Vernon

The student motion suggests that the council proposal to turn the Royal Park School into housing is "money-driven, especially in a city with an excess of thousands of bed-spaces."

Last weekend, members of the RPCC worked with local Leeds residents to help clean up the school grounds in order to prevent the empty building from entering a state of disrepair.

The initiative attracted support from many members of the community, and similar events will be organised over the upcoming months. John McGuinness, Union Community Rep at the University of Leeds supports both the LUU proposal and the RPCC's plans to turn the building into a community centre.

He said: "Royal Park Community Centre would be a bridge between the local community and the students of Leeds. It would allow for beneficial volunteering opportunities, but also create a more unified Hyde Park."

Similar community initiatives are already proving successful throughout Leeds, including the Headingley Development Trust, HEART, and the Oblong in Woodhouse. According to the RPCC, Hyde Park is currently an area with a skewed social and demographic balance as a result of its disproportionate student population and its economic deprivation.

In light of this, they suggest that the community is "severely in need of a centre that will engender cohesion, integration and inclusion, and the use of the empty Royal Park School building as a community centre would address this need."

Although the future of the building is still uncertain, the RPCC hope to raise enough funds to allow for the community centre's completion in 2012.

Hold the fone! Mobile giant's tax dodge

Gemma-Louise Sutherland
News Editor



photos: John McEwan

Angry students staged a protest yesterday against an alleged six billion tax break awarded to the company by the government.

The protest was organised by Right to Work, and was joined by Socialist Workers Students and Leeds University Against Cuts (LUAC) amongst others. This comes after activists launched a successful protest on Wednesday on Oxford Street in London and a similar demonstration will be taking place in Bristol today.

Activists claim the mobile phone giant has dodged a six billion tax bill. Chanting 'Tax dodgers' the groups were joined by other public sector workers such as teachers and hospital workers taking time from their lunch break to join the protest.

Financial Website Thisismoney.co.uk claims that the Permanent Secretary for Tax David Harnett agreed a deal to let Vodafone off a £6bn tax bill.

The disclosure comes after Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced they had undercharged 1.4million Britons by a total of £2billion in tax and would be claiming it back.

Protestors formed a picket line outside the Leeds Vodafone shop, gathering large groups of people. The protest forced the shop to close its doors and temporarily stop trade.

Ged Colgan of Socialist Worker Students told Leeds Student: "We think it is disgusting that the Tories let Vodafone get away with 6 billion pounds of tax dodging when they are cutting public spending left right and centre."

In July Vodafone agreed to pay the HMRC £1.2bn to settle a long-running dispute over a tax assessment, despite having put aside £2.2bn to cover it.

Financial Website Thisismoney.co.uk claims that Permanent Secretary for Tax David Harnett agreed a deal to let Vodafone off a £6bn tax bill.

The disclosure comes after Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced they had undercharged 1.4million Britons by a total of £2billion in tax and would be claiming it back.

However, a HMRC disputed the claims that Vodafone owed six billion pounds. He told Leeds Student:

"We cannot comment on the detail of the settlement but we can confirm that it was reached by HMRC following a rigorous examination of the facts and an intensive pre-proposal negotiation that tested the arguments of both parties."

As a result it was agreed that Vodafone's liability was £1.25bn and at no point was a liability greater than that established.

"There is no question of Vodafone having an outstanding tax liability of £6bn. That number is an urban myth."

When Leeds Student approached Vodafone they also disputed the claims, stating that they

"Vodafone takes corporate responsibility very seriously and meets its tax obligations in the UK and all of the other countries in which the company operates. Vodafone Group is paying the full sum of tax that was agreed following HMRC's full investigation earlier this year."

Reports suggesting that we have an outstanding tax bill for £6 billion are incorrect, as this was never the case."

letters@leedsstudent.org

Re. BAE Misfire (Leaders, Issue 3)

Dear Sir,

I write to you after reading that your paper is in support of banning BAE Systems from appearing on University campuses.

If I may, I'd like to assume that you have a dislike for all bodies associated with military research & development, as well as manufacture. Assuming this to be true, please promptly remove all of the following technologies and their respective accomplishments from your lifestyle: aircraft-tracking radar; night vision; submarines; body armour; stab-proof vests; kevlar material; ballistic nylon; GPS; satellite TV; satellite communications; cable TV; cable communications; jet engine; digital cameras; Google Earth; the Internet; any research and knowledge arising from the 1957-1975 space race - I recommend your research this, and realise what you will be getting rid of; speech recognition; any device containing Gallium Arsenide; autonomous cars; nuclear energy; anaesthesia; computers; encryption; synthetic rubber.

This is a very brief list of the accomplishments and inventions that have arisen from military research. Although the loss of human life is something that should be actively avoided, these companies are not responsible for it. BAE Systems is not responsible for when one of it's weapons kills and aggressor, the person who used their own free will do use the weapon is responsible.

No one is forcing CAAT to get a job with BAE Systems. I do not see why the choice of corporations that I can approach at a careers fair should be dictated by other people!

Regards,

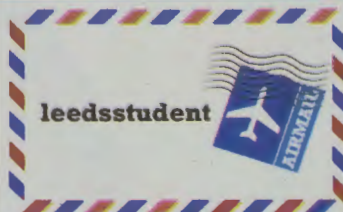
S. Adam Qaisar
PhD Student

Leeds Student would like to clarify that last week's leader did not claim to support a ban of BAE Systems from campus but rather the campaign to ban BAE Systems from campus; Leeds Student recognises the need for debate on all activities taking place on campus, and the right of students to protest against activities which they believe to be immoral.

Corrections

Leeds Student would like to apologise for the factual inaccuracy in last week's leader on the closure of Union Books (*Final Chapter for Union Books*), and clarify that three members of full-time staff and two members of part-time staff will be losing their jobs as a result of the closure.

Got an opinion on something you've read in LS? Send your thoughts into us at either the email address above or to PO Box 157, Leeds, LS1 1UH.



Joe Short
English Language and Literature
Third year, study abroad

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Breakfast

'All things must pass, all things must pass away.' This is one of those life mantras everyone must experience and take on with a stiff upper lip, a puffed-out chest and a determined look in the eye.

Indeed, that scouse lot had it right: good things will always come to an end, and it is up to us to accept it.

Pardon the morose opening, but I'm feeling rather melancholy this morning. I woke up to a beam of sunlight washing the bedroom through my beige blinds. What a glorious day to be in Copenhagen, was my thought.

I manoeuvred my way out of bed and headed for the kitchen. My rugbed in the toaster, I went on a rummage through the cupboard looking for that special something to boost the day.

No, not tea, coffee or a tattered old copy of Playboy, but Marmite.

I beheld the jar aloft and announced "Oh Marmite, how can such a bounty of flavour and happiness be stored up in so tiny a casket of love?" Luckily no one was around to hear me.

Rugbrød thoroughly toasted, I clasped open the self-glued lid of the pot and plunged the knife inside, expecting an enormous globule of dark, sticky goodness to arise from the chasm below.

Instead, the horrendous noise of metal prodding feverishly on the bottom of a glass jar was all that ascended into the kitchen above.

I had run out of Marmite.

My little companion who had followed me from English shores not eleven weeks ago had finally expired. My rugbrød lay naked on the plate as I hastily darted back to the cupboard to see if I could resolve the problem. An empty jam jar was cowering in the back, looking angrily at me as though to say "Don't you dare, you've practically licked me clean already".

Next to that were two boxes of rice and, oh hello a chocolate bar, where did you come from? Sadly none of which were any use on toast.

I began to panic, and so whipped my shoes on and paced to the nearest kiosk just down the road, my stomach leading the way. No Marmite, no Bovril; not even any yeast extract - the Danes clearly don't appreciate fine foods. To make matters worse, the jam was all posh stuff; no basic strawberry in sight.

Just as I was resigning myself to a morning of breakfast misery however, my fingers suddenly wrapped around a cold brown jar behind the tinned tomatoes. My solitary tub of peanut butter. My arm trembled as I slowly turned it round to face the label. And there, below a large caricature of a peanut with a top hat on, were the words 'med nedder'.

My morning was saved. The Marmite may have passed on, but there was a new kid in town.

Noticeboard

NEXT WEEK, come and see dark comedy *The Suicide: A Comedy* by Nikolai Erdman at stage@leeds. Featuring LUU A-Cappella singers and a new, gypsy-punk inspired music score Performances are from 10-13th November at 7.30pm. SPECIAL TICKET PRICE FOR FRESHERS!

Join the Really Open University (ROU) in planning 3 days of creative resistance. Be it a workshop, lecture, film, an event, or a 'happening', we are calling on students, lecturers, staff and other non-students to come together and show that another university is possible.

First planning meeting: Monday, 6-8pm, ARC Room 2

www.reallyopenuniversity.org

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KNOWLEDGE

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No More Carnage?

Next week, the Union will be asking us to vote on two issues in a referendum. Arguably the most contentious issue up for debate, questions the safety of students in commercial organised bar crawls such as Carnage. Union Welfare Officer, Jack Cheyette, looks to defend this motion, helping us make up our minds before the issue goes to the polls. So, *LS* asks:

Should the Union oppose commercial organised bar crawls?

YES

Jack Cheyette



This idea isn't anti-drinking. This idea isn't anti-binge drinking. This idea is against companies that take students on pub crawls that degrade participants, put students' welfare at risk and lead to antisocial behaviour. They make their money and then disappear, leaving students' unions, police and sometimes even hospitals to pick up the pieces. The atmosphere that these companies create can lead to students feeling pressured to keep up with everyone else and to drink over their personal limits. And whilst many of these companies might claim that they are not encouraging drinking to dangerous levels, any event which has to organise an ambulance and paramedics to follow it, in my opinion, is not ok.

I should make it clear - I'm not campaigning to get rid of the Otley run, or any other bar crawl organised by you and your friends. On a bar crawl with friends, you can decide where you want to go, how much you want to drink and the time scale you want to do it in. I've been on a few Otley runs but have never managed a full one, and neither have my friends. After a few bars, we quickly realise that we aren't drinking heavyweights and that it might be time to slow it down a little bit. But if I had paid £10, was surrounded by 2000 students and had been told that the club night we were drinking our way to was the 'climax of the night', the pressure would force me to drink way more than I normally would. There is a large amount of peer-pressure to keep up and to fit in - an idea which is not actively discouraged by the company profiting from it, and this is not the same on a friendly bar crawl between friends.

You might say, if you don't like it, don't go on it. But these companies are clever - they'll market commercialised bar crawls with phrases like 'don't miss out' and have even been known to call students 'boring' if they don't participate - we're lured into thinking bar crawls are an essential part of being a student. Again, this places pressure on people to keep up with their friends, and go out on these events to fit in, even if they don't feel particularly comfortable about it.

We also have to recognise the effect that bar crawls of this size have on relationships within the local community. One company has claimed that 'the object of the event is to...assist the individual student to integrate within his/her new community' and that the events are 'are heavily focussed on group identity, social & ethnic cohesion'. But really, what does a group of 2000+ drunk people and the inevitable anti social behaviour that accompanies this actually do

to relationships with the local community? We've all seen the newspaper reports on students urinating on war memorials, being sick in the streets, fighting, and ending up in A&E and this negative portrayal massively impacts on the positive work and attributes that students bring to the local community.

If this motion is passed, Leeds University Union will have a stance against commercial bar crawls. Promotional



Illustration: Dan Lester

activity on campus will be banned and it will give me the mandate to work with the local council and police to make sure that bar crawls organisers are not endangering our students. We wouldn't be alone in having policy like this - already students' unions around the country, such as Brighton, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Northumbria, Nottingham, Leeds Met, Loughborough and the National Union of Students have policies banning Carnage. Leeds University Union is the best union in the country - we can't afford to fall behind on this issue.

I'm still a student, and I enjoy a drink, but only within my own personal limits and when I want to. I know my limits and I don't need someone telling me when to buy my drinks and when to finish my drinks. If LUU is to continue to pride itself on being an organisation that looks out for the best interest of its students, then we need to pass this motion and take a stance against organisations which pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of our members.

The motion proposed by the union to oppose commercially organised pub crawls, such as Carnage, is, to put it bluntly, pointless. The specific wording of the motion, 'to take a stand against organised bar crawls', shows exactly what a ridiculous waste of time it is.

First of all, we need to accept a very simple truth: Students (and freshers in particular) are going to spend large amounts of their time drinking large quantities of alcohol. This article is being written the

LUU, and that inclusion needs to manifest itself in a shared set of values - such as acceptance of students doing what they like, and not passing moralistic judgments on how groups of us choose to spend our time. Yes, I may go to Carnage and get wasted. But doing so does not make me a reprobate or an alcoholic - behaviours of which the Union might have reason to officially disapprove. Simply because I do something once, it doesn't mean I should be told I'm not as good a member of the Union, or as other people who don't.

It's for this reason we don't pass other resolutions making other judgments on people's behaviour. Where's our referendum condemning promiscuity amongst students? That at least has a real harm, in the spreading of STIs - or condemning the use of narcotics by its members - with all the health risks involved?

On top of this, Jack doesn't actually have a moral basis for disapproving of this sort of behaviour. Sure, some of us may disapprove of heavy drinking, some of us may be teetotal. But we're just as likely to thoroughly enjoy other behaviours which disgust those people we disapprove of. Unless the Exec plans to pass motions publicly repudiating every type of 'bad' behaviour students can engage in (and which we all have, at some point, done), then they shouldn't start singling out groups for disapproval.

The minute we start denying plurality, and allow the Union to take an official moral stance on our behaviour, is the minute we lose our equal share in the union. If the Union's job is to campaign for our benefit, and to protect our rights on campus, then telling some of its members that it disapproves of their behaviour, fundamentally undermines its ability to do this. The Union would be essentially saying, 'we are campaigning for our members, but not for this lot who we disapprove of'. This is utterly, utterly wrong.

I'll have no problem admitting that I have engaged in the sort of behaviour the Union ought (if they're being consistent) not to like. I've taken illegal drugs (like most people), I've had a one night stand with someone I hardly knew (like most people) and I've drunk so much on a night out I've been sick in someone's front garden (ok, maybe not like most people).

The point is that one of this should come into play inside the Union. I am a student, and things like fees increases and education cuts will harm me just as much as they harm someone who has led a more sedate student life. As such, it's actually not the union's business what I've done, or will do. Their job is to represent me as a student, and what behaviour I have, or have not engaged in, has absolutely no bearing on doing that.

NO

James Wood



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

www.leedsstudent.org

morning after one such session. Unless we plan to actively ban organised pub crawls from the Union (which will not happen because the bars need the money), then all the motion is doing is saying 'we don't like this.'

Furthermore, the motion doesn't make any kind of differentiation between pub crawls organised by an events company, and those organised by students themselves. The reason students would organise an Otley run is exactly the same reason we would attend carnage. Yet the Union has no plans to pass a motion 'disapproving of Otley runs' because it would be laughed off campus.

Very simply, this motion isn't about antisocial behaviour, public welfare or any of that rubbish. It's about the Union passing a motion that moralises on our behaviour, making known its disapproval of the behaviour of some of its members - and this itself is what is most wrong about the motion.

The purpose of a Union is to be inclusive, especially one as large and as diverse as

Tea time for Obama

The right-wing pressure group has benefited hugely from Obama's unpopular healthcare reforms, leaving Democrats in a fluster over the upcoming mid-term elections



Sam Knell
First Year
Politics and
Parliamentary Studies

He unexpectedly beat Hilary Clinton to get the Democrat nomination for the 2008 Presidential Election, overcame racial prejudices to become the 44th President of the United States, 'saved' the US economy by passing a \$700 billion stimulus package, and has helped to extend healthcare coverage to over 30 million Americans. Yet, despite all this, Barack Obama faces his toughest challenge yet as America votes in the 2010 mid-term elections. For readers not experts in American politics, mid-term elections take place every two years in-between Presidential elections when the entire House of Representatives (equivalent to the House of Commons), and a third of the Senate, (equivalent to the House of Lords) face election. These elections can be very decisive in determining how successful a President will fare in the next two years of his term, being seen as an indicator of his current performance and either providing a loyal legislature determined to make progress with the Commander-in-Chief's programme thanks to the powerful and influential Speaker and Committee chairmen, or a

Congress of opposing ideologies giving America divided government as in the 1990s with Bill Clinton.

Of course, many of us on this side of the pond still see Obama with an aura of optimism, providing the world with real hope and change. With such a portfolio of political and legislative success there will be few sitting in other nations wondering why this

This is going to be an election like no other, the Tea Party will make sure of that

election could harm this President. However, historically, the current President will generally lose control of Congress in his first set of mid-terms, and issues such as healthcare reform are not viewed in such glowing terms in the land of the free. This is particularly true with one group: the Tea Party movement, a recently founded, conservative-leaning pressure group, who have campaigned tirelessly against some of Obama's policies particularly his healthcare legislation.

Seen brandishing placards saying "bury Obama-care with Kennedy" at the funeral of the 'liberal lion,' Tea Party members have been responsible for the recent political success of many men and women, and had a big hand in getting Republican Scott Brown to fill the shoes of the late Ted Kennedy, advocate of free health care, in his Massachusetts Senate seat, previously thought to be a Democrat stronghold. Whilst they claim to have no political affiliation, the majority of its members, according to polling, say that they associate themselves with the Republican Party. In fact, they have been influential in the primary contests of this year's mid-terms, with some candidates beating their rivals with high majorities, Jeff Landry of Louisiana being a key example, gaining sixty-five percent of the vote.

All this aside, Obama may be cushioned in the fact that the incumbency rate of both Houses of Congress is around ninety percent. Whilst this doesn't necessarily mean a comfortable victory, it can provide, ironically, a sense of hope for the President himself that a divided government may not be the result come 2nd November. In fact, predicting the outcome of this election is proving difficult. Pollsters are producing a weird and wonderful array of outcomes for next Tuesday suggesting that a disappointing night for Obama and the Democratic Party may not be the reality. Furthermore, thanks to the miracle pork earmarking, a method for members of Congress to secure money from a

bill for their state or district, certain swing seats up for election may still sway to the Democrats' cause, particularly as Senate Majority leader Harry Reid had been promising this cash to swing seat Democrats in legislation such as healthcare, in light of the upcoming elections.

This is going to be a US election like no other. Even with the Republican Party 're-built' following the disastrous 2006 mid-term election, fuelled by hatred for healthcare reform and dissatisfaction for Obama's handling of the economy, particularly as US unemployment sits at an uncomfortable nine percent, the Democrats have not given up hope. The same Harry Reid who has handed out Congressional money left, right and centre, has recently found himself in a rather vulnerable position electorally, only just finding a way forward thanks to some campaigning by Obama himself, suggesting that he is not viewed with such a negative attitude by all Americans. As said, predictions are too close to call, but if this writer were to make an educated guess as to the outcome of the 472 seats up for grabs, I would say that it is likely that the Republicans will gain control of the House, but the Senate may stand resilient in favour of the sitting President, even if it doesn't provide the much sought after sixty seat majority to avoid the legislatively feared filibuster that could hinder the progress of any Presidential legislation.

A Wikileaks too far?

The website's new information about American conduct in Iraq proves the value of complete media transparency in the quest for justice and truth



Paul Haydon
Third Year
International Relations

Wikileaks once again caught the world's attention last week when it published nearly 400,000 documents detailing events of the Iraq War. This is four times as many as were leaked in its Afghan War Diary back in July, making this the largest leak in US military history.

The sheer scale of the revelations and the seriousness of their implications has stunned the global media. There is evidence that a blind eye was turned to the abuse and even murder of detainees in the aftermath of the invasion, with acts of torture being committed by the Iraqi authorities routinely being marked as requiring "no further investigation" by the US military. Disproving popular belief, there are also documents showing that the US compiled a comprehensive list of Iraqi civilian casualties since the invasion, raising questions as to why these were never publicly released. The startling nature of these revelations has brought this near forgotten war back into the

limelight; a war which many in the political elite may have hoped would be forgotten in the midst of the current economic crisis.

Predictably the website has already come under fire from the governments of the UK and USA, who have deemed the disclosures irresponsible and claimed that they risk helping the enemy. Hillary Clinton has refused to discuss the details of the leaks but has fiercely criticised the decision to publish them, claiming that they put American lives at risk.

Founder of Wikileaks Julian Assange has strongly denied these accusations, arguing that the documents have been edited to remove information that might endanger people, and that there have been no reports of any lives being put at risk as a result of the Afghan War Diary. In fact, the only thing at risk seems to be the credibility of the American and British officials who kept us in the dark about the horrific acts taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This is a clear attempt by the US government to undermine the leaks by portraying them as reckless and illegal. But it's not just the government that's out to discredit Mr Assange. The mainstream American media has been quick to portray him as unstable and dangerous, whilst reports of the leaks has downplayed the complicit role of American forces in torture and the killing of civilians.

This is not the first time that Wikileaks has encountered strong opposition to its actions. In 2008 the site was temporarily blocked following a courtroom battle with Swiss Bank Julius Baer, about which Wikileaks had posted several hundred documents detailing its dubious offshore

thorn in the side of the "powers that be." Difficult questions will now have to be answered; already the UN has called upon Barack Obama to investigate the role of US forces in human rights abuses during the Iraq War.

This potential to bring governments and corporations to account for their actions is an important development. With corporate corruption on the rise and repressive governments in power in many countries, the need for transparency is greater than ever. Wikileaks' anonymous drop box system allows citizens around the world to submit official documents for public scrutiny without fear of reprisal, helping to keep those who govern us accountable for their actions. It is true that we need to prevent such leaks causing unintended harm or invasion of privacy, but we should also support them when they reveal unreported fraud or human rights abuses.

It is unclear to what extent these latest revelations will affect public perceptions of the Iraq war; they are more likely to confirm pre-existing suspicions than change people's already negative attitudes. Yet in a world where corporate and political interests prevail, and a submissive media tends to report only what it is told, Wikileaks continues to stand as an invaluable beacon of truth.

Wikileaks is a valuable beacon of truth in amongst an increasingly submissive media

banking practices. Routinely publishing sensitive material has made the site many powerful enemies, Mr Assange claims the site has had to fight over 100 legal battles and that he is the constant target of intimidation and harassment. It is also believed that the U.S. is aiming to get him extradited to within their jurisdiction and prosecute him.

In spite of these efforts to silence the troublesome website, it is still proving a

You Caan't do that

Dragon James Caan's offer to purchase a child in Pakistan has highlighted a damaging misinterpretation of humanitarian aid



Andrew Rogers
Fourth Year Psychology
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Last week's shock discovery of James Caan's offer to buy a Pakistani baby from a family affected by the widespread floods came amidst a humanitarian crisis which continues to hold a firm grip over the South Asian country. The offer of 100,000 Rupees (about £740) made by the *Dragons Den* star in exchange for the child was caught on camera by an ITV film crew recording his charity work. He has since admitted in an interview that the offer was "clearly wrong", and that he was not thinking rationally.

Caan has been involved in a great deal of charitable work, including setting up the James Caan Foundation and making several humanitarian aid trips to Pakistan, the country of his birth. It is therefore unsurprising that Caan would feel a particularly strong connection with the people of Pakistan, and is evidently greatly affected by the scale of the natural disaster which continues to ravage the country. Caan's brother continues to live in Pakistan and it was for him, rather than Caan himself, that the clandestine "adoption"

was intended. Indeed, many people in the UK feel that foreign aid should not be increased in the wake of financial difficulties at home, but the scale of the crisis in Pakistan should serve as a stark reminder of ongoing suffering across the country that the majority of UK citizens will not experience in their lifetime.

Whilst Caan's desperate offer may reveal the extent of plight and desperation in Pakistan, it is profoundly damaging to the humanitarian effort operating in the country and betrays a gross misunderstanding of the purpose of foreign aid, as well as the goals of international development.

Firstly, the grave ethical, not to mention legal, breach of such an offer has not been dealt with by any institution affiliated with Caan; because of the large quantity of financial aid which he is able to provide, he will most likely escape the episode with little more than a slap on the wrist and a bit of egg on his face. It is true; money talks. It is Caan's financial prowess, rather than his philanthropic credentials, that affords him the opportunity to help the Pakistan aid effort, to offer to purchase a child, and ultimately to escape serious reprimand for his actions. Such a squalid attempt at bribery is morally impermissible and shows a lack of respect for laws put in place to ensure that adoption occurs only from willing families to suitable recipients. Caan's offer also betrays a grave lack of

respect for Pakistan, the country whose citizens he intended to help; we must ask ourselves if his attempt to buy an economically disadvantaged child would have occurred in the UK, and if it would be dealt with any differently by the authorities if it had.

The offer also betrays an unbelievable misunderstanding, or lack of regard, for the

Caan's egotistical offer shows a complete lack of regard for the goals of sustainable international development

goals of sustainable international development. The long term goals of any such project must ultimately be to restore communities struck by crisis to a safe, prosperous and self sufficient state, where possible aiding the ultimate growth of such

communities so that they may be stronger and better prepared for the future. The level of investment that Caan is willing and able to make has an enormous potential to sustainably restore damaged communities, but the egotistical attempt to remove one child from such a desperate situation whilst leaving her family with enough money to support their short term, but not long term, is nothing short of exploitation.

Caan is not the first UK celebrity to attempt to adopt a foreign child under controversial circumstances and such adoptions frequently seem driven by egotistical motives, rather than genuine concern for the child in question. If James Caan's brother wants to adopt a child, systems are in place so that he can do so. If James Caan wants to help disadvantaged children in Pakistan, he can set up an orphanage, or legally adopt a child; indeed, how many children have been left orphans in the wake of the flooding crisis?

The spur of the moment attempt to buy a child may have been motivated by genuine concern but it betrays a patronising and morally repugnant attitude unacceptable in humanitarian aid workers. This is not the *Dragons Den*, and children are not yet another asset to be bought and sold at the appropriate price.

After the cameras have gone

The recent cholera outbreak in Haiti is the latest in a series of disasters for the country, Britain must not forget the plight of those still suffering



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The Cholera outbreak in Haiti has so far led to 2,500 people being treated North of Port-au-Prince. The fear is that it will spread to the Haitian capital, where many of the survivors from January's quake are being housed. "We must gear up for a serious epidemic," said Nigel Fisher, the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Haiti.

The country has been struggling to rebuild itself since the catastrophic earthquake which reached 7.2 on the richer scale, a crippling blow to what was already the poorest country of all the Americas. Since January it has been a succession of dire events and circumstances that has seen the country slip further and further into desperation. Firstly the accusations of corruption regarding the handling of the large amounts of monetary aid from countries which responded generously in the weeks after the earthquake, casting doubt for many potential donors over whether it was really worth making a contribution to the Haitians in case it was being embezzled by the authorities. Then there were concerns over who should become President of

Haiti which led to a perhaps well meaning, but essentially self-indulgent attempt to run for President by the former-Fugees rapper Wyclef Jean, arguably one of the most famous Haitians in the Western media.

Even on a much simpler level, the camps set up for the survivors around Port-au-Prince have received harsh criticism as they struggle to function on a day to day level with over-crowding

This country is still suffering, we have an obligation to take action

— over a million Haitians are currently living in tents set up by aid agencies, yet plans to redevelop the country are significantly hindered by the fact that Haiti was in such bad shape before the earthquake that authorities don't know where to begin with redevelopment, especially as the management of the country is in turmoil, which means that even the simplest decisions are difficult to carry out.

I have recently returned from a Haitian village just across the border of Haiti in the Dominican Republic, where I had been living for the past 12

months, based 50 miles away from Port-au-Prince where the epicentre of the earthquake was. Although it was far too dangerous to cross the border after the earthquake I was living in a Haitian community and witnessed the smuggling of Haitians over into the Dominican Republic and was confronted by the image that the Haitians and Dominicans received of the earthquake. It is strange to see what a different perception everyone had of the crisis, for example, on the ground we felt the earthquake strongly where we were — we had no electricity for two days, which meant that without any TV or newspapers it took a while for everyone to understand the extent of the damage caused in Haiti. It was only when my mother managed to get through to my phone a day or so later that she told me that about the images that she had seen on the television, she even had statistics and numbers that highlighted how catastrophic the earthquake was. People kept asking me what we knew, but the truth is, when you are in a place that has been hit by crisis, the people on the ground only have their own stories to share, those of the individuals who I met in the hospital told of losing their families, having sustained horrific injuries or found themselves completely alone with no idea where to go.

The people on the ground have little knowledge about the greater picture, as events change from day to day regarding the politics of the country and before you contemplate how unlikely it would be to even find a newspaper in

the survivors camps, you have to consider whether anyone whose family face the threat of cholera from the only water available would really have the time to sit down and read it.

Clean water is no trivial matter. Whilst I was lucky enough to be working with a reasonably well funded charity we still had days in the village where there would be no access to clean water, meaning hands could not be washed, showers could not be had, toilets could not be cleaned, and drinking water could scarcely be found. If you then remember the context of a humid Caribbean climate, with mice, rats, cockroaches, intense heat and children playing with pigs, dirty water and latrines you can see that this is a world away from what we would experience here in England under the same circumstances.

As a well informed nation we have an obligation to take action and encourage aid in these countries which are suffering. This includes places like Pakistan where there are still hundreds of people being affected the aftermath and spread of disease due to the flooding that took place in July. The worst stories are also those which come after the crisis itself, when the reporters have moved onto the next disaster area, which can provide more hard-hitting images of destruction when the infrastructure falls apart and the hospitals cannot deal with those who require even basic aid. It is important that we do not forget these places as we are the ones who are in a position to contribute and keep the awareness raised of those who are still suffering.



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blog of the week.

Definitely, Maybe, Probably Not

An Aussie's attempt to rectify the English crimes against the Ugg Boot

Ugg Boots are an Australian icon. They represent what it means to be quintessentially Australasian; relaxed and comfortable. It was not until I reached the land of Her Majesty that I realised how much you are abusing our cultural icon! Whilst this abuse is occurring in more ways than I care to count, here are the Top 3 Ugg Boot commandments the English have not only broken but completely disregarded!

1) *Ugg boots shall never, under any circumstances, be work as serious outdoor footwear* - Ugg Boots are essentially fancy slippers. Slippers are not suitable outdoor footwear and therefore neither are Ugg Boots. Wikipedia defines the term 'Ugg Boots' as 'unisex sheepskin boots, often with a synthetic sole'. Synthetic soles are not made to withstand English winters! They are not even made to withstand Australian winters and that's just basically spring with rain. Ugg Boots are intended for indoor purposes only. Of course all Australians would be lying if they didn't admit to wearing them to the supermarket to grab some milk or the petrol station but these are *minor indiscretions* compared to how you abuse them here!

2) *Whilst high quality varieties are essential, Ugg Boots should always remain a cheap and affordable commodity* - There are many companies in Australia who are

famous for their amazingly comfortable, high quality Ugg Boots. However, Australia is a democracy and believes all Australians should have access to the iconic Ugg Boot, regardless of how much money one has. Therefore there are many, many cheaper options available. Yes, the quality may not be as good but it is about creating unity and equality within the Australian, Ugg wearing public. I'm afraid the same cannot be said of the UK where as a student you almost need to sell your liver to be able to afford a good pair. £200 for a pair of slippers is absolutely outrageous! Every pair of Uggs I've had in my lifetime wouldn't add up to that much.

3) *The attire worn with Ugg Boots must be of a similar nature* Ugg Boots are a casual footwear. They are, and the English please repeat after me, *not* to be worn as a fashion statement. There is a very good reason why Ugg Boots are yet to appear on the catwalk in Paris or Milan.... They are not high fashion! It breaks my heart to see a well dressed English girl, oozing style from head to thigh and then ruin the whole thing with a pair of Ugg Boots. Whilst we Aussies love our Uggs, there is also a certain amount of discretion used in the wearing of them. Worn predominantly with track pants, they seem to effortlessly blend into the outfit. Here, they are worn over stockings or leggings and stick out like an Australian accent in the royal family!

Having completely torn into England's abuse of the poor Ugg Boot I do have one concession to make. Of course the United Kingdom should be allowed the freedom to give the Aussie Ugg Boot its own unique British identity - it would be unfair of us as a fellow Commonwealth nation, to impose our rules upon them. But that doesn't mean we can't

still take the piss out of them!
Are Ugg Boots designed solely for indoor use?
DEFINITELY

Will I kill the next girl who attempts to defend England's use of Ugg Boots?
MAYBE

Will it ever stop being a source of endless entertainment for us Aussie girls?
PROBABLY NOT!

Sarah Bown

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On a Fruity-hiatus and looking for ways to fill that Friday night void? Let our *Arts & Film* online team help you find a new favourite weekend pastime -hangover not included.

This week: A&F review Macbeth, the Theatre Group's latest production, as well as new films Africa United and Metropolis.

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photo: Aidan Dunbar

Ghost Hunting

HEALTH

Mount Kimbie

MYNC

Tom Needham

LS²

Glamowe'en Fashion Shoot

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Lose a Guy in 10 Seconds

Boy meets girl. Girl fixes boy. Girl decides to ditch boy in fastest way possible. Iain Foss and Ella Mayne look at how to lose a guy in 10 seconds.

Iain Foss

1) Discuss feminism. (I mean it's cute, but... I should elaborate.)

Now, before the gender politics monster rears its ugly (funously egalitarian) head, I should qualify by noting that this is not about a misogynist fear of feminism. Just complete disinterest. Boys struggle to do anything with this information. At best we could stop telling strangers that one about why women have small feet. It's inappropriate... if hilarious.

But since when is it a good idea to discuss dominance and oppression on a first date? 'Views' should be kept ambiguous and obscure, like all those half-truths in your personal statement. I neglected to say specifically what it was I loved about Hamlet; why specifically remind me of your 'moral superiority'? It's scary and confusing. When did dating start being about honesty, anyway?

2) Being stupid. But being pretentious about it too.

Nobody is perfect. We get that. In fact guys generally embrace their imperfections. Shamelessly. Most of us seem to think that a complete disregard for what's socially acceptable gives us character. But stupid people are annoying, and a stupid person who pretends to know what you're talking about is the most annoying of all. One that has, like, opinions and whatever.

Scene: Bar interior. A girl is chatting animatedly to her date.
Her: So I think I'm going to vote conservative this time around.
Him: Oh yeah?
Her: Yeah. The Lib Dems are useless, and I don't trust the Tories.
Him: Right.
[pause. He drinks.]
Her: Oh my gosh, I like, hate Justin Bieber now he's popular. I discovered him years ago.

3) Taking our stuff.

Every guy has met that girl on a night out. That girl who thinks that she's really funny. That girl who grabs his hat, or tie, or pair of glasses from him. Tries it on. And then tries to make off with it. And we all hate her. We hate her a lot.
Thanks to *Sex and the City* sassy independence is sexy now, and that's a good thing: strong women are attractive and fun. But there's a line. And that line crosses a lot of other lines and makes a little fence. And that fence forms a tiny invisible barrier around my awesome top hat. And that invisible barrier means 'don't touch'. Cross that line and you start being obnoxious. It's a mugging, not charming, and it's upsetting for us. That's my awesome top hat. Not yours.

4) 'Are you going to buy me a drink then?' This one.

No. I'm not. Are you going to be less transparent? This one doesn't require much explaining. It's just really tedious to deal with. The implication that I'm only worth a girl's time when I'm the one buying the drinks is not a pleasing one. And not because I'm suspicious and insecure. However, this varies on the level of alcohol in my blood so I wouldn't worry too much. It's definitely not as bad as...

5) The Ex(es).

We have established that boys don't like sharing their stuff. At the risk of inciting 1), this rule also applies to girls we have a vested interest in. The ex should never be discussed at first and, if it must, can only be alluded to in the context of how much more attractive and probably well endowed I am. The revelation that your last boyfriend was a Varsity rugby player is not a general interest topic: 'Yeah? He benches 130kg?... A part-time model? Well, I'm super good at chess. Boom. I certainly don't want to know he was amazing in bed. That doesn't even need to be said. It's automatically implied. And it's not that it's emasculating really. It just makes my genitals scurry back up inside me.

Ella Mayne

1) Compare him to your brother

Simply freak him out. Any slight inference to incestuous tendencies is going to make him think twice about meeting the family. 'Mmm you smell nice, that's the same aftershave my brother uses, I love it!' And then, 'shall we snuggle up and watch a movie? My brother and me do that all the time! It's guaranteed to make him shudder and probably feel a little bit nauseous. However, if he sticks around then maybe you should think twice about meeting his family because he clearly has no qualms about an unhealthy close brother-sister relationship.

2) Become a human-leech.

Become completely attached from the word go. Make sure you drop your future together on your first date, casually name Monty for our first child? When his expression turns to fear just resort to *Twilight* quotes like: 'Don't be afraid... we belong together'. In fact, when it comes to over-the-top romantic phrases the *Twilight* saga is your Bible. With one-very-presence there is no way he'll stay around for long.

3) Be totally irrational

Basically, unless he is unconscious or walking around with his eyes shut, he is checking out other girls. Or at least that's what you are going to accuse him of. 'Jeez, could you be any more obvious?' you whine as a group of girls cross the road in front of you then when he looks baffled, respond with, 'Don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about, you pig!' For dramatic effect you can throw in a slap and storm off mumbling something about a fictional teen vampire, 'God, Edward would never do this!'

4) Embarrass him in public

One thing certain to turn his cheeks red is starting an argument in a public place (the more people the better) and then announce something like, 'It would help if you could get it up every once in a while!' The sniggering onlookers (even better if there are friends there) will spread the word and your relationship will be over faster than you can say erectile dysfunction.

5) Pull his best mate

This is short and simple and a little bit mean, so use this as a last resort only and when all the above has failed. But if he hasn't yet been scared off by the tantrums, the comparison to a family member, the mention of kids and total public humiliation then he's clearly in need of some new friends. Some friends who will sit him down and tell him: 'Mate, your girlfriend is INSANE! So pulling one of them might end their friendship, and conveniently and coincidentally your relationship, but in the long run you're doing him a favour right?'

See next weeks issue for How To...Lose a Girl in 10 Seconds

"Chill out, you can't get AIDS through Skype."

"Yeah so I managed to get fired by the job centre"
Mate replies: "Isn't that a contradiction in terms!?"

"I'm not a big fan of the contraceptive pill to be honest"



low down

GOING UP

Friends

Anything beats not eating lunch in the bathrooms, or sharing secrets with your pot plant. Whether they tend to smell like they spend their days in the peanut gallery, you cannot help but love them.

Free samples

As we all know no matter what the product, no matter what the side-effect, every student will chance at immortality.

Peanut Gallery

As mentioned above, it seems the masses are extremely torn about the hygiene levels here.

Anne Widdecombe

Her abrasive face grimacing all over Saturday prime time TV is far from ideal.

How slippery the area in front of the union looks

Just fathom how treacherous it's going to be with even a smidge of frost. Petrifying.

The Underground Rebel Bingo Club

Skins does bingo with appalling consequences. Confirmation once and for all that being a dickhead isn't cool. Oh you wacky bastards...

GOING DOWN



Welcome to my world.

So I thought it would be fun not to waste time racking my head trying to come up with another load of faecal literature to feed to you guys. Instead I have decided to

introduce you to my friends. A wonderful bunch of people who I am sure will not mind seeing their personalities and weaknesses exploited by their leader.

This University is full of unique, diverse and interesting creatures. I unfortunately have yet to find them, what I have seemed to reel in is a wonderful array of odd balls and manic depressives. I am however horribly downplaying my friends, they are amazing and truly make every single day in this University an ode to happiness and this is why.

Firstly we have Kay, who although half South African, really can't do a legitimate mating call to save her life. We are both seeking help for our flaws in this African talent in hopes she stops attracting mildly-psychotic individuals and I stop attracting girls. On the plus she is a musical maestro and full of love and joy and gossip - as every legitimate woman should be.

Then we have little Rachel who is from Sussex and reminds me everyday why keeping your child in a dimly lit

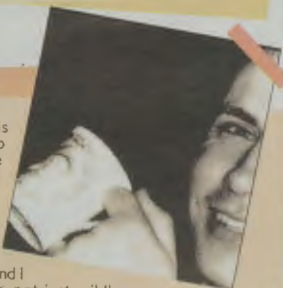
cage between the ages of 5 and 9 will result in that poor girl having a mild addiction to food and many an odd thing (never gains weight though. I hate her, I wish I had a malnourished past). On a serious note, this individual is about as bright as a marijuana smoking Einstein - double the clever, half the sense. And gives the best English hugs known to man (i.e there's almost physical contact).

There is also a boy named Soul. This is not his name but it bears close, a Nottingham man with an African spirit, who reminds me everyday what it means to stand up with your head held high and shoulders heldback. This is where I get all my wonderful sense and wisdom, which is great because I was tired of listening to Yoda.

As is normal for international students we all have overseas links that play their role as if they are in the same country experiencing all our trials and triumphs. Mine is Seneme, who manages to freak me out, love me and explain exactly how to punch a pervert in his non-sunshine-area in a single sentence email.

Finally there are Helen and Emma, two completely opposite but similar people. Similar when it comes to being obsessed with tea and humour. Opposite when it comes to their ability to read a living creature (Emma - wouldn't, Helen - any day). From these two I get all my motivation and strength, be it from a cup of tea or a lecture on why I shouldn't straighten my hair because black girls have undermined themselves by seeking to look western. Hence soon I will be getting an afro, and the picture you see in the corner there will be renewed - Viva la revolution, Viva les Homies.

Winile Nzalo



free, which is seemingly taken up with vigour. One particular effect of Halloween is that it goes somewhat to shedding some light on the popularity of Goth culture. And I

mean real Goths, not just mildly annoyed teens that used to read *Goosebumps* books. Just think how much fun you have dressing up for Halloween once a year. Goths get to have that much fun every single day. Often dismissed as moody killjoys, Goths are probably having the best time all the time. Unconfirmed reports claim Slipknot are permanently over the fucking moon with glee.

And of course all of the above give proper adults plenty of ammunition for doing what they love best, moaning about the vices of today's youth. Like I said, Halloween'en is literally the festivity with something for everyone.

So go nuts, eat bucket loads of sweets, throw flour at strangers, knob a fat rotter dressed as a 'sexy zombie'; it's your only chance of the year to do so guilt-free...

Pete Starr

Halloween'en; as far as manufactured and commercially lucrative days of celebration go, is the best. Valentine's Day is an annual kick in the dick for single people, whilst encouraging the type of utterly crap schmoozy antics that regularly seem to pay off in Mathew McConaughey films. Easter has a horrible tendency to get all preachy on you whilst simultaneously sponsoring obesity, and Christmas blots its copy book by encouraging participation of old people. Halloween however is the festivity with something for everyone.

For the kids there is the innocent excitement of dressing up, party games and the year's most polite mass-mugging trick or treat.

Teens get to enjoy an evening where behaviour that would almost certainly warrant ASBO actions is not only tolerated but encouraged. Eggings, mindless graffiti and nonchalant vandalism are all seemingly completely kosher. Note to pranksters: as a fairly stupid 18 year old I chose to go eggging in broad daylight at around 4pm, in a village where only about 3 children lived. Even more foolishly I decided my target would be the open window of a completely innocent neighbour's house (?). This is where my poor technique turned to miserable luck, as the soon-to-be livid owner of the house was sitting in the room into which I lobbed the egg. Remember: failure to prepare is preparing to fail.

For students Halloween presents a convenient opportunity to go nuts and write-off several days due to excessive celebration. It also offers female students a rare opportunity to go out dressed like a complete slut criticism-

Anyone know a good ghost story?

Varieties Music Hall

The old Varieties hall in England is home to a number of ghostly sightings. Several workmen recall a spectral presence when working in the roof space of the hall.

Occurring on different occasions, they recall a strong breeze in the temperature of the room to almost freezing and a swinging sensation above them. When they looked up, all that was there was a large solid beam. It is thought the presence that the workmen sensed is the spirit of a carpenter who hanged himself from the beam back in the 1800s.

Other visitors to the music hall have reported seeing a woman in the circle bar. Ladies believe this woman believes she saw a female figure in Victorian old-fashioned clothing hunched over the bar. She tried talking to her but with no response. It was then she tried tapping the lady on the shoulder but her hand passed straight through her before the room turned ice cold.



above: the circle

The Leeds Library, Commercial Street

A former librarian was working late at night when he heard a loud knock.

Startled, he ran back to his office. It was then saw a face jump from a bookcase. The face came closely to the edge of the bookcase but the librarian could see no body. He later described the face as 'pallid and hairless'. The next day he recalled his tale to a colleague at the library. The colleague exclaimed: 'Why, that's Old Stenberg'. He quickly found a photo and the librarian was struck by the resemblance. He was told that Stenberg had lost all his hair from a sunpowder accident.

Tricked by the sighting, a séance was held in the old office in an attempt to contact Stenberg. A series of loud thumps were heard coming from the book-lined wall where the ghost had disappeared.

Through a code of knocks (3 knocks for yes, 2 for no, and one for doubtful) it was established that they were talking to the ghost of Stenberg.

Stenberg communicated he led a sad life in which he dabbled in immoral acts. He now found himself trapped between this world and the spirit world.

He said he would rather be completely extinct than exist in this way.

Many visitors to the library have reportedly encountered the pallid face of Stenberg.

Below: an illustration the ghost of Stenberg



photos: Thadray Museum, Leeds City Varieties Music Hall, Leeds Library, Leeds City Council

The Town Hall

Everyone in Leeds knows about the Town Hall. But do you know about Charlie Peace?

Charlie Peace was born in Sheffield in 1832. In 1846 he suffered an injury which meant he could not work anymore.

Early retirement? Apparently not. Charlie decided to turn to the dark side of city living. He was caught by the law and ended up in prison for seven years.

Upon release, Charlie fled to Manchester. While in Manchester, he killed a policeman and got away with it, framing another innocent man. He even attended the trial.

But Charlie's killing spree wasn't over. He then killed another man and was sent to be held in the old cells under the Town Hall steps until he was hanged at Armley prison. Some say he's still in his cell under the Town Hall.

If you want you can pop down to see him but beware: he was a murderer after all...



above: Charlie's cell

This Halloween why not take our journey through the darker side of Leeds as LS2 introduces you to some of the city's most haunted locations.

below: Thadray Museum's dark arches



The Thadray Medical Museum

Think this sounds like just another spooky museum? Think again. The building was originally a workhouse in 1811 and used by doctors before becoming part of St James' Hospital in 1914. With hundreds of people suffering people and living in the building, there is a lot of history.

It seems some patients just don't want to leave. Since the 1970s, visitors and staff have reported various strange sightings.

Staff have reported visions of a woman waving, a young girl in a white dress and a strong recurring stench of wet wool.

After all these weird claims, on the museum's official website, it is said that a real life ghost sighting came and have a look. He came in a woman and confirmed the walls of the building.

Some were detected including an old woman lady called Frances, and a young girl called Mary. Why not go along to visit Frances and Fred's graves, you can even see them in the dark arches, just watch out for the rats.



THIS HALLOWEEN, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STROKE ASSOCIATION CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENT, LS2 ARE SENDING TWO WRITERS INTO THE DEPTHS OF LEEDS' MOST HAUNTED PUB - THE ABBEY INN - FOR THE MOST TERRIFYING NIGHT OF THEIR LIVES! TO FIND OUT HOW THEIR NIGHT WENT AND MORE ABOUT THE STROKE ASSOCIATION VISIT THE WEBSITE ON: WWW.LEEDSSTUDENT.ORG

words: Josh Russell and Amy Nichol

LS2 reviews... Underground Rebel Bingo

Don't get confused with the game, bingo has been revolutionised. It's no longer associated with your old-age pensioners and monotone number callers, welcome to the 'Underground Rebel Bingo Club' - game rules apply.

RULES

- No old people.
- No boring people.
- No wankers.
- No office parties.
- No hen parties.
- No stag parties.
- No work suits.
- No customer service.

Dress Code: Undercover on your way there, dangerous once you're inside.

Founded by James Gordon and Freddie Sorenson after a drunken night in the basement of a church, they came across a bingo kit, one thing led to another and a mental bingo party was born. It is now a nationwide, sell out "underground rebel" night.

The illicit theme adopted by URBC, was chosen to revive the spirit of history's "bingo rebels" following Oliver Cromwell's decision to ban the game in 1647 and their defiance to this by continuing to play bingo underground, illegally and in secret locations.

The idea of the URBC is so refreshing and new, I will even go as far as calling it a club night revolution. The brilliant thing about rebel bingo is its accessibility to all, the fact it's legal (which is always a plus) whilst still having an element of mystery and false 'criminality' - normally the venue is unknown up until 24 hours before the event and they make a big thing about being "rebellious".

The hype had been building up for quite some time, curiosity rising with the impending arrival of this intriguing 'rebel bingo'. Move over 'two sitting ducks - 22', hello "Your grandmother's a whore - 84". This game-night is not for the easily offended, soft spoken or, in a word, "non-rebellious" clubbers out there. With a reputation of being a raucous night of booze, bad behaviour and filthy underground bingo with some rather shiny prizes on offer, my hopes were high.

Under the guise of a 'young person's health and safety meeting' in the not so underground venue of Faversham my first rebel bingo experience was about to commence. Disappointingly the secrecy and mystery of the night was comprised as the world and his wife knew a good week before where the event was being held. I'm not sure whether it was the

amount of anticipation or mere want of something extraordinary, but the 'underground rebel bingo club' didn't quite hit the mark.

Underground rebel bingo: not underground, not really rebellious... but it certainly was bingo and it certainly was entertaining. The atmosphere at the beginning of the night was quite electric; with twenty-something year olds running around drawing cocks on each other's faces (using the marker pens handed to us upon entry) and truly brilliant music at times. Some excellent mixes were thrown in but a return to the grimmer drum and bass that we all secretly love was slightly ruined when the DJ made odd choices of song. Regardless, it kept me on the dance floor for the majority of night - at least until the tender hour of 1.30am as, disappointingly, the venue started to empty.

Just like oil and water, the URBC and the Faversham just didn't blend well at all. The exquisitely burlesque-dressed number callers and 'foul-mouthed' front man really got the crowd involved but were severely let down by the mics - the MC even commented at one point on how 'shit' they were. The amount of complaints I heard about the huge queues that evening to get into a non-packed venue may have also dampened a few spirits.

The concept is brilliant, but the execution was poor. I would suggest opting for somewhere a bit better suited for an *underground night*: Beaverworks, The West Indian centre, Stinky's or Wire for example would be a much choice. Leeds has such a wealth of venues for the picking that it wouldn't really be a challenge.

I would enthusiastically encourage anyone to go along and experience a URBC night. I am a

true believer in giving everything a second chance and hopefully next time (there is sure to be one) a better venue will be chosen, a better mic used, the venue actually kept secret (up until 24hrs before) and an improved queuing system put into practice. Oh yeah, and make sure you get a good night's sleep the day before - that way you can last the whole night and not go home at 12.30am, like some people...

words: Mel Rideout



Are you breaking the law?

It seems fair to assume that in this day and age, with our sophisticated legal system, that a person would only be arrested under what we might consider "reasonable" grounds. Think again! There are a surprising number of weird and wonderful laws out there that you could (or probably not) get arrested for or worse!

If anyone reading this is Welsh, take note - it is probably best not to hang out in the roman city of Chester past midnight if you're ever visiting, as you could be arrested for being within the city walls at this late hour!

Alternatively, if anyone is Scottish it is advisable to not enter the city of York if you're carrying a bow and arrow (as clearly so many of us do these days) as a person is legally entitled to kill you.

For those politics students: if you ever take a trip to the houses of parliament then you had better make sure you are in full health, as if you keel over and die in the Houses of Parliament it is a criminal offence.

Christmas is quickly approaching and it is definitely time to start buying those mince pies, but whatever you do don't eat one on Christmas day or you could be arrested - it's illegal!

Going international - and the laws just get more and more bizarre. Our friends across the Atlantic in America have trumped up some real corkers, my personal favourite being 'it is illegal to fall asleep on a fridge in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania'. The Blues Brothers destroyed half of Chicago in their film but failed to commit the illegality that is: 'fishing in one's pyjamas'. Yet perhaps the most remarkable tale is of a man who was arrested for peeling an orange in a Californian hotel - even more so as this particular hotel was situated in Orange County...

In Singapore they play it old-school and make anyone caught littering to tidy the streets whilst wearing a bib proclaiming 'I am a litterer'. You can't beat a classic. Lastly, you have to feel for the Colombians; with drug lords and bandits roaming the streets, their women could face arrest for not having their mothers present when they consummate their marriages.

These laws are outdated, down right ridiculous and entirely (we hope) irrelevant. Contrary to the words of the wise, good order doesn't always mean good law! But at least it gives us a giggle. Remember, steer clear from those mince pies come Christmas day...

words: Adam Shaw & Mary Bryon

Know your rights!

Sale items carry the same rights as full price items under the Sale of Goods Act, so if a bargain buy turns out to be defective, the retailer is obliged to carry out a full refund.



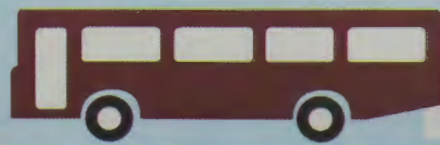
Cinemas have the right to confiscate any food or drinks you bring with you to a screening as you agree to their terms when you purchase a ticket. Bad news for Sainsbury's in Hyde Park!



It is against the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act for clubs to charge men entry fees while letting women in for free so next time there's a "ladies night" lads, make sure you get in free too!



Bus drivers can refuse to let you board if you only have a note and no change as notes are treated differently to coins. They're not just being grumpy - if they cannot give you change then they can refuse your method of payment.



FOOD

Halloween Cupcakes



There were creepy cakes and terrifying treats at The Adelphi on October 10, as amateur bakers from across Leeds flocked to The Iron Cupcake's baking competition. The event, which takes place each month, has in the past had themes of Easter, summer berries, retro sweets and all things manly, among others. This event, Halloween themed of course, featured the creative use of pumpkin as an ingredient, plus coconut, chocolate and toffee apple flavoured cakes. "Eaters" are welcome as well as bakers; £5 pays for a drink voucher, as well as the chance to sample and score all the entries. More information can be found at www.ironcupcakeleeds.co.uk.

If you feel your Halloween house party is lacking in nibbles, the standard recipe to make around 12 cupcakes is as follows:

4oz/110g sugar
4oz/110g margarine
2 eggs
4oz/110g self raising flour (use 3oz flour/1oz cocoa powder for chocolate cakes)

1. Beat the sugar and margarine together until the mixture is light and fluffy.
2. Beat the eggs in a mug with a fork to add air, then gradually mix in to the sugar and margarine.
3. Sieve the flour and fold it in to the mixture.
4. Spoon into cake cases and bake for around 15 minutes on gas mark 3-4/175°C.

Once the cakes are cooked and cooled, you can set about decorating them. Meringues with icing eyes make cute ghosts, or the same effect can be achieved by draping rolled-out royal icing over an extra chunk of cake or a sweet on top of the cupcake. Icing sugar and food colouring will be your best friend - you can make your cakes into pumpkins with orange icing or draw spider's webs in icing. And, for the less creative among us, a few of Haribo's 'Horror Mix' on top of your cake's icing can go a long way.



words and photos: Hannah Durham

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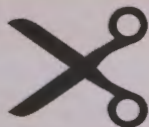
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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

JAM HAIRPerfect for: **The creative student**

Atmosphere - 10/10
 Quality of cut- 9/10
 Value for money 9/10
 Overall experience 10/10



Jam has such a charm about it. As soon as you walk in you're warmed by the quirky layout of the room, the very friendly and helpful staff. I was after a new look - who better to ask than the experts themselves? The consultation was excellent; it made sure that my new style was tailored not only to what I wanted, but also what was going to suit me best. I have wild hair that has a complete mind of its own. It's often very hard to find someone with enough experience or confidence to take it on, but Jam really put me at my ease and my hairdresser really seemed to know exactly what she was doing. Despite having a full head of colour, highlights, a cut and style, everything was done with ease - there were no hours of waiting around and twiddling your thumbs - it was the most relaxing two hours of my week! Due to the nature of my very curly hair, after straightening it a few days after my visit, I realised some uneven parts in the cut. I called up, and that very same day I was given an appointment with an equally helpful and lovely hairdresser who just touched it up and styled it - free of charge! 10 per cent student discounts are available on Monday's, Tuesday's and Wednesday's - so there's no excuse to not go.

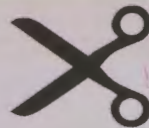
Cut and Blow Dry: From £22
 Full Head of Highlights: From £60
 (Student discounts available)

77 Otley Road, Headingley, LS6 3PS
 www.jamhair.co.uk
 01132786275

review: **Mel Rideout**

EGOPerfect for: **The contemporary student**

Atmosphere - 8/10
 Quality of cut- 10/10
 Value for money 10/10
 Overall experience 9/10



Having never lived in Leeds I know of no hairdressers, good or bad, and am staunchly committed to my salon back at home. So I was sceptical about what I'd let myself in for. However, Ego, situated near the Corn Exchange, has a handpicked team of hairdressers, whose previous experience include companies such as Toni and Guy. They are all self employed so offer a variety of experience for every individual. Knowing this cut short my worrying and I was greeted by Lisa, co-owner and style director of the salon, who sat me down on time and chatted openly with me on what to do with my hair. I have naturally wavy hair so a cut too short gives me a perm when I step out in the rain, but Lisa knew exactly how short to cut it to allow it to curl up without looking cropped. My blow-dry was very sleek and the salon uses TIGI products, instead of the usual wholesale brands, so I was de-frizzed and volumised, leaving with fresh and fruity smelling hair. The innovative stylish layout could be offputting to a student on a budget, but with credentials like these and a huge 45 per cent discount for students, you'd be silly to not go in.

Cut and Blow Dry: £40
 Full Head of Highlights: From £35
 (Student discounts available)

1 Cross York Street, Leeds, LS2 7EE
 www.egohairstudio.co.uk
 0113 2432386

review: **Emma Powell**



Have a Good (Hair) Day

With hairdressers on every corner, it is find the best in the bunch, especially with the intoxicating student discounts.

LS2 has sent out four brave reporters to hunt down the hairdresser to suit your style.

photo: **Joel Harratt**

STYLE

SHRINEPerfect for: **The glamorous student**

Atmosphere - 8/10
 Quality of cut- 10/10
 Value for money 9/10
 Overall experience 9/10

Finally - a hairdresser that really knows her stuff. Stylish hair salon Shrine, located in Headingley, is a sleek and modern hairdressers run by director Monix, who has previously worked for Vidal Sassoon, so even before my cut and blow dry I knew that I would be in good hands. Monix was incredibly helpful in our discussion regarding my hair styling, listening intently to what I had requested whilst also adding her own suggestions - and her advice was worth its weight in hairdressing gold. I would highly recommend Shrine to the glamorous yet budget-conscious student who is open to suggestions on their styling; prepare to reap the rewards. I left the salon with perhaps the most beautiful blow dry I have ever had, and was in and out within an hour, meaning no time-wasting or pointless "have you been on holiday recently?" small talk, yet still retaining a warm atmosphere. Shrine is a salon that presents a sophisticated front - students do not be put off. Take advantage of their 'Worship Wednesday's', where students receive a massive 25 per cent discount. The salon also offers a free fringe-trimming service. Trust me when I say I am a hair control freak and am hard to please, but the Shrine salon was just what I've been looking for.

Cut and Blow Dry: £35-44
 Full Head of Highlights: £64-75
 (Student discounts available)

Shrine Salon and Spa, Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6 1 BS
 www.worshipyourbody.com
 01132751616

review: **Jenny Reddough**

**PIRANHA'S**Perfect for: **The trendsetting student**

Atmosphere: 9/10
 Quality of cut: 9/10
 Value for money: 8/10
 Overall experience: 9/10

Piranha's, at the bottom of the Headrow, is full of some of the nicest people you'll meet in Leeds, and is most certainly the most professional Afro-Caribbean hairdresser's I've ever been in. Run by the lovable Barber B and his team of stylists, this multicultural hotspot has been around since 2005, specialising in dazzling hair tattoos that make Barber B look like the Willy Wonka of hairdressing (photos on www.leedsstudent.org). Everyone from little schoolboys (all given lollipops for good behaviour, of course) to high-flying businesswomen go in to have a chat and a cut. Piranha's is also a training academy for young hairdressing students, and there's a real sense of community throughout the studio. From giving me tips on what fancy dress outfit to wear that night, to telling me I could bring in some music to play for my next cut, Piranha's proves to be the kind of place where you get a brilliant cut as well as a genuinely personal service. I got a pretty unoriginal trim, but the prices in Piranha's are good value if you want a colouring treatment with real attention to detail or something edgier than your standard cut. Don't forget to use your student discount though, and you can always try for a lollipop too...

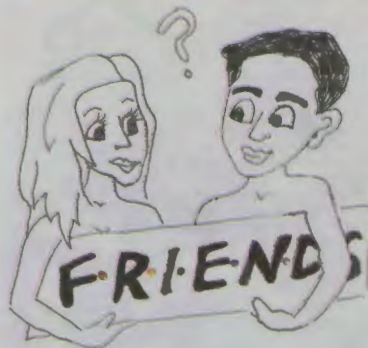
Cut and Blowdry: £20-35
 Highlights: £49-60
 Relaxers: £40
 (Student discounts available)

40 Eastgate, Leeds Town Center, LS2 7JL
 www.piranha-hairstudio.com
 0113 2432160

review: **Tabitha Thorlu-Bangura**



Can guys and girls ever be just friends?



From Harry and Sally, to Ross and Rachel it appears the accepted view is that the best relationships are based on years of friendship and repressed feelings.

In the real world, however, it just wouldn't be practical if boys and girls were jumping into each other's knickers as soon as they progressed past small talk.

A year ago my university friendship group was the perfect example of how the sexes can harmoniously coexist.

Now we're into second year it appears that friends who were once drunkenly hooking up in dark corners of Hifi are now making the transition to proper grown-up couples.

When I brought the subject up around the dinner table, my housemate who was the most adamant that 'just friends' can remain platonic, had to be reminded of the infamous night her 'like a brother' friend from home came to stay and by the end of the night was shoving her tongue down his throat.

Obviously boys and girls can be friends, but it's only ever going to work if one or the other of you is in a relationship, gay or aesthetically challenged. But the true test of a friendship will always be whether you can make it through the post-snog awkwardness.

words Joanna Souter

Yes, it can be frustrating being around those friends we all have, who push the platonic boundaries leaving us wondering 'when will they admit their undying lust for each other?'

Surely it is absurd to suggest that mixed-sex friendships can never be without the tainting of misplaced desire. I could claim such ideas are a result of a post-Freudian sex obsessed society, but I won't.

Instead I will say that if I call a male friend a 'twat' (excuse my French) it is not because I am aspiring to hide my hidden yearning towards them, but probably because they are indeed: a twat.

That is the great thing about friendship, the closer you become to a person the more abusive you can be to each other. So perhaps I am being short sighted, I do agree that sometimes friendships can become confused and the wrong signals are given off. However, if girls and boys cannot be friends in this day and age then the world has more issues than initially thought.

Perhaps Freud was right after all: we are all sexually repressed, orally fixated and fancy our parents.

words Camilla James

I have no doubt that in the course of any boy-girl friendship, there has been at least one moment where either one of you has wandered into the 'what if!'

This is most likely to be a moment of madness, in which you come crashing back to reality (usually when said boy mate is caught picking his toenails/ nose).

Imagine if it really was impossible to be 'just friends' with a member of the opposite sex. You would never see your best friend and her boyfriend again, without her being simply terrified of your inevitable 'man-eating' ways. Mayhem!

Closer attachments are more likely to blur the lines of friendship. Having said this, who hasn't had a friendship where you have a sneaky feeling one of you might be hoping for something more?

In fact, the real question might be whether your friendship can withstand the odd lustful attraction? Perhaps even the odd drunken snog in Tiger Tiger? If so, chances are that yours is a strong friendship that will stand the test of time.

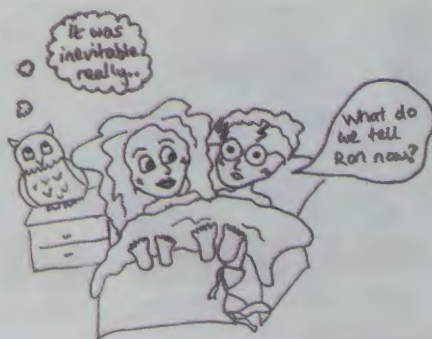
words Jenny Reddiough

Can a girl and a guy ever really be close friends? If you don't mind, friendship riddled with sexual tension, unconscious desire to always 'be there for the other person and lets face it, the continual possibility that you may 'hook up' then - yes!

The other thing to consider is the physical attraction that can sometimes develop from an emotional one. We've all fallen for someone - not because they're good looking but because the can make us laugh or are incredibly intelligent.

The kind of traits we all look for in a friend can turn a platonic relationship into a sexual one. Add good looks and it's disaster. Not forgetting the fine line that separates protectiveness and jealousy; no girl is happy to watch her best male friend spending all his time with somebody else - however 'nice' he claims she is. And of course, when they break up... who there to collect the pieces and offer the 'friendly' shoulder to cry on?

words Hannah Al-Sa



In my own experiences I have found that this can be true, but it depends on the circumstances. Yeah, girls and boys can be friends, why not? If they get on then I don't think there's really a problem.

However, picture this scenario; a girl and a boy are best of friends. They do everything together, confide in each other, catch up with each other etc. Then they go out for drinks and get wasted, and end up back at one of their flats. Lacking that sober clarity, they may think it's a good idea to...well you get my point. When morning comes nine times out of ten the friendship will be scarred for life and they might want to go their separate ways. I saw this happen to some close friends of mine and trust me, it's not pretty.

What about when couples split up? I think that, particularly with messy break ups, when relationships fall apart then this can have a major effect on friendships. I'm not single, and if my girlfriend and I broke up, trying to stay friends would feel pretty weird. Maybe this is different for less long-term relationships, but in my opinion the friendship would be done.

words Josh Russell

HOROSCOPES



Taurus

You will discover a cheap alternative to therapy this week by redirecting your anger towards certain a chat show host.



Cancer

The mounting stress will reach its peak this week and push you over the edge in an inappropriate manner - get a lawyer.



Aries

Everything you touch this week will turn to shit. On the plus side, any shit you touch will turn to gold - result!



Aquarius

You'll be on an emotional rollercoaster in the coming week. Adding alcohol to the equation will make the ride far more bearable but, inevitably, messier. Carry wet wipes.



Libra

You are a sexy, gorgeous and powerful individual who will succeed in life. Well, actually, you're not, you just like to hear it don't you?



Gemini

Every planet has somehow aligned with your sign this week meaning your life from here onwards will be 100% problem free. Ideal.



Pisces

Eye contact is important this week. An impromptu staring contest could lead to love... or a restraining order.



Scorpio

The moon is in your sign this week. A slice of cheese before bed will give you dreams that provide all the answers - I suggest Swiss.



Leo

That thing you said you weren't going to do but ended up doing anyway last week was well worth doing.



Capricorn

The onset of your ailments and the recent full moon are no coincidence - see a doctor.



Virgo

Your love life is heading for trouble. Jump ship and a very old friend will fill the void.



Sagittarius

The results you have been waiting for will be in by the weekend. Dig out your phone book.



Illustration: Dan Lester
words: Genevieve (Suisse)
Osborne-James

LS Interviews HEALTH/

Leeds Student catches up with Jacob Duzsik from HEALTH. Just the thing to read if you feel under the weather (or totally over it).

LS: What have you been up to?

Jacob: We started in Moscow which was really cool and obviously very different to playing in Western Europe. After that we immediately met up with Crystal Castles, and the tour started in Northern Ireland.

LS: How have you found the UK crowds?

Jacob: Crowds are definitely more reserved in the United Kingdom, but on this tour we have the crossover of Crystal Castles fans who are younger and a bit crazier. This has been the best UK tour, as far as audiences go. When we played in London, it was like this art-warehouse space, the kids almost knocked over the P.A. and were stage-diving.

LS: Do you encourage stage-diving?

Jacob: It's great when you have that sort of communication with the audience, 'cause if they're giving off that kind of excitement, it's a lot easier to reciprocate it. Sometimes you'll play a show and later [the fans] will tell you [afterwards] they really loved the show, but at the time they just have a blank look on their face, so you don't know if you're bombing.

LS: Has that put you off England at all?

Jacob: Yeah! To be honest, it [puts off] most bands that I know. Also, you guys don't buy any merch. In relation to the United States, you don't buy t-shirts, you save it all for smokes and beer. We need the money.

LS: You guys are described as 'American noise rock' band. Is that label you like?

Jacob: I think we have really noisy elements to our music and a lot of stuff of the record is

really atonal. But on the other hand people who do real noise, like free-noise, would be really pissed off with that [description] because relative to that, we're a pop band. We have pop elements to our songs; we have verses and choruses. Especially with some of the newer songs we've done and we've done a lot of remix records.

LS: What's your favourite Health remix?

Jacob: Well the one that immediately leaps to mind is the Crystal Castles remix of 'Crimewave'. That song got bigger than our band.

LS: How did you get in contact with Crystal Castles?

Jacob: Myspace. It was way back in the day before either of our bands had hardly toured at all.

LS: You're going to a TV show for the band, called healthvision. Where did the idea come from?

Jacob: There's so much more accessibility and content for bands, so we're trying to do stuff that bands don't normally do.

LS: Other than that, what's coming up in the future?

Jacob: We're finishing this tour and then we have a few shows in Mexico, a tour of Australia and that's it for this record. Then it's just writing the next record. I'm looking forward to it being done; I'm looking forward to writing new songs.

words: Anna Conrad



SINGLES

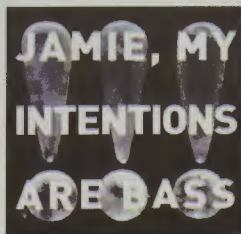
!!! /

Jamie, My Intentions Are Bass
Warp



Latest single, 'Jamie, My Intentions Are Bass' encompasses everything funk ridden that !!! has to offer. Lyrically it's nothing new, but it's still got the groove. With great breakdowns and builds throughout, it's a track that makes it impossible to keep your back against the wall.

words: Jess Woods



Kele /
On The Lam
Polydor



Beginning as a potential club anthem, 'On The Lam' slowly progresses as another monotonous electro track. The overly synthesized generic noise could nicely fill a gap in the Gatecrasher playlist, but not much else. Disappointingly, it once again sees Kele taking his solo career increasingly further from his Bloc Party roots.

words: Danielle Mendel



Saturdays /
Higher
Polydor



The Saturdays are making it cool to like pop music again. Their latest offering, 'Higher', is record selling-pop perfection. It's bursting with catchy lyrics, an addictive bridge, and well-placed splashes of auto tune, with Flo-Rida thrown in for good measure. 'Higher' is a welcome refreshment from the female vocalist drone that has saturated the market for too long.

words: Alicia Burrell



Mount Kimbie / One half of Mount Kimbie, Kai Campos, takes time out to talk to Leeds Student.

LS: How would you sum up the Mount Kimbie sound?

Kai: Are you sure you don't want to do it?

LS: [laughs] Alright...is it post-dubstep, electronic, indie...dance...?

Kai: You can throw acoustic in there as well!

LS: Cool. How did you put Crooks and Lovers together?

Kai: We recorded half of it in London and half of it in Brighton. The stuff in London was recorded in various different places...we didn't really have a studio for most of it. It was recorded in my kitchen and my bedroom, and then occasionally we'd go into a studio. It probably took about a year. But a lot of that time was us scratching our heads really, not knowing what to do.

LS: So I heard that before you started recording the album, you wanted it to be made up of songs with stories, can you tell us a bit more about that?

Kai: When I'm writing music, if I think I've done something good, it's because I've made something that I can't express in words. The songs aren't really about something in particular...they're about places. 'Field', for example, was very much a reaction to spending a bit of time in Berlin, a personal response to a lot of boring dubtechno.

LS: What are you guys going to be doing after touring? There's talk of you doing some production work...

Kai: Yeah, I mean, we thought we were busy before, but we weren't! We kind of stopped taking requests for [production], 'cause there was a lot of...well, most of the things we got sent were really shit, so...[laughs]. There were some good ones but it's taking time to get through them, and we had a lot of work to do on our live set. I think we'd like to write some music for ourselves, cause it's been a while.

LS: Is there any one song that connects you and Dom together?

Kai: At the moment it's 'Heavy Pop' by Wu Lyf. We both go absolutely apeshit for that song! I want to see them live so badly.

LS: The vocals on 'Heavy Pop' are really emotional, they really get to you...Crooks & Lovers has the same kind of restrained emotion that somehow gets under your skin.

Kai: That's great. Thank you. That band has been a big revelation to us.

words: Tabitha Thoru-Bangura



Aloe Blacc /

Hifi

21/10/10



Aloe Blacc's, "Church of Love and Happiness" was last week located within the four walls of the HIFI club. Blacc and his band The Grand Scheme's socio-political mantra resonated throughout their performance, which showcased material from forthcoming album, *Good Things* as well as featuring an innovative cover of Green Day's 'Basket Case'.



Citing inspiration from a vast catalogue of artists (including KRS-One, Velvet Underground and Marvin Gaye) Blacc's onstage demeanor was evocative of a young Bill Withers. Comparisons have already been made between Blacc and Gaye, but Blacc isn't exclusively a soul artist. His eclectic musical background became apparent with seemingly spontaneous and seamless genre shifts (hip-hop, salsa, reggae, funk and dancehall) becoming a prevalent theme throughout the set. This, combined with a priestly interaction with the tightly-packed crowd, produced an aura typical of an evangelical mass.

Blacc's approach wasn't exactly original but his stage presence was undeniable. His 'Soul-Train' inspired unabashed shape-pulling. But then Blacc changed tack and turned his back on the crowd, and the Grand Scheme became uncharacteristically subdued, as an eerie hush descended before being broken by a poignant acapella. A poignant way to begin with what became for many the highlight of the evening; a cover of Michael Jackson's 'Billie Jean'. The sparse arrangement with its litting bass line and simple beat could not have been further removed from the original, but was filled with emotion.

The support provided by The Grand Scheme simply couldn't go unnoticed. Each member of the LA based 5-piece was afforded a solo in their cover of Bill Withers' 'Use Me', evoking memories of Herbie Hancock's 'Thrust'. Initially the cover seemed potentially schismatic as at this point Blacc had vacated the stage, but his re-emergence, to perform the opening verse, showed that whilst the two are perfectly capable of performing independently, together they reaffirm the importance of modern soul in live music.

words: Edmund Shaw

Dan Le Sac vs. Scroobius Pip /

Mine

20/10/10



A chorus of electronic flutes arpeggiated their way over the club, this could only mean one thing, 'Sick Tonight'. An explosion went off as the track dropped. It's hard to tell whether the crowd was jumping or whether Dan Le Sac's subsonic reprogramming of the bass was moving the floor.

Straight away everyone in the room knew that this wasn't going to be a run-of-the-mill gig. 'Looking For The Woman' turned the show from a club gig, to an arena where singing along was mandatory. Dan Le Sac Vs Scroobius Pip did not just turn up with the same set list of songs they've been playing for 3 years; these songs were new, reworked. Not one sound had been spared from a little tweaking, even going right back to 'Magicians Assistant'. A track that could once evoke tears from a bull now had a pulsing beat behind it which shook your heart just as Pip's vocals shake your brain. Support Kid A returned to the stage, and the familiarity of her voice resonated throughout. 'Cauliflower' was not just a homage to the best lyrics in the world, but also filled to the brim with bouncing beats and an epic bass line.

The room erupted once more for the catchiest Le Sac chorus in their repertoire. It was getting all too much for some of the crowd as Dan ran around his vast collection of DJ equipment to effortlessly pluck a girl getting smothered in the crowd. He sat her down on Pips brown leather chair, and ran back in time to administer the drop. But no-one can resist a dance when a track like 'Great Britain' comes on, so with a little help from Pip, she was returned to the fold.

"Go on Dan, mess the beat up!" Dan Le Sac has a gift of making each track sound like a remix of your favourite song, and when someone is that good, the crowd can't help but show their appreciation. Finally, the track that is actually a remix of your favourite song, 'A Letter From God To Man'. With one of the best performances of your career, that was Dan Le Sac vs Scroobius Pip and their incredible friends.

words: Matthew Hardy



Beach Fossils /

Nation Of Shopkeepers

24/10/10



It's late October, the raw cold is becoming frequent, the leaves are crunching underfoot and woolly gloves are becoming a necessity. What better way to greet autumn's speedy arrival than with a subtle reminder of the summer passed, delivered by Beach Fossils. Their not-quite-so-unique blend of surf-rock and indie stirred companions with Girls and Male Bonding, as well as some hints of The Drums.



Speaking of drums, it looked as those the chaps from Brooklyn had forgotten half of the kit on their first date in England. However, nothing more was needed than the simple snare, symbol, bass and hi-hat for the relaxed and dreamy sound on show. And although the bands did show some signs of energy towards the end of the set, titles such as 'Daydream' and 'Distant' were aptly named for the atmosphere they produced. The mood was further lightened by bassist John Pena's decision to pull off his shoes and socks just a couple of songs into their set.

The catchy melodies throughout caught some people's attention, whilst only mildly interesting others. The low turnout didn't hinder the experience though; it merely added to the image that we'd just stumbled upon the band playing in a shack whilst strolling on the sand of a deserted island. Issues with the band's sound did make the vocal seem a little lost through the set, though perhaps this was the desired effect. Finishing strongly and with enthusiasm, the boys can hold their heads high in the knowledge that they provided a nice evening for everyone. Although, in all honesty, it wasn't a great deal more than that.

words: Josh Oldridge

GIGS

HEALTH /
Leeds Met
23/10/10

It's hard to find actual words to do Health's performance on Saturday night the justice it deserves. A lot of experimental music is utterly mind numbing rubbish, but this was the complete opposite. The set was full of originality.

At first, as Health started, the crowd was slightly bemused with the four crazy Americans wildly jumping about the stage. However, this bemusement quickly turned to awe and enjoyment as the set progressed. It was easy to get lost in the drummer's ridiculous ferocity and skill, and the bassist's long, silky locks could have easily been the subject of a Loreal advert.

The lack of song structure and the inability to tell which weird noises were coming from where made the performance even more enchanting. Health, it seems, have an expert ability to make noises and feedback sound a lot like songs. And with instruments including something called a "Zoothorn", it's not hard to see why.

'Crimewave' was possibly the only discernable song from the set list but this by no means cast a shadow over the other songs and only served to emphasise Health's versatility. When vocals did distinguish themselves from screams they were oddly Brian Molko-esque although more unassuming. However, Placebo haters are not to be put off as the vocals complimented the music well.

Heads exploding and children with guns would have been less interesting to watch than the performance given by Health. Other bands should take note: you don't need to make generic indie to get somewhere. Health show that it is possible to make something different that also sounds bloody brilliant. Go see them if you can (because you're worth it...).

words: David Squire

Wombats/
Cockpit
21/10/10

The Eagles, Bon Jovi and The Rolling Stones have obviously been relegated to the loft in the homes of Leeds forty-somethings as they search for new 'hip' bands to follow. The Wombats must be top of the list because The Cockpit on Thursday night was full of balding men and their heavily made-up wives.

The Wombats launched their assault of infectious alternative pop with the dancefloor favourite 'Kill The Director', sending the younger generation at the front into a frenzy and prompting even the oldies to risk some cautious head nodding (a few of them even sang along). This set the tone for the rest of the evening with the band knocking out their biggest sing-alongs of the first album interspersed with several new songs. The new material was generally well received, especially the current radio-friendly, synth dominated single 'Tokyo' which sent the by now-sweaty crowd into further frolicking.

Unfortunately, the boys suffered from persistent sound problems with feedback, and Tord's bass guitar also lost amplification at one point, forcing the band to make an amateur pause mid-song. However, these inconveniences did little to put the band off and they played a very tight show, keeping the crowd involved with more hand clapping, chanting and dancing than at a tribal gathering. It wasn't until the last two songs though that this gig exploded into life, however, with the performance of the most popular songs of the first album, 'Moving To New York' and 'Let's Dance to Joy Division'.

On the command of lead singer Murph the crowd proceeded to "bring the roof down", and even the old folk started pulling some shapes. The merits of The Cockpit as a venue became clear when crowd surfing and a small stage invasion ensued during 'Let's Dance to Joy Division'. Clearly The Wombats saved the best 'til last and it capped off a very entertaining night for all, hampered only by some technical hitches and an ageing fan base.

words: Mickey Scott

Feeder/
LMUSU
21/10/10

Florescent lights and glittery guitars aren't crucial elements normally associated with Feeder, but obviously this wasn't going to be like previous tours for albums such as *Pushing the Senses* or *Echo Park*.

The band is in somewhat of a transitional period, carrying out a side project under the name of 'Renegades', and the days of decorative melodies and depressive lyrics seem to have come to an abrupt end. The fan base, however, hasn't really changed much - the thirtysomethings were still belting out drunken requests for old classics such as 'Hole in the Head' and 'High'. However the new power chords and heavily distorted vibes brought on moshing madness, and after about half an hour of new material the ensuing punch-up was probably to be expected. Then came the opening riff to 'Just the Way I'm Feeling' and humanity seemed to have been restored.

The ninety-minute set went quickly, and was definitely enjoyable lively if a little perplexing. During the encore, lead singer Grant Nicholas announced 'this is for the old school fans', referring to the 1999 masterpiece, 'Yesterday Went Too Soon' and suddenly the Feeder family reunited in a lighters-in-the-air sing-along. Inevitably after relentless chanting of the infamous guitar riff, "do do doo doo, do do do doo" they closed the set with 'Just a Day'.

The three-piece are still clearly talented musicians with plenty of potential for new direction, so for the returning February tour, expectant Feeder fans shouldn't still be expecting a soft rock band with a bevy of your favourite chilled-out tunes. However, fear not as Grant announced in recent interview that the mellow madness shall return in the next album, and still under the name of Feeder. Thank goodness for that, eh?

words: Sarah Tyler



Aloe Blacc/

Aloe Blacc wants to change the world, one smiling gig-goer at a time. LS attempts to find out how...

LS: So how's the tour going?

Aloe Blacc: So far so good! Almost all sold out shows, really good audiences and responses.

LS: So who is Aloe Blacc - how would you describe your music?

AB: I call it brand new old soul. It sounds like classic soul music from the early seventies but it's new. It's stuff I made in the last couple of years.

LS: Your new album is more soulful than your debut, *Shine Through* which was more multi genre, was that an active decision of yours?

AB: Well yeah. The new album definitely has more soul. It's like that all the way through: classic soul with a little bit of funk.

LS: You've said that with this album you wanted to create a social change. How do you plan to do this?

AB: Hopefully, as I start to build more visibility, I'll be able to make political statements that corporations listen to, politicians listen to. I think for social change the first thing to do is make an effect on an individual. If I can do that through my show by something as simple as making two people smile then that's social change. In a bigger way, I'd like to get the kind of power to do things like Bono or George Clooney, or what Michael Jackson did.

LS: Your transition from *Shine Through* to *Good Things* has been described as a move from the personal to the political. Would you agree with that?

AB: I guess I agree with it, it is personal to more political. With *Shine Through* I was stylistically self-indulgent, whereas with *Good Things* my goal is to please the audience, but also have a topical standpoint. I want to get down to the issues that are affecting people right now like joblessness, globalisation, unchecked capitalism.

LS: You started off your career as an MC. Can you tell us about your musical journey from rapper to soul singer?

AB: Well, when I was really young I was playing the trumpet so I learnt a lot of symphonic, classical orchestra music. My parents are from Panama so I was listening to a lot of Latin music and Caribbean sounds, and then as I was doing Hip-Hop I was sampling from records that eventually I fell in love with. I started to want to make sounds which sounded like the records I was sampling: folk music, Brazilian music, soul, classic rock. When I was signed to *Stones Throw*, I was signed as a singer, and that's when it all really started.

words: Shannon Mahanty



Glamowe'en



This page: 1. Velvet jacket- £60 Urban Outfitters, Leotard- £32 Urban Outfitters. 2. (Sophie) Velvet Dress- £65 Joy (Elspeth) White shirt- £38 American Apparel, Feather Cape- £17.99 **Next Page:** 1. (Elspeth) Shirt- £43 Urban Outfitters, Rara Skirt- £58 American Apparel, (El) Skeleton Vest- £28 Urban Outfitters, Gloves- £8 Joy, (Sophie) Dress- £65 Joy, (Heather) Leotard- £32 Urban Outfitters, Necklace- £5. 2. Sheer Shirt- £17.99, Skeleton Vest- £28 Urban Outfitters. 3. (Elspeth) Leather Shorts- £68 Topshop, Feather Vest- £36.99 Ark, (El) Leather jacket- £34.99 H&M, Lace Bodysuit- £46 American Apparel. 4. Velvet Dress- £65 Joy 6. Lace Bodysuit- £46 American Apparel, Leather jacket- £34.99 H&M. Panelled leotard- £32 American Apparel. **Stylists:** Alice Tate, Hannah Watte, **Art Direction:** Tomas Jivanda, **Photography:** Aidan Dunbar, Mark McKay, **Models:** Heather Nelson, El Shrimpton, Sophie Orrett, Elspeth Mitchell.



14 CLUBS

Feature: Halloween Previews

'Tis the season for face paint and food-dyed drinks! That's right ravers, Halloween is here to stave off that grisly money-grabbing Christmas cheer and give you a hallmark endorsed reason to get off your tits whilst disguising your ugliness beneath an overpriced foam suit, or if you're a female of the species, desperately denying it in an obligatory 'sexy <insert animal/occupation/noun here>' costume. Halloween is the ideal evening for wrongful doings and horrifying excess and this year is no exception; Leeds' nightlife has a platter of devilish delights on offer so here is our breakdown of the best events to sink your teeth into on Saturday 30th October.

Best For Big Names:

Annie Mac Presents at LUU
There can only be one winner in this category. The first lady of Radio 1 returns to Leeds to deliver a thrilling line-up that reads like a who's who of above ground electronic talent. Every events room in the union will be opened to allow the Mac mama to mash it up alongside (deep breath) Chase and Status, Caspa, Beardyman, Doorly, Riva Starr, Scratch Perverts, Ms Dynamite, Zinc, The Count and Sinden, Jaymo and Andy George, Brookes Brothers, Emalkay, Bowski and Eskimo Twins. Obviously attempts to party at every set worthy of a visit would require nothing short of witchcraft, but with this much on offer there's surely little room for disappointment.
Cost - £22.50

Best For A New Experience:

Modern Amusement at Vox Warehouse
After the demise of the health and safety dodging Victoria Works last Christmas, from Saturday Leeds will once again be home to a high-capacity warehouse venue. And this time it comes complete with indoor plumbing and skylights! Rejoice! To back up the new venue hype, The Vox Warehouse has arranged a premiere party that goes straight for the jugular. Modern Amusement's Ibiza Halloween is a tech house extravaganza headlined by Matthias Tanzmann and Nick Curly, with support from DJ Rolando, KINK, Kyle Hall, Eldemin and Leeds locals Josh Tweek and Errol Brown.
Cost - £12.50(NUS)/ £15

Best For Freaky Beats and Fancy

Dress: Filth Cr2 Records Halloween Party at Mint
Cr2 Records is one of the sweetest treats in the tricky house music market, releasing anthems from superstars such as Carl Cox, Sasha and Roger Sanchez as well providing a platform for future big names. At Filth's Halloween Special, label owner Mark Brown will deliver some murder on the dancefloor as one half of MYNC, the forward-thinking duo who've been hitting all the right spots in Ibiza this summer (check out our MYNC interview for more on what they've got in store), with support from labelmates Paolo Mojo and Dan Castro. With fancy dress designated as Rocky Horror Picture Show, this is going to be an electrifying night of filthy beats, sexy rhythms, sweet transvestites and ripped-up fishnets.
Cost - £10/MOTD

Best For Getting Intimate with a

Legend: Kissdafunk Halloween Special at The Loft

Following the release of his aptly named album Mutants, seasoned producer John Dahlback will be the main event at the unholy union of Kissdafunk, Habit and Candypants this Saturday. Following a venue change from Space to The Loft, Dahlback's world-renowned spine-tingling sounds will be the bolts holding a monstrous line-up of home-grown support together, as Rob Tissera, Alex Simmons, Daniel John, Tony P, amongst others, look set to spin some epically haunting house into the twilight hours.
Cost - £12/MOTD

Best For All Hallows' Cheese:

Bad Sneakers Blood Feast Ball at The Faversham
Faversham will once again be transformed into a 'Horror Hotel', each room with its own torturous theme. ~~Halloween Horror~~ projection, freakish show performers and the venue's very own graveyard will inject an delectable sense of dread to the usual Bad Sneakers' electro mash-up. With a fancy dress competition, special surprises and 'certain death guaranteed', Bad Sneakers have to be commended for full commitment to the Halloween party atmosphere and if last year's sell-out event is anything to go by, it's destined to be a disco bloodbath.
Cost-£5/MOTD



words: Rachel Cunningham-Clark

Interview: MYNC

MYNC is the brainchild of Cr2 Records' owner Mark Brown, a ten year project that has evolved constantly with the ever-changing landscape of house music. Throughout their career MYNC have accumulated an enviable CV, holding residences at Cream Terrace and Space Ibiza whilst touring across the world. Earlier this year, they reached the sacred Number 1 spot in the Beatport chart with their rework of 'I Feel Love' with Wynter Gordon. We caught up with front man Mark ahead of their first Leeds appearance to find out what we can expect from these bona-fide house music masters.

LS2: MYNC will be performing at the Mint Club this weekend for the Filth Halloween Party. What will you be expecting from Leeds?

MYNC: We'll be expecting a lively, up for it crowd who know their music and love to party.

And perhaps more importantly, what can Leeds expect from you?

You can expect good energetic house music, lots of FX, fresh tunes and track layering and hopefully a crowd full of people dancing.

What is your current show set-up?

The set up for our live shows is basically 4 decks, 2 mixers, a full Ableton Live set up, controllers, SD cards and CDs, we tend to



leave the vinyl at home these days. We wanted to expand on what was already a winner formula of the 4 decks 2 mixers and be able to give people a more dynamic show with lots of different elements. It takes a little more preparation but it's definitely worth it!

The Mint Club is an intimate space, how does playing small clubs compare to bigger party venues? Do you have a preference?

I think small intimate venues are the best, you can get a much better atmosphere and play off the crowd more.

House has to be one of dance music's most established and wide-

-ranging genres, what has it been like to see its progression over the years from a position within the industry?

It's been amazing, from when I used to work at Credence, and before then buy the vinyl in at HMV you were only catering for a small audience, and would stock a limited amount, but now since artists such as David Guetta, Swedish House Mafia and of course our very own Chuckie the cross over is huge. It's great to see the music I've always been passionate about being appreciated by such a variety of people.

How do you stay relevant for nearly a decade? Is it a conscious effort, or just a matter of doing what comes naturally?

It's definitely important to stay relevant, every day we are listening to new music as we work in A&R, so this gives us a good idea of what's exciting at the moment. In terms of our own production it's more natural, what's inspiring us at that moment which is everything from people, music to most aspects of life really.

So, what is the future of the MYNC?

We are touring extensively at the moment with gigs coming up in Brazil, North America, Japan, Lithuania, Finland, Dubai and Australia all before the year is out. We've also got a new compilation mix coming out in November for the Sanctuary in Dubai's 2nd birthday

and some exciting collaborations with Wally Lopez, arguably the biggest DJ in Spain at the moment and Roger Sanchez among others. Another exciting project we have coming up is a digital album called 'MYNC and Friends' which will feature some collaborations tracks with several big artists in Australia including Hook n Sling, Goodwill, Christian Luke and TV Rock. With regards to the future of house music, who can say, all we can say is it's definitely becoming one of the biggest genres on our radios at the moment!

The Rocky Horror fancy dress theme promises a night to remember, will you be rocking the fishnets for your set?

Ha maybe you'll have to wait and see.

Finally, you've just finished your latest track for Roger Sanchez's Stealth label, is it cheeky to request Leeds' clubbers get a first listen?

You can guarantee we'll be playing a lot of fresh exclusive material!!

MYNC will be performing live at Filth's Cr2 Records Halloween Spectacular at Mint, on Saturday 30th October.

words: Rachel Cunningham-Clark

Reviews:

Back To Basics Vs. Rejekt D'Julz, Luke Solomon, James Holroyd & Iain Taylor Stinky's Peephouse Saturday 23rd October

Back to Basics, the long-standing mecca for house-heads throughout the North, welcomed Rejekt, fresh from their residency at the Red Box in Ibiza, for a no-nonsense knees-up at Stinky's Peephouse on Saturday. Established in the halcyon days of house music in the early 90s, Basics is a genuine clubbing experience, attracting both students, locals and committed pilgrims from further afield - completely free of girls with glowsticks, guys in vests and Hugo from Kensington being sick all over

his Captain Jack Sparrow costume.

Parisian D'Julz, who battled through the French strikes to get to Leeds, provided a fantastic headline set, playing unabashed jacking house with a fervent techno edge. Before him, Iain Taylor more than justified the hype around his Rejekt parties, one of this year's Ibiza success stories. Add to that Luke Solomon, no stranger to Basics, who pulled in a big crowd upstairs for some brilliant cuts of freaky house, with a few nods to disco.

This would have been all well and good, if resident James Holroyd hadn't stolen the show from the outset. With the job of opening the proceedings, he started off with some slow proto-house, cosmic disco and boogie, almost entirely on vinyl, increasing the tempo throughout until the

room was packed with upbeat, beaming faces. Climaxing with Storm Queen's 'Look Right Through', a brilliant vocal track out on Environ this week, it was a master class in artisan DJing, beautifully paced and constantly outside of the box, wearing down dancing shoes throughout the club before the night had barely begun.

The Basics crowd are always non-judgemental and friendly, and Stinky's Peephouse, an intimate club whose raison d'être is Basics, is the perfect location. Although it has the power to pull in big names, such as Derrick Carter, who will play at their 19th birthday celebration in November, Basics owes most of its success to its brilliant reserve of residents, who never fail to disappoint, week in week out. Long may it continue.

Words: **Joe Shaw**

Glasshouse Mickey Slim Gatecrasher Seven Saturday 23rd October

Every Saturday night the stylish venue Gatecrasher Seven hosts the famous Glasshouse event. World-class line-ups, performing in a vibrant student city marked with a big 'electro-music' label, this composition should be a safe bet for a great night out - but why didn't it work out last Saturday?

First of all, it wasn't because of the music, which was spot-on! Together with Little Bastard, D.O.D., Levi Lewis and Josh

Myers, world class DJ Micky 'the Birmingham-bred bad boy' Slim conjured up some fascinating and rousing house tunes from his magic turntables. The choice of the tracks and the mixes was nearly perfect and proved once again that Micky Slim is an exceptional performer. Setting out his vibes in a designer venue such as Gatecrasher Seven he easily could create an atmosphere to sweep you away.

Problem - there weren't enough people to get swept away. Gatecrasher Seven was not as well-attended as usual and things didn't improve during the night. Maybe people opted out of purchasing entry as the music was at such a high volume that it could have been easily heard a few blocks away. Well, at least that meant no queuing for a chilling drink after dominating the dancefloor! Actually, the bartenders were in an excellent party mood and opened up their very own dancefloor behind the bar - something that should happen more often!

Maybe the lack of people was the simple reason Glasshouse didn't heat up to the maximum last Saturday. To be fair, this event isn't a typical student night out, admission and drinks were clearly over student's average, but unfortunately the locals missed their chance to take over.

Glasshouse at Gatecrasher Seven is definitely a great event with smashing performers. It is a must go for all the electro lovers amongst us - hopefully people were just recharging for the big upcoming Halloween weekend.

words: **Marc Rettig**



Photo: Daniel Parkinson, www.soundright.com

Leeds Local Talent: Stray



Photo: Ashby Field

Name?.....**Stray**
Describe Your Music in One Sentence.....Born of edgy/different ingredients, still hitting the sweet spot (at least that's the idea)
Why Leeds?.....I'm studying in my final year at Leeds Uni. One of the reasons I chose to come up here in the first place is that Ramadanman, whom I went to school with, was studying up here at the time, and I knew from him and otherwise that the 'underground music scene' was as thriving here as it was in London (where I come from) but possibly a bit more cosy and connected.
Favourite Club in Leeds?.....End up at **Wire** more often than other clubs - just seems to attract the best nights and promoters. **Momentum** is a good example. Have to mention **Central Beatz** at the union as well - amazing night & system, and even better and rammed now that it's free. Massive shouts out to all the CB family as always.
Inspiration?.....Inside dnb, D-Bridge, Sabre and Ed Rush & Optical have off the top of my head been massively influential. Outside dnb, definitely my brother (pianist George Fogel), and the likes of Herbie Hancock, Radiohead, Aphex Twin etc.
Forthcoming?.....A track of mine called 'Saturday' has just been released on Noisia's Invisible imprint, and I have a track called 'Pushed' being released before the end of the year on D-Bridge's Exit Records. I'll also be continuing to work with Kasra at Critical Records, releasing more music of mine on the label over the course of next year.
Where Can I hear More?.....www.soundcloud.com.straydnb
www.myspace.com/straydnb

Q&A with director and writer Mark Cousins

Director: Mark Cousins
Released: 1st October



The Hyde Park Picture House was recently host to Mark Cousins and his documentary *The First Movie*. According to Cousins it is a 'magical realist' film: part art cinema and part documentary - a hybrid that is a great success. The film itself is beautiful and life affirming and the director funny and passionate to boot. Those who appreciate beautiful cinematography, creativity and humour will love this refreshing change from the norm of documentary making. Cousins has managed to make a film about Iraq that is miraculously non-cynical, non-clichéd, and non-patronising.

Mark Cousins leaves his Edinburgh home for Goptapa, a tiny isolated village in Iraq, where he creates a makeshift cinema showing the local children his favourite family movies, including *ET* and the French classic, *The Red Balloon*. He then gives some of the children mini camcorders and allows them to experiment with filmmaking in the hope, he says, of seeing into the 'Aladdin's cave' of their imaginations. Cousins stunning shots of the village coupled with the children's own footage makes for a compelling view of rural life.

Through Cousins, we see the beauty in everyday life of Goptapa: the little girl in colourful clothes herding animals at dawn, the trees where lovers meet baking in the 40-degree sun, the dog sleeping on the dusty earth. The humour is spontaneous and natural, children singing about a farting cow and cheeky little boys vying for the camera's attention. The footage of the children's reaction when given their first taste of cinema is magical. Surprisingly, Cousins didn't find it hard to choose films to show the children. He found a variety of films from different cultures that



focused on the universal themes of childhood - 'loneliness, love and solidarity'. We get a real sense of Cousins' belief in film as a catalyst for imagination and creativity.

The films that the children create are also remarkable. As well as shots of football games and songs, one boy makes a film of his friend playing with water in the stream, narrating, 'he is giving his dreams to the mud'. Cousins sees an aspiring film maker in the boy. We also see footage inside the mosque at Ramadan, truly seeing into the lives of the Goptapa people. Another child interviews an older woman in the

village who lost several members of her family during the Anfal (Saddam Hussein's genocide of Kurdish communities in the 1980s). In one of the most moving and poignant scenes in the film we see a woman's private grief expressed with profound openness. It becomes apparent that this village was torn apart by the Anfal and chemical attacks.

Interestingly, Cousins insists that *The First Movie* was not intended as a political piece. He tells the audience that he set out to make a film about Iraq, replacing the negative images we are used to with more positive ones. He chooses

not to use the name 'Iraq' until the end of the film, to halt the preconceptions of the viewer about this place. Although Cousins admits to being anti-war, he has (thankfully) left political preaching out of his filmmaking. Instead, he tells us that he really hoped to make a film about childhood, imagination, and the power of film itself, which he has done with tremendous charm. Although Cousins's *Blue Peter* style voiceover and references to his own life and childhood could irk some viewers, a real sense of heart prevails in his filmmaking.

words: Harriet Sheppard



THEATRE
CRASH

West Yorkshire Playhouse
Until 13th November



Crash, a new play by William Nicholson, seeks to dramatised the conflict surrounding the recent banking crisis, and the much-maligned figure of the banker. Set in the Elizabethan

house of city trader and multi-millionaire Nick (Colin Mace), the set exudes an air of wealth and excess, with a Damien Hurst spot-print and a guitar once owned by Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler hanging from the walls.

At first sight Nick represents all the clichés of the casino capitalist: the unfeeling self-interest, the vulgar extravagance, and in Eva (Helen Bradbury), a Croatian girlfriend who seems little more than a kept prostitute. He is

placed in juxtaposition to two old school friends, the vegetarian schoolteacher Christine (Carolyn Backhouse), and her husband Humphrey (Steven Pacey), an artist whose garden statue Nick has just purchased.

The couple remain at Nick's mansion for the duration of the play, and a debate unfolds between two contrasting moral perspectives. Nicholson's confrontational dialogue is sharp, witty, and thought provoking, enhanced by commendable performances from the four main actors. Gradually, the conflicting viewpoints translate into hostile argument as Humphrey directs a tirade of abuse at bankers whose bonuses roll in at the expense of the taxpayer, while Nick ridicules the 'timid little losers' who have been the victims of the economic crash.

At this point the play threatens to descend into rather simplistic binary opposition, but in the second half both character and ideas become significantly more complex and challenging. If the first half has been concerned with establishing difference to the point of stereotype, the second half is about diffusing these distinctions. There is shown to be an element of attraction - even jealousy - as well as moral outrage on the part of Humphrey and Christine towards Nick's wealth. Nick has been attacked because what he possesses is not what he 'needs', but he responds by asking what any of us actually 'needs'? And an important question arises for an audience of theatregoers: are money and materialism any more of an extravagance than art?

A personal tragedy recounted by Eva places all political opinion into perspective. The ideological is replaced by the humane, and the polarised debate from earlier in the play is shown to be unhelpful and inadequate to

human concerns. We are still left with little sympathy for the cocky, self-indulgent Nick, but we begin to realise that his glaring array of material possessions offers little consolation for an existence lived in fear and isolation with no loving relationships.

Nicholson's agenda seems unclear, and towards the end he ultimately succeeds in giving a voice to the banking community, while the voices of liberal conscience are left dancing in celebratory fashion to Dire Straits' *'Money for Nothing'*. A dubious ending perhaps does not do justice to the ideas explored up until this point, but this is still a play which asks provocative and highly relevant questions for our times.

words: Tim Gallagher



REVIEWED ONLINE

TG production of *Macbeth*
Reviewed by William Severs

Metropolis (1927 re-release)
Reviewed by Elizabeth Matter

Africa United
Reviewed by Katerina Park

Director: Robert Schwentke
Starring: Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman,
 John Malkovich, Helen Mirren
Released: 22nd October



There is a line near the beginning of *Red* where, after being handed a bag full of severed fingers, Joe Matheson (Freeman) says: 'This used to be a gentleman's game', a quote which quickly becomes an embarrassingly accurate assessment of the film he is starring in.

Based on a DC comic book, *Red* follows the likes of this summer's *The Expendables*, *The Losers* and *The A-Team* by delivering yet another half-baked ensemble action comedy. The plot is straightforward enough: Frank Moses (Willis) is a retired CIA assassin living a quiet, undisturbed suburban life. He is in love with a woman named Sarah who answers the phones at the government pension department and he pretends to have lost his retirement cheque every month so he has an excuse to speak to her.

Predictably, someone starts trying to kill the retired agents, and goes about this clumsily. After a stale sequence demonstrating Frank's talents as he expertly shrugs off the mercenaries and kidnaps Sarah (inexplicable, yet necessary for the film to include a formulaic love story), then sets off on a road trip to save his old partners and discover why they are being targeted. In the process he finds out about 'Red' or Retired: Extremely Dangerous, a label that he and his friends have been tagged with. That is about as complicated as it gets.

It is rare that Bruce Willis delivers the best performance in a movie, and when he does, it is evident that he is attempting to go above and beyond his tough guy archetype. In *Red* he manages to equal, and sometimes better, a cast of Oscar winners and nominees, despite



spending the entire two hours on autopilot. That's not to say that Mirren, Freeman, Malkovich and Cox aren't perfectly adequate, but they are exposed as one-dimensional caricatures of the types they have played repeatedly for the past decade. This might be a reference to the star power of the actors themselves, but it deserves to be much more fun than it is. A case in point being Morgan Freeman, who famously played Nelson Mandela in *Invictus*, who ends up with his character going undercover and doing a reductive impression of a fictional African

dignitary. It would seem that the scene is intended to be self-referential, but the fact that it contains no attempts at comedy, aside from a terrible accent, causes it to fall flat.

Helen Mirren fails to shine as eagle-eyed sniper Victoria. Admittedly, she seems to be having barrels of fun, but any film that features the actress who played the Queen mercilessly offing henchmen with a comically large machine gun whilst still managing to make it seem dull is on its way to failing. It is funny at first, but after they have run the joke into the ground you find yourself wishing the wafer thin

plot would progress to something more unpredictable.

Freeman's character is right; this did used to be a gentleman's game. Replace Willis, Freeman and Mirren with the likes of Gene Hackman, Danny Glover and Judi Dench, then iron out the kinks in the story and you would have an interesting film. Yet, here the grins on the actor's faces never quite manage to outweigh the rest of the movie's shortcomings.

words: Samuel Ingram

Director: Mike Leigh
Starring: Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville,
 Ruth Sheen, Imelda Staunton
Released: 5th November



'The older you get, the more relevant history seems' utters the happily married Tom (Broadbent) to his equally content, but not complacent, wife Jerry (Sheen). Certainly the personal histories of the characters and the evolution of their relationships have been thoroughly explored by the actors and by director Mike Leigh in preparation for *Another Year*.

We can only speculate on Leigh's exact methods for developing such complex, four-dimensional characters, but as he relates in the Q&A session following the premiere at Odeon Leicester Square, the eighteen-week development stage of the collaboration proves the relevance of personal and shared history to the personalities as they are presented.

Without employing any traditional narrative structure, the film follows a year in the life of Tom and Jerry. Special attention is given to the stark contrast between their contentment and the deep-seated misery of their friends, in particular, their friend Mary (Manville), who works with Jerry and visits their home at various points in the year. At first, she visits with optimism because of the freedom the purchase of a new car brings her, but this soon turns to desperate jealousy when Tom and Jerry's son brings home his new girlfriend. Mary's desperation to hang on to her now long lost youth, which Manville's exquisite performance accentuates, eventually transmutes into a hint of resentment and bitterness. This reveals one of the ironies



highlighted in this beautiful, compassionate film - that although bitterness in the Autumn years can lead to what we might associate with being 'old' - Tom and Jerry, though close to retirement, seem youthful in the energy that happiness has brought them.

Leigh expertly captures the drama of the everyday in this mid-life melodrama. The themes of aging and isolation, perfectly manifested in Manville's performance, recur in the character of Ken, Tom's oldest and best friend. He makes a visit to Tom and Jerry's home where, like Mary, after a night drinking he breaks down in tears of bitterness and disappointment reflecting on a previous relationship and the loss of a close friend. He

too is single and the contrast between his misery and bitterness and Tom and Jerry's happiness is played out with great efficacy, reflective of the high quality of performance in general. A further theme of the film is the random distribution of happiness in life. Mary, it seems, has always tried to be happy but by chance has failed through no fault of her own. She, like Ken, just has bad luck.

Gary Yershov's score for the film, used in between scenes, seems to capture this sense of random fortune without layering the instrumental texture too much, instead employing meandering, philosophical, almost wistful passages.

The unique narrative structure (the film is

divided into four parts, each part taken from within one of the four seasons of the eponymous year) employs a different visual sense of time for each section in the cinematography. This division of the film heightens the sense of change throughout the year and highlights the contrast between Mary's fate and Tom and Jerry's unchanging, youthful contentment.

This is classic Mike Leigh. The development of the personal history of the individual characters has been so thorough that every viewer, perhaps through self-projection, will have a different take on why these characters have developed as presented.

words: Daniel Potts

Ahead of the 24th Leeds International Film Festival, beginning 4th November, Leeds Student takes a look at the biggest arts event of the year and the vital role it plays for art in Leeds.

November brings with it the turning of the leaves, drizzly weather and a flurry of colds; however for the residents of Leeds it has also come to signify the start of the city's International Film Festival (LIFF). From next week venues all over the city will play host to a wide-ranging selection of films from across the globe. Now in its twenty-fourth year, LIFF has expanded hugely, and will be screening in excess of 200 hundred films over 18 days. This expansion has allowed for a fantastic diversity in the films screened. Separated into five categories, the sheer number means there is something for everyone. The Official Selection, which is feature length fiction films, *Cinema Versa* documentaries, *Fanomenon* which includes horror, anime and Manga, the experimental - *Cherry Kino* and the self-explanatory *Short Film City*. On offer are previews of big-budget films from well-known and beloved directors (The Coen Brothers' *A Serious Man* was shown last year) alongside smaller independent works. The festival also provides opportunities to see prize-winners from events such as Cannes whilst handing out its own accolades as well.

The largest UK film festival outside London, LIFF seeks to broadcast some of the 95% of films produced each year that are never shown in the UK. The director of the festival, Chris Fell says that they aim to delve beyond the mainstream and secure film as a recognised art form, elevating its position alongside the more traditionally recognised 'high arts' such as poetry, the theatre and the visual arts. Leeds is an important cultural centre in the north of England and the festival



plays an important role in establishing this role and ensuring the arts are accessible to all.

The festival will be screening films in a variety of familiar venues such as the HiFi club, Nation of Shopkeepers, The Wardrobe and on our very own campus. The range of venues provides an alternative environment in which to experience film that creates a very different atmosphere from the local Odeon. Combine this with the almost overwhelming selection and you are sure to have a great night out. The organisers assert that it is a very 'student friendly festival', ticket prices are kept as low as possible and they

urge us all to go and try something new. Specially recommended by those in the know is *A Town Called Panic* (reviewed in issue #3), which is a surreal animated comedy following a group of toys in an epic adventure, a bizarre version of *Toy Story* if you like. *A Town Called Panic* is showing at the Hyde Park Picture House and Leeds Town Hall on the first weekend of November.

The festival kick starts next Thursday with a showing of *The King's Speech* in the Town Hall. An appropriate beginning, the film was partly shot in Leeds and will be on general release in January. It stars Colin Firth, Helena

Bonham Carter and Geoffrey Rush and is a story of George VI's battle with a speech impediment.

LIFF is an important part of our cultural landscape here in Leeds and the delectable assortment of cinematic treats ensures that there will be something to entice everyone. It runs from the 4th to the 21st of November in plenty of student-frequented venues. Ticket prices vary or you can by a festival pass for £80 (which includes a few perks). With that I urge you, go forth and be entertained.

words: Georgia Walton

MUST SEE
A look ahead to a few festival highlights.

The King's Speech

Director: Tom Hooper

Starring: Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter, Michael Gambon, Guy Pearce
Leeds Town Hall, 4th November, 7.30pm

This eagerly anticipated film depicts the story of King George VI's rise to the throne in the mid-thirties, after the sudden abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. Colin Firth plays the future king who battles with a crippling speech impediment which he strives to overcome with the aid of an unorthodox Australian speech therapist, Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush). It recently won the acclaimed People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and with strong performances from both Firth and Rush, it is picked to be a serious Oscar contender. Partly filmed in Leeds and Bradford, this is the not to be missed opener of the festival.

Night of the Dead X: 10th Anniversary

Hyde Park Picture House
10.00pm, 6th November
<http://www.fanomenonleeds.com/>

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, *Night of the Dead* returns with an epic 12-hour long programme of unmissable horrors screened at the Hyde Park Picture House. Included in this year's line-up are *Choose*, *The Silent House* and *The Loved Ones* (reviewed in issue #2), plus many other spine tingling selections from renowned international directors. This ever-popular event is bound to be a night of terrifying fun and a must-see for all seasoned horror fans.

Thought Bubble Comic Convention

Savies Hall
10.00am, 20th November
<http://www.thoughtbubblefestival.com/>

The main event in a four day celebration of all things sequential art related. This one day convention is dedicated to showcasing comic book artists and writers from around the world and will contain over 150 exhibitors selling related memorabilia. It is the largest UK event of its kind and also includes talks, workshops and master classes held by industry professionals, including this year's special guest John Romita Jr, creator of *Kick-Ass*.

International Short Film Competition

Hyde Park Picture House
9th-11th November

Catch some of the most acclaimed short films of the year at this three-part screening of the International Short Film Competition. Each screening includes a selection of short films from all corners of the globe, with the winning film announced at the final screening on the 11th. Especially look out for Palestinian film *Diploma* (screened on the 9th), *Six Dollar Fifty Man* from New Zealand (10th) and Korean film *A Perm* (11th).

Russian Lessons

Director: Andrei Nekrasov, Olga Konyskaya
Town Hall, 8.00pm, 7th November

This controversial documentary has already caused a stir among audiences at the Rotterdam and Sundance Festivals and is an exciting feature of the line-up of exceptional documentaries on offer at this year's festival. It is a compelling insight into the recent war between Russia and Georgia as told by ex BBC London reporter Andrei Nekrasov and his wife. Damning evidence of Russian violence is unearthed as the directors compare the official government reports adopted by the Western media with their own investigations from the front line.

World Animation Awards

Town Hall
9th and 11th November

One of the highlights of the film festival, a series of hand-picked animations covering all genres. Spread over two days, the competition will be taking place in the beautiful setting of Leeds Town Hall. Particular highlights include *The Boy Who Wanted to Be a Lion* and the Greek animation *The Happy Life*. The former tells the story of a reclusive little boy who retreats into his own world after a trip to the zoo, and the latter tells how a self-absorbed graphic designer draws himself into an animated prison.

words: Lena Hesselgrave

visit:
www.leedsfilm.com

For more information and to purchase tickets. Or pick up a free guide at any of the venues



Left to right: World Animation Award, Russian Lessons, Night of the Dead X: Mutant Girls Squad, Thought Bubble Kick-Ass, Night of the Dead X: The Silent House



A new ghost play is premiering in Leeds this month. Tom Needham's *The Wreckers* tells the tale of two couples and a baby who come to stay in a remote cottage by the sea. However, the cottage was built from the timber of a shipwreck and is haunted by a girl who drowned within it. The child has waited over a hundred years for revenge, and chooses the couples as her victims.

Needham teaches a scriptwriting module at The University of Leeds and *The Wreckers* is his first full length play. His television credits include several episodes of *Silent Witness* and the entire script of *Cold Blood* which was his own concept. He has also written 65 episodes of *The Bill*, more than anybody else in the history of the programme.

Tom did not initially intend to write a play. He was settled in writing for television and had experimented with different forms of writing in the past. When asked what inspired him to write *The Wreckers*, Needham replied: 'I was tricked by my wife. She had an idea and before I knew it she had booked a venue and a rehearsal space. I had to do it to save my marriage! My wife is actually one of the actors in the play and luckily we're still talking!'

Tom explained how his experience of playwriting has contrasted to screenwriting. He said: 'Writing for the stage is a very exciting, different skill and technique. Your

"Everyone has a million words of crap in them. The sooner you get rid of yours the better"

camera does a lot for you when writing for the screen. You can get away with murder and the writer is not very involved with the production. With a play, you have a lot more input and the actors have nowhere to hide. Ten million may watch a TV episode, but I don't know their reaction to it, whereas with a play you witness the effects of your work, you see the audience laugh and cry. The feedback is fantastic.'

The play will be performed in an intimate setting, creating tension and the feeling the audience are eavesdropping on the action. Needham believes the play will particularly appeal to students: 'There is a dilemma at the heart of the story. A girl of university age does not know whether to give her baby up to her parents in order to continue with her studies. It is a situation young people can relate to.'

Needham concluded with some useful advice for students with a passion for writing: 'Someone I knew in the business once said to me 'Everyone has a million words of crap in them. The sooner you get rid of yours the better. Write and write and don't stop. Writing takes years of practice. You begin to learn how things fit together so don't be scared. You learn more from getting rid of your crap!'

words: Emily Ansell

The Wreckers will be performed on Friday 5th November upstairs@thecarriageworks and at Ilkley Playhouse on Friday 12th November. Visit www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk or www.ilkyplayhouse.co.uk for tickets.

POETRY

Sticks and Stones Poetry Night Strawbs Bar - 25th October

Having not been in Leeds long, and desperate to satisfy my thirst for culture, I've been searching out some quiet little venues that might help. I had as yet to find a gem ... until last night.

Strawbs Bar is located on Woodhouse Lane just past the University of Leeds. Once a month it plays host to *Sticks and Stones Poetry Night* run by Adam Robinson and Andy Craven Griffiths, and has been running since 2004. It was created purely to entertain, encourage and promote the art of poetry, and it truly does.

Upon entering Strawbs, one immediately

feels at ease. This is extremely important because these types of events can often leave you feeling a little bit of an amateur in comparison. It was explained how there is no hierarchy, and that anyone and everyone is free to partake. From sonnets to performance poetry, all are completely welcome.

The compere soon starts up, relaxing everybody in with short bursts of self-deprecating comedy. The audience are 100% supportive of one another - if there was ever a place to throw caution to the wind and start your poetry career, then this place is a great way to start. The talent is mixed but there is a mood of equality, as it feels as though the focus is less on the talent and more about a sharing of ideas and of partaking in a fun evening.

words: Anna Richards

LOOKOUT POST

Force of One: Revival
Quamy Theatre
29th October

As part of Black History Month, Leeds own 'X Factor' will be showcasing some of the best dance, singing, poetry and drama talents that Leeds community's young people have to offer. Past competitors and winners will join new acts on stage showcasing the best young talent from schools and community centres across Yorkshire. Tickets for the night are priced at £8.

Thriller Dance Off
Armouries Square, Free
12-1:00pm, 30th October

As it says on the tin, a 'thriller' dance off in Armouries Square to start off the Halloween celebrations. Dancing will be led by dance guru Bazzmatazz, so put on your best costumes and head on down to get your ghoulish groove on!

Patrick Oliver
Vernon Street building, Leeds College of Art
25th October - 12th November

Once nicknamed the 'Teddy Boy of British Art', Patrick Oliver returns to his home town to showcase his unique talent as a painter. Oliver inspired many well known artists such as Damien Hirst and Marcus Harvey and his influence is still visible within art nowadays. Head down today to see Oliver's intense landscape paintings housed in the building he spent almost 29 years teaching in.

Poltergeist: Halloween Special
Hyde Park Picture House
11:00pm, 30th October

Start off your Halloween celebrations in true style by going to see the original poltergeist film dubbed as one of the most frightening films of the last 30 years! Watch Beatrice Straight communicate through her television to the 'other' world as you grip your seat in horror, not one for the faint hearted. Tickets available from £4.50.

Hayfever - Dugout Theatre Company
Stage@Leeds
3rd - 6th November
7.30pm (Saturday matinee at 2.30pm)

Dugout Theatre Company present Noel Coward's hilarious comedy. Set in a 1920s English country house, the play follows the four members of the Bliss family, who each invite a guest to stay for the weekend. Usual Coward farce ensues.

words: Holly Holder

Have the American TV makers Lost it?

Anna pintus wonders if there is really room for another sci-fi TV drama?

America is renowned for its mass production of what has become a generic television genre; a confusing mixture of science fiction, politics and 'the end of the world' drama which has captured the attention of the all too willing British public. The first major contender in this movement was *Lost*, which at the time was admittedly a semi-original idea; a group of people marooned on an island with little or no idea of how they got there. *Lost* was good for the first couple of seasons and then it just got a little bit over indulgent. When constructing an island based drama, the addition of a black smoke, a polar bear and other random supernatural forces would not be an obvious choice but to many this was a move of genius, grabbing the wavering

interest of the public. However, to others this just turned it into another farce of a show which was only saved by its final episode 6 seasons later.

More recently we were given *Flashforward*, another unrealistic dive into the unknown with a company who caused a blackout so monumental that it led to everybody seeing a glimpse of their immediate future. Heralded as the next *Lost*, *Flashforward* failed to reach the high expectations it was given and was cancelled before the second series could even begin.

It is any wonder then that when faced with the next American success attempt, *The Event* we are left sceptical. Jumping

back and forth between past, future and present this show combines plane crashes, aliens AND the White House. What more could you want? Losing his girlfriend on a romantic cruise Sean Walker is left mixed up in a conspiracy of unidentified objects, attempted presidential assassination and yet more corruption in the CIA, a nostalgic echo of 24 in days gone by. Don't expect great actors or dialogue but it is filled with drama and if you've got nothing better to do on a Friday night then give it a go. Personally I doubt it, but maybe American TV producers have got it right this time... well how long this one lasts will be the judge of that.

words: Anna Pintus



EASTENDERS: Alfie proposes to Kat over a guilty conscience due to snogging roxy...

CORONATION STREET: Kevin arranges a secret DNA test to discover the truth about baby Jack...

EMMERDALE: chas is on the rampage after discovering carl's affair...

HOLLYOAKS: Carmel demands thersa's newborn baby Angel in exchange for her silence...

NEIGHBOURS: steph gives away her baby to Dan...

HOME AND AWAY: Liam bids farewell to the bay...

words: Melissa Welliver

Pick of the Week

What we think you should be tuning into this week.

The Event - 9pm on Friday 29th October - Channel 4

We're Event crazy this week at the Leeds Student, and it's easy to see why. With *Lost* lost to us and the clock running down on 24, people are looking for the Next Big Thing. Well, this certainly has the title, and after the pilot episodes I'm hooked. A mixture of realistic extra terrestrials (i.e. not green or wanting to call home a lot) with a brilliant script makes *The Event* the show to watch this autumn. With a cast you may recognise (with some certain ER members! Horrrah!) this new epic serial will have you captivated from the first minute. A superb special effects budget makes the Caribbean, plane crashes, wormholes and surgical procedures jump even off the tiniest student TV

TV PICK



FILM PICK

screen, and the storyline is reasonable—a government conspiracy theory to cover up the crash landing of a UFO in Alaska (those Aliens always aim for the US, don't they!), whereby the extra terrestrials end up looking more human than seems possible. Use of such a simple main plot that is then peppered with complicated sub plots and clashing of emotion sets. *The Event* up to be our new TV obsession. I'm just waiting on the smoke monster and polar bear.

words: Melissa Welliver

Babe: Pig in the City - 1:40pm on Saturday 30 October-ITV1

Unfortunately it is fairly slim pickings on the film front this week. *Babe: Pig in the City* on Saturday afternoon, is one of the only half decent films on terrestrial TV. It tells the story of Babe, who we all know and love from the original light-hearted film, going to the city to earn money after his beloved Farmer Hoggett is injured, and can no longer work. This sequel, like many others, is nothing compared to the first. The action is far too fast paced to properly follow, with Babe finding himself in almost

constant danger. It is also much darker than the first; in one scene a dog almost drowns while hanging from a bridge. Potentially not the best viewing for hard-core animal lovers! However, the visual effects are still wonderful, with the animals being brought to life in the same realistic way as the first film. Still worth a watch though, after all you will never find a cuter pig than Babe!

words: Sarah Grindall



Channel Clash

Where do your loyalties lie?

Ladies and Gents it's time to place your bets! By now the favourites have been chosen by the viewers, as well as Ladbrookes, and the odds are looking bleak for Belle Amie. Despite avoiding the sing-off this week they are the least favourite to win, the odds are 81:1. While the only other group left in the competition, One Direction (the prepubescent Bieberesque boy band), are soaring high with odds of 15:4! The hot shot to win is Matt Cardle, with odds of 5:2. Not much of a surprise considering his vulnerable sex appeal and diverse talent, which meant he was capable of pulling off a Britney cover. Ladbrookes aside, my money (if I had any) would be put straight on Rebecca Ferguson. She oozes glamour and class from every pore and, thanks to Cheryl, her song choices are bang on it every week, odds of 9:2 mean you are bound to make a profit. So, dig out a quid and get yourself down the bookies!

words: Kat Park

The competition is really starting to hot up now and clear favourites are starting to emerge for this year's winner of Strictly Come Dancing.

At the beginning of the competition, before the first dances were performed, Gavin Henson and Michelle Williams were tipped as the one's to watch. In actual fact, now only in week four, things couldn't be more different, with Michelle finding herself in the bottom two and Gavin languishing in the bottom half of the table unable to deliver the 'character' that the judges desire of him.

The judge's leader board at the end of this week reflected the bookies odds perfectly. Former Blue Peter presenter, Matt Baker ended up joint top, along with Eastender, Scott Maslen who this week was credited with the honour of 'best dance so far' by Head Judge, Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli. However, the top lads have competition from the girls as actress Kara Tointon and Pamela Stephenson are hot on their heels. Keep watching to find out who pulls ahead of the pack.

words: Sarah Harding

Interview

LS2 talks to author, publisher and illustrator Chris Wade about his surreal new novel and working with Rik Mayall.

CUTEY AND THE SOFAGUARD

WRITTEN BY CHRIS WADE
READ BY RIK MAYALL

Chris Wade is anything but ordinary. At 25 years old he is the editor of *House of Dread Magazine* and owner of his own publishing company, Wisdom Twins Books, not to mention also the author and illustrator of "surreal, anarchic and twisted" novel, *Cutey and the Sofaguard*. Oh, and Rik Mayall (*Drop Dead Fred*, *The Young Ones*) recorded his audiobook, not bad for a self-made man from Leeds. Vicki Mortimer and Sarah Plant from LS2 chatted to Chris about how he has achieved so much so young, and gained some much needed insight into the strange world of *Cutey and the Sofaguard*.

Chris is an archetypal success story, growing up with a love of writing but a distaste for traditional publishing houses. His non-conformist attitude and penchant for the alternative led to his creation of the Wisdom Twins (and other equally wacky characters) and his eventual pairing with Rik Mayall. Starting out with non-fiction writing, Chris took a leap of faith into the surreal, creating a novel reminiscent of Roald Dahl's books, with a darker

edge influenced by comics such as Mayall. A literary Dal, Chris loves to shock, creating characters like 'The Sniffer' who are "really awful". His exaggerated characters take features from people we all love to hate, from rude customers in shops to gyrating pervs in clubs, and life's monotonous daily events are brought to life in a kaleidoscopic way, making the ordinary transcend the boundaries of the quotidian into the dreamlike (or nightmare-like).

Putting humour into serious issues wasn't always Chris' intention yet scenes of horrific yet comical bullying make readers cringe and cease with laughter simultaneously. "Looking at things that happen every day but putting a funny slant on them" as he puts it, Chris doesn't shy away from the darker aspects of life but instead tackles them head on; rather than brushing them under the carpet, he attempts to shine a light into the darker aspects of life.

Chris' admiration of Mayall is clear, and it is this working partnership that gives the novel its voice. While Chris says that 'Rik brought life to the novel, because he enjoyed it so much', it is obvious that this respect is mutual; he goes on to say that it was reading Mayall's autobiography *Bigger Than Hitler, Better Than Christ*

that inspired him to record the audio book in the first place. Mayall also says he forged a bond with Chris' characters, particularly the Wisdom Twins who reminded him of his pompous Young Ones character, albeit a middle-aged version.

You could say Chris sees himself as an artist; he tells us that "An artist gets free reign over a painting but if a writer went to a publisher, he wouldn't necessarily have free reign over his work", and it was this attitude that prompted him to "go it alone". He even recommends the self-publishing path to those who see their work as their "baby", something they can nurture and develop without outside interference. Although it's a risky path, Chris offers advice - without wanting to "sound like a pretentious ass" (he couldn't if he tried) - to aspiring writers: "Make sure it's fun, but stick at it, eventually it will happen, if you have the drive to make it happen!" These

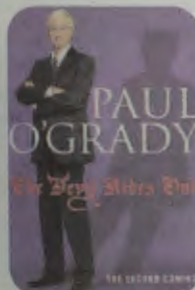
words of wisdom speak for themselves in Chris' case. Taking a risk and doing things your own way is refreshing, enlightening and extremely rewarding in today's corporate society.

Chris Wade's new novel *Cutey and the Sofaguard* is out next year.

words: Sarah Plant and Vicki Mortimer

Review

The Devil Rides Out, Paul O'Grady.



When turning the first page of *The Devil Rides Out* I assumed that I would be met with an autobiography that would have me laughing from ear to toe. Yet the Paul revealed in this book is a far cry from the wannabe glamour queen that he is best known as.

Paul O'Grady, aka Lily Savage, is something of a gay icon in British culture but over the years he has evolved from highly-respected drag act to day-time TV host.

Paul's life is not the usual tale of working-class hero turned showbiz glitterati. His struggle to find work that would

not only pay the rent but also pay for copious nights out at Sadie's as well as support his daughter Sharon through child maintenance payments, saw him donning numerous career caps. Paul's CV reads like an A to Z of jobs, from the abattoir in Birkenhead, to a

children's care home in West Kirby, and finally London where he nursed the elderly on their death beds and was repeatedly attacked whilst working as a penpatiser. You get the feeling throughout the book that Paul had never really found his niche, and as the audience we find ourselves willing him on, desperate for the chapter that will reveal the moment he first graced the stage as Lily. However, as we learn, Lily couldn't have existed without the raw and gritty nature of Paul's youth.

We see O'Grady's usual cool exterior crack as a 12-year-old boy named Stephen who suffers from muscular dystrophy passes away whilst in his care at the children's Convalescent Home. This is what sets O'Grady apart, he never stops being sensitive to the needs of the people in his care. He often finds himself in unpleasant situations where he could either stand and fight or run away. He chooses to fight. His writing lets us step inside and we begin to see a new side to the man behind Lily Savage, a man who never fails to surprise.

From the fabulous Harlequines Phil and Alistair to con artists who claim to be Lords, as well as high class hookers and the infamous Myra Hindley, O'Grady has rubbed shoulders with fame and yet he is earnest and frank in the retelling of his life. We see him shamelessly pick cigarette ends out of an ash tray when desperate for a nicotine high, to escorting high class hookers around London.

O'Grady never shies away from the dark and seedy shades of his past, and most of his life seems to have been lived out in the grey areas.

O'Grady's development of drag queen is a slow realization. We see him toying with the idea of treading the boards but never taking it too seriously until one day he realises it's not acting, it's just the beauty of performing. One gets the feeling that his transformation was inevitable, Lily was like no drag act that had come before and was originally introduced as 'Larry Sausage'. She set herself apart from other drag acts by being less glamour puss and more gutter rat. A street whore with more compassion and integrity than we could ever wish upon ourselves.

The likeability factor of O'Grady means that judgement is placed on the back burner as he paints a graphic picture of life in Britain for the underclass and the raw reality that he was confronted with on a daily basis. This a different kind of celebrity autobiography, delving into darkness without self-pity or arrogance. O'Grady really lets his readers in and this honesty makes for a fantastic read about a quite fantastic man.

words: Anna Richards

Student fiction Mittens, Anonymous.

Sleepless nights and endless planning, the nerves were beginning to get to him. He had been stalking a Robin at the time. Instinct abate, there he was, crouched, poised, his prey locked in. A tense minute passed, or maybe it was ten. Three, legs taught, two, jaws wide, one, claws out...

It had been an anti-climax of course; a bee had flown passed and caught him off guard. Swipe! Smack! Buzz! Thwack!

Swatting wildly at the unsuspecting bee, Mittens couldn't help but think back to his childhood. A rising young star, he had spent most of his time practicing his forehand at the local tennis club. Those really were the golden years, cats and dogs bound in union by nothing more than a mutual love of tennis magical social harmony. Sadly those times had long since passed, and the cats were no longer allowed to be members. Mittens bitterly missed playing tennis, and hated the dogs for taking it from him.

It was as he took his last wild swoop for the bee that he was struck by a moment of unprecedented clarity. Enough was enough! He loved playing tennis, and furthermore, he was going to do something about it!

Disguising himself as a Yorkshire terrier, he would re-join the tennis club under the name Hans Lardon. He would work his way up the league tables, starting the bottom of course, and slowly ingratiate himself with members ripe with social power. Then, after getting appointed to the management committee as

area club rep, he would focus his attentions on building support for the reinstatement of feline membership. He would conclude his plan by winning the summer competition and revealing his true identity to a standing ovation.

Three months had past since his moment of brilliance, and everything was finally in place. Tomorrow was the day that he'd walk past the overweight bulldog that guarded the entrance, and beyond to the deliciously forbidden turf of the tennis club.

Items required for terrier disguise: glasses, fake moustache, hair-bow, chewy toy, ear extensions, tennis bag, slippers, personalised heart-shaped dog tag, half chewed bone, copy of Bark Monthly magazine, ceaseless wit, a healthy dose of misplaced confidence. He was ready.

Mittens woke early, applied his disguise, and ensured himself a hearty breakfast before making his way to the cat flap. Sleepless nights and endless planning, the nerves were beginning to get to him. In here he was still just Mittens the cat, but when he emerged beyond the flap he would be Hans Lardon, Yorkshire terrier.

It was as he left his garden that the misplaced confidence began to take a hold. As if by instinct, Mittens, or rather Hans, all of a sudden found himself overly concerned with smelling lampposts and unnnating on letterboxes. As a matter of fact, he was so preoccupied with these new found activities, that it wasn't

until he was within sniffing distance of the club that he realised he'd made a terrible mistake. Hans Larson had forgotten his tennis racket.

Misplaced confidence morphed seamlessly into blind, arm-flailing panic. What was he going to do? After a long awkward sniff of a pedestrian's leg, he was comforted by the realisation that all was not lost — it was time for some ceaseless wit. He'd simply go up to the overweight bulldog and calmly explain that he was having it restrung. All he'd have to do then is crack a gentle joke, to which the bulldog would laugh, open the door, and walk into the club as if nothing had happened. Easy!

With a gentle swag, Hans Lardon made his approach. Before he could start his charm offensive, and without any warning, the bulldog mauled Mittens to death and displaying the vital organs on the wall above the entrance.

illustration: Vicky White



Sometime next week the first posts should start appearing on the Leeds Student Games blog. The Tech writers will be sharing their lists of favourite games, so why not have a look and leave a comment expressing your outrage at the omission of *Manshoot 4: Extra Brown Edition*. As always, email tech@leedsstudent.org if you want to contribute.

The big news this week is the release of Microsoft's new mobile OS, Windows Phone 7. Early reviews seem to be mostly positive, with a lot of praise for the look and feel of the system, particularly the touchscreen keyboard. However, many of the reviews give the impression that WP7 feels slightly unfinished, with significant features like

copy & paste and full multitasking currently absent. Definitely worth keeping an eye on, particularly if, like me, you'd rather stick a fork in your eye than hand over any of your hard-loaned cash to Apple.

words: Mark Sellick

Game: Instant Jam www.instantjam.com

Since I came across it last week *Instant Jam* has been a frequent procrastination. This free to play *Guitar Hero* clone uses your music for the levels. It doesn't generate the levels but instead matches your music to an online database of stored songs if you have a song that they have created a level for then it appears in the 'My Music' list.

After completing a song you are awarded fans (read: XP points). With enough fans you level up. It's a simple device but it does foster a slightly addictive quality. It's a great game and it certainly helps that it's free.

The makers have a few methods to try and get money out of you. You're limited to three 'plays' at a time. Each time you play a

song it uses up one 'play'. This stock replenishes every 30 minutes or whenever you level up. You can of course skip this wait by buying 'plays' from the shop. Also on sale are custom fretboards and picks (completely superficial but if you want to throw money away be my guest).

The game is currently in its beta stage so there are a few hiccups. I have a large music library, 80Gb or so, and the game currently detects only 200 playable songs. Though by searching the games database I've found lots of songs that I own and they haven't added to my library. Not too frustrating as you can add to your list after browsing for the song on your hard drive. More frustrating is the occasional screen stutter that can completely throw your rhythm.

Don't let these minor problems put you off trying it as they'll probably be smoothed out in the coming months.

(which isn't great for image conversion). Also I found recently that the older versions of Photoshop aren't able to handle the newer Nikon camera's RAW format. So if you invested in a D90 it is worth downloading a copy of Stepok.

words: Jules Benson

Site: Wolfram | Alpha www.wolframalpha.com

Launched to some fanfare in May of last year, Wolfram|Alpha didn't quite live up to its revolutionary promise, but it's still an incredibly useful tool. An 'answer engine' rather than a Google-style search engine, the idea is simply that you type in your question and receive the answer, rather than links to pages that might contain the answer.

Based on the powerful Mathematica software, it's extremely useful for maths, science and engineering students, but has uses in practically all academic subjects, as well as everyday life. For example, it can tell you how healthy your breakfast was (type 'calories in 1 bowl of corn flakes + a glass of OJ') or solve a crossword puzzle (typing in '1_1p' would give you all six words fitting that pattern).

Unfortunately, although it probably contains the data to answer almost any question you can think of, you sometimes have to try a few different ways of phrasing the question before it will realise what you want. There are plenty of examples on the site though, so a quick look through should familiarise you with what it can do, and how to make it work for you.

It's also available as an app for iPhones/iPads and for Android; very helpful if you need to solve a differential equation on the go.

words: Mark Sellick



Software: Stepok's RAW Importer <http://tinyurl.com/3xvlekc>

I first discovered Stepok's RAW Importer out of necessity. I had transferred around a thousand photos onto my hard drive and the only way to view them was to open them in Photoshop. Opening photos one at a time to find out they are duplicates of the previous photo except for a slightly altered focus is frustrating to say the least. Stepok batch converts photos from RAW format to either JPEG or TIFF. It does it mighty fast too.

It's extremely easy to use. Boot it up, drag the photos you want converting into the conversion box, hit convert and go make yourself a cuppa. As well as its batch conversion function it can do simple alterations to single photos. This can be useful to do at conversion so as to leave the RAW file unchanged.

Stepok is a great tool to be used in conjunction with Gimp

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KNOWLEDGE
Remember: the clocks go back on Saturday 30th October
Don't forget that it will be getting darker earlier so make sure you and your property stay safe and secure. For safety advice and information, check the website.
www.knowledge-leeds.co.uk

Flop Culture

Olivia Lazenby

Studying: English
Language and Literature
Favourite Place: Under
the duvet
Guilty Pleasure: Passing
for a child on the bus



Last night, in an attempt to veer conversation away from the terrifying reality that in less than a year we will be pushed kicking and screaming into the real world, I began to ask my boyfriend interesting but largely pointless questions, such as: "if you could pick two men in the world to be your granddad, who would they be?"

Thus followed a highly charged debate about whether Gandalf or Dumbledore would be more likely to read a good bedtime story, or whether Michael Palin or David Attenborough would be willing to take you along on an adventure to the Amazon rainforest.

This popular new topic of conversation continued, and the questions began to get more challenging, "if you could take three sports personalities for a pint, who would they be?" This caused my boyfriend to argue with himself for about five minutes over two football players I've never heard of. It was only after the mention of numerous TV personalities and recent celebrities, actors, singers, whatever, that we both realised something: I am completely ignorant when it comes to pop culture.

Most of the names he was reeling off I had either never heard of, or knew the name but didn't know where from, why or how. He started quizzing me, asking such questions as "who was the Fonz?", "what is Michael Buble famous for?" His incredulous expression as I sat in silence made me ponder the reason for my lack of knowledge in this area.

Perhaps I should know more about the lifestyles of the rich and the famous. They are, after all, splashed across dozens of celebrity magazines on a weekly basis, and shovled down our throats on television, in the news and on the radio. But in all honesty I just don't find it interesting enough to pay attention.

So I know nothing about recent celebrity gossip - does that matter? Is my life any less fulfilled because I had no idea that Christina Aguilera was getting divorced? Is that what people deem valuable knowledge in today's media obsessed society? I could tell you many interesting things I've learnt from watching Animal Planet instead, such as the mating rituals of an emperor penguin. I even know how many plays Shakespeare wrote (37) and even that he had three children (two girls and a boy).

However, this knowledge, it would seem, isn't interesting enough for many people, nor, it would appear, useful in answering the question "if you had to live the life of one celebrity for a day, which would you choose?" Actually, it would seem that the only place my general knowledge is valued is when playing on a Pub Quiz Machine. But if you must know, I'd choose Joanna Lumley, hands down.

The perils of facebook

Jonathan Johns

Studying: French and
Italian
Favourite Food: Honey
Best Night Out:
FunkSoulNation



Rushing to get that essay/presentation/project printed during the last 5 minutes of the entire morning that you had free before the deadline, you reach the computer cluster on the 11th floor of the Edward Boyle Library only to find the door blocked by the queue of people waiting for a free computer.

Has everyone else been a bit casual too? Are great minds thinking alike? With the tenacity of a TigerTiger denizen, you squeeze through the bodies in search of your prey, not a paralytic desperado/a, something of greater intelligence, a logged-out computer.

This is where our allegory comes unstuck, for unlike the romantic souls that frequent TigerTiger, a vacant computer is a very rare animal. So there must be a shortage of computers then, if there aren't enough for the number of students who want to work on them? Surely that can't be right?

A glance around brings to mind that fundamental element to your piece of unfinished work, currently lying safe in inaccessibility on your portable hard-drive/ in your inbox, that of defining your terms. Just how many of these computer clusters are actually working? A good 40% are hard at work - writing extended essays, critically analysing images and seeing to important correspondence... on Facebook.

I shamefully own a Facebook account but absolutely hate the way an alarming amount of people seem to invest more importance in their accounts than their real life.

But this is not a rant about Facebook. The true object of this piece is the use of Facebook on the library computers whilst an increasingly aggravated/agitated crowd of would-be legitimate computer users waits on.

Yes, maybe if we cared so much about our work we should have managed our time better and got the work printed earlier at home. Or we could even have gone to a printer's down town on Saturday morning but unfortunately we have a life outside of the internet.

So the next time that you're in the computer cluster on the 11th floor of Edward Boyle wasting your, and my, real time, in the unreal pursuit of stalking that one-in-a-million TigerTiger stereotype you pulled on Tuesday night, or commenting on that really mental drunken photo that you don't even remember your mate taking, please leave.

There are people around who need that computer more than you. You'd probably be better off spending your time more productively, sat in the toilets, counting the steps on the Parkinson building, or even, dare I say it, working.

And to you, who empathises with this problem of computer clusterers, it is really beyond the realm of social etiquette to ask them to flick through the pages of Facebook at home?

That's the spirit!

Jasper Roskilly

Studying: German and
International Relations
Best Album: Black Holes
and Revelations
Favourite Film: The
Motorcycle Diaries



Get your decorations, pumpkins and costumes at the ready - that time of the year has come round again! On the 31st of October, children and students across the country will be transforming into witches, vampires, chavs and demons as they go out to celebrate Halloween.

When you were 8, you were probably going around door-to-door Trick or Treating. Today, you may be doing the same, or you're probably one of the many people who will be converging on clubs and parties across Leeds to celebrate an event that was originally created to ward people away from evil spirits, such as that vile stuff we know as Sambuca.

It's amazing how people will go whole hog to make a really great Halloween costume; at one particular knees-up last year, there were those who were kitted out in full vampire attire, a whole host of ghouls and zombies, and, to top it off, someone who dressed up as a frighteningly convincing Lady Gaga. There was even someone there who we think was supposed to be a ghost, though he just ended up looking more like an oversized tampon. On the other hand was a pathetic excuse for a monster, though the bulging wart on the forehead of my mask did freak a few people out, so I guess my costume wasn't a total failure.

Last year, we were lucky; Halloween fell on a Saturday, so we didn't have to worry about how bad the hangover would be the following morning, though you lucky devils will be having it on a Sunday this year and will no doubt pass a resplendent Monday morning nursing the previous night's remnants over a series of seminars and lectures, still wearing some of the smudged facepaint that no class of chemical could erase.

I may come to struggle in a German language lecture the morning after, as I'll be struggling to converse in any language at all except for that which resembles zombie-like groans and moans, something that would probably have been more appropriate the night before.

This makes one wonder somewhat, can we deem turning up to lectures still steaming as a witch's cauldron a scenario unique to Halloween? It doesn't sound so far removed from regular Uni life to me. Surely said eve is just a less subtle manifestation of our prerogative as students: to party.

So unless your name is Shaggy and you won't go anywhere that has the words "scary," "haunted" or "forbidden" in its title, Halloween surely won't disappoint. With that familiar foreboding atmosphere looming over the weekend and parties going off left, right and centre, here's hoping it will be a good Halloween and may ye not fall foul of the accursed evil spirits! Particularly, the one that causes ye to lurch and wretch during 9am lecture...

Mini Observations



"If the first sign of madness is having hair on the back of your hands, the second must surely be shunning the one o'clock news for Loose Women. Not that I do that..."

Aaron Benson



"Since when did student life become about sharing a house with rodents?"

Hannah Thomas



"I've always been a wee bit clueless. But having spent 15 minutes watching John McCririck, now I'm totally lost."

Dawn Hayes



"I'm a pensive sort of chap, granted. I ponder over life's big questions. But Plato at nine on a Monday morning? I've started questioning my own sanity!"

Ed Burton

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It's great living at Carr Mills, it's not too far from campus – about a 15 minute brisk walk – and it's also easy to get to the city and to Huddersfield by foot or on the bus. I've also discovered that the local bus goes straight in on rail of town Saltaire, which is really handy for the weekly shopping. My room at Carr Mills is a good size and it's clean, warm and comfortable, with its own en-suite. Most of the flats are 6 owners with a communal kitchen, which is well equipped, so you can cook proper meals, if you want. So you get the best of both worlds – a quiet, private space when you want it, but also the option of being with other people. This was my first time away from home, so I wanted to be independent, but I also wanted to be safe and so I like the fact that Carr Mills is secure and very accessible by residents. I've really enjoyed living here and if you want to feel that you are experiencing Leeds as a city as well as a university, then it's ideal.

To contact us call the office on: 0113 262 0662
www.carrmillsleeds.co.uk



Carr Mills

Dementia research given a £244k boost

Kate Marriott

Scientists at the University have been awarded £244k from the Alzheimer's Research Trust, which is the leading dementia research charity in the UK.

According to the trust, there is a new case of dementia every seven seconds, with an estimated 35 million people currently living with dementia worldwide. In the UK there are 820,000 recorded cases, and 7,500 of these are in Leeds alone. One researcher in the Universities team, Dr Heledd Griffiths (pictured), has personal experience with the disease after her father, Gwilym, was diagnosed in 1998. Dr Griffiths said: "For the family as a whole, it was very difficult to come to terms with, especially

knowing there was no cure and my father was going to get progressively worse."

"Working in the field allowed me to understand the processes involved in the development of the disease that burdened my father and continues to affect so many others, and it has also given me an unique opportunity to be part of a team of researchers working together to find a cure."

The grant of £244,926 allows the team to investigate the relationships between two proteins; amyloid, which has long been associated with Alzheimer's and is thought to damage cells by building up in the brain, and prion. Recent research has suggested that amyloid binds to prion before it causes its damage, and the Leeds team aim to understand how and why this

happens. Hopes are that the project will lead to new anti-dementia drugs being produced. The University has a reputation for being one of the UK's largest medical, health and bioscience research bases. Treatments and

initiatives developed in Leeds have been used worldwide to help people living with conditions such as diabetes, HIV and malaria.

The project will be led by Professors Nigel Hooper and Chris Peers.



Professor Hooper said: "Ultimately, we hope this study will tell us more about possible drug targets, taking us a step closer to finding a way to stop the disease in its tracks."

Hope for heart bypass patients found in scorpion sting

Ruby Hawes and Louisa Pettinger

Scientists at the University of Leeds have reported that a toxin found in the venom of the Central American bark scorpion may help reduce heart bypass failures.

Of the thousands of different scorpion species in the world, only 25 possess venom capable of killing a human. The Central American bark scorpion (*Centruroides margaritatus*) is not deadly but produces a painful sting that causes swelling and tingling. One toxin contained in the venom of this scorpion is margatoxin. Data from the recent study, published in

Cardiovascular Research, show that margatoxin can suppress the immune response that occurs following heart bypass surgery.

Principal investigator, Professor David Beech, from the University's Faculty of Biological Sciences said "It's staggeringly potent. We're talking about needing very few molecules in order to obtain an effect."

Coronary artery bypass surgery relieves heart conditions such as angina and coronary artery disease. These life threatening diseases occur when the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle become narrowed. In surgery, arteries from elsewhere in the body are grafted to

the heart, 'bypassing' the blockage. The saphenous vein, found in the leg, is often used; this study, where clinicians and scientists have joined forces, utilised surplus saphenous vein tissue from consenting patients undergoing bypass surgery.

Professor Beech explains that the toxin is unlikely to be developed as a drug that is swallowed, inhaled or injected, but potentially could be applied directly to the vein during surgery.

The research was funded by the British Heart Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council.



Eureka!!

Electricity, we use it every single day, but have you ever wondered how it works and where it came from?

Sarah Griffiths

The first discovery of electricity was in 600BC, where static electricity was discovered by Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus. In the 1600s, English Scientist William Gilbert was the first person to use the term "electricity", though he believed it was caused by a moving fluid called "humor".

But the real development of electricity started in 1752, when Benjamin Franklin found there were two types of charge, then, in 1800 Alessandro Volta made the first battery. In 1821, Michael Faraday developed the first electric motor and in 1831, the first electric generator. Georg Ohm developed the idea of resistance in 1827, after realising some materials conducted electricity



better than others and James Joule proved that electricity was a form of energy in 1840.

In 1831, the first experimental electrical power plant opened in Godalming, England. Thomas Edison followed by building the first large-scale electric power plant in the USA in 1882. In the 1890s, Edison's former employee Nikola Tesla promoted alternating current (AC) electricity, a rival to the direct current (DC) system promoted by Edison. Tesla's AC system ultimately triumphed, but Edison is still remembered as the pioneer of electric power.

Electricity covers a wide variety of phenomena that result from the presence and flow of electric charge causing such things as lightning, static electricity and electromagnetic induction.

Electricity is caused by electrical charge, the physical property of matter which is an electrostatic force caused by being close to other electrically charged matter. There are two types of charge, positive and negative, which attract each other and repel when close to the same type of charge, similar to a magnet.

Sexist snapdragon genes uncovered

Catherine Scott

Research from The Faculty of Biological Sciences at the University of Leeds has pinpointed the crucial difference between two genes that leads to differing roles in plant reproduction; a perfect example of evolution in progress.

Flowering plants contain both male and female reproductive organs. Within the flower, different classes of genes can encode proteins, known as transcription factors, with particular functions. These proteins then bind to DNA, and control the genetic information. It is the presence, or absence of these proteins at specific locations within the flower that regulates the development of sexual organs.

A case of particular interest to plant scientists is the differing roles these proteins play in rock cress (*Arabidopsis*) and snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*) flowers, believed to share a common ancestor. Around 120

million years ago, gene duplication occurred resulting in pairs of transcription factors, initially with the same function. In order to explore the functionality of these genes, scientists can move them to a different location within the organism, a process known as ectopic expression, and observe its subsequent development. In rock cress, one gene still controls male and female sexual organ development whilst the other has taken on a new role involving the shattering of seed pods. In snapdragons, both genes continue to be involved in the development of sexual organs, however whilst one gene can still initiate growth of both male and female sexual organs, a genetic mutation occurring around

100 million years ago means that the other can only produce male organs. If snapdragons were to split the role of generating male and female organs between two genes, this would be a significant evolutionary step: 'more genes with different roles gives an organism added complexity and opens the door to diversification and the creation of new species', said lead researcher Professor Brendan Davies.



Need more ?

All the science and society articles are now available online, and in more detail, at <http://www.leedsstudent.org/category/1-1-news/science-and-society>. Why not visit us there and add your comments to any of the stories?

A bus-ted system

With the threatened closure of Burley Park and Headingley stations, uproar has been created amongst students who rely on the cheap train services for transport in and around the city. The price and regularity of the buses has been questioned by many, leading us to ask, how useful is public transport?



Living in the third largest city in the country, it is not surprising that not everybody wants to walk everywhere.

The high price of car ownership, with the associated costs of petrol and insurance, leave public transport as the primary mode of travel to get into and around Leeds.

However questions have been raised over both the price and practicality of the public transport system for the student population in Leeds. The threatened closure of Burley Park and Headingley stations has created uproar due to the fact that they are located in the heart of one of Leeds' major student housing areas.

The stations deliver a valuable service to the student body by providing the cheapest routes to the centre, proving highly popular both for students seeking nights out in Leeds or direct transport home. It begs the question, do the public transport services take into account the 60,000 strong student population of the city?

Headingley resident and Leeds University student Becca Iredale told *Leeds Student*: "Burley Park and Headingley [stations] serve the whole area. They're great for getting into the centre for a night out but I think another benefit is that when I come to Leeds from home, I don't have to drag my luggage across town or pay for an expensive taxi."

Leeds University's annual travel survey last year reported that only 12% of students who responded used the bus as their main mode of transport, 4% lower than the previous year, train usage was at 6%. The most common way of getting around by far was walking with 66% of respondents saying their main way of getting around was to walk.

With its regular service and

numerous routes, the bus service in Leeds is the only practical method of public transportation for students travelling all around the city. The bus service in Leeds is predominantly run by the biggest operator in the region, FirstGroup, who claim that both their routes and their fares provide great value for money.

But there have been growing complaints from both the student body and the wider community that this is far from the case. Following the decision by FirstGroup to raise bus fares in August an online petition campaigning for 'fairer fares' has been gradually gaining momentum, with signatories now including Leeds West MP Rachel Reeves and Leeds councillors Ben Chastney, James Monaghan and John Illingworth.

With trips over four stops now costing a minimum of £1.90 and a day pass now costing £4.30. There is a feeling that the bus is not a regular viable travel option for those on a tight budget, a sentiment further compounded when fares are compared with buses in other student cities.

"The bus is not a regular viable travel option for those on a tight budget."

In nearby Sheffield bus operator FirstGroup competes with Stagecoach and this competition has seen fares on major student routes drop to 50p from both operators. Similarly, Manchester students have the option to buy 'Unirider' tickets from their

main bus operator, Stagecoach. These tickets allow free travel on all stagecoach buses during the academic year for the price of £175.

The equivalent pass offered by FirstGroup Leeds costs £312, a difference of £137. Even in student cities renowned for their high prices, fares often fall short of those charged in Leeds, day passes in Brighton for example are £3.60, 70p cheaper than the Leeds equivalent.

Many believe that despite the high price the service offered is poor, a complaint highlighted by the situation of first year students living in university accommodation outside the city centre. With walking times of over an hour from halls such as Bodington, most student residents feel like they have little choice but to opt for the £312 academic year pass.

Despite paying this sizeable fee students frequently reported that lectures were missed due to poor service, with buses being too full to board, taking in excess of over 30 minutes to reach the university and often being late.

"The bod bus (route 95) was a nightmare, especially for 9am lectures" Victoria Birkett told *Leeds Student*. "There would often be too many people on the bus, so you couldn't get on and you'd have to wait for the next one, and then bus itself would take ages at rush hour. You'd often end up being so late to your lecture that there was no point going in the first place."

Despite operating at high profit margins, bus operators like FirstGroup are still given subsidies by Metro, the local government transport authority, to provide late night, early morning and Sunday buses as private companies would otherwise not run such low-profit

services.

Aside from the prospect of further price rises, the reduction in late night and early-morning services will result in students seeking a night out in Leeds will have to carefully plan their transport home to avoid being stranded in the centre.

Are things set to change? With the current government cutting local council budgets by 28% the situation is only set to deteriorate. Leeds North West MP Greg Mulholland has personally addressed the issue of the threatened closure of Headingley and Burley Park stations, contacting National Rail directly seeking assurances that the two stations will not close.

Speaking about the closures Mr Mulholland said: "Both Headingley and Burley Park Stations serve a population that relies on their use, encouraging many to use public transport. These stations and the train services are vital to my constituents."

National Rail has fervently denied the rumours, a spokeswoman for Northern said: "Far from looking to reduce service levels, we want to enhance the timetable. The proposals and infrastructure work required to achieve this are subject to the government's spending review and we will be keeping our passengers updated of progress."

Specific plans for the station remain unknown; however government cuts are not thought to affect the trials and possible implementation of continental style tram-trains in Yorkshire.

Tram-trains are light rail public transport systems and are designed to run on both urban tramways and existing railways to provide greater flexibility and convenience. If

successful, a three year trial due to begin this year in Sheffield could see the system implemented in Leeds and other cities across the North, potentially relieving heavy congestion and offering efficient transport into city centres.

A spokesman for Metro said: "We have led the calls to bring tram trains to the UK and think tram-trains could provide an effective link between the Harrogate rail lines into the very heart of Leeds. This Sheffield trial will now evaluate exactly that transfer, from running on the traditional train network to an on-street, tram-style operation."

If such a system were implemented in Leeds it could dramatically change the transport environment, challenging the effective monopoly of FirstGroup for inner-city public transport. Proponents of the tram-trains argue this competition will provide students and residents alike with greater transport options and cheaper fares.

Currently, the form of transport most used by students is the taxi, with companies such as Amber Cabs having established strong links with the university. Safety is amongst many people's concerns. Moving to Leeds from smaller communities, many students feel unsafe walking home after dark or in more unknown areas of the city, in which case many people choose to take cabs.

However, even Amber, who pride themselves on their low costs, are being threatened with a price hike with many drivers striking over the desire to add an extra £1.80 to the cost of a ride into the city centre, illustrating the competitive nature of getting around.

Can campus life cause extremism?

The Islamic research group Quilliam Foundation published a study this month into radicalism on British campuses. It implied certain aspects of religious societies at university can lead individuals to extreme political action. *LS* investigates whether its findings apply to Leeds Uni.

Last December a former student of UCL tried to blow up a plane bound for Detroit carrying 290 people by using explosives hidden in his underwear. He had been President of the Islamic Society whilst studying at UCL, which caused many to question whether university life can be a breeding ground for extremism. Quilliam, Britain's first counter-extremism 'think tank', says it can.

The organization, which aims to counteract Islamic extremism whilst developing a Muslim identity at home in, and with, the West, conducted a study into UCL's neighbouring City University. It wanted to highlight how a mainstream academic institution in the UK could become a catalyst for 'extremist, intolerant and potentially violent forms of the political ideology of Islamism'.

The study, entitled 'Radicalisation on British University Campuses', picked City University for its investigation into how Islamic extremism can enter university life after the University's ISoc president was accused of advocating the murder of homosexuals and non-practicing Muslims.

The report's findings suggested religious societies on Britain's campuses can be taken over by extremists and used to promote a violent religious ideology.

The evidence, supplied through interview and observation at City University, expressed how easily a 'small group of extremist students can take over a university Islamic society and use it as a vehicle for the propagation of extremist, intolerant and pro-violent ideologies'.

The radicalised few also had a negative impact on the campus in general, affecting not only student life, but academic freedom too, the report claims.

Various minority student groups said they felt that prejudice towards them had increased since the radicalization of the individuals, for example homosexual students felt that homophobic behaviour had become a greater problem.

Although there is no single route towards the radicalisation of an individual, the report said there were four main factors that could influence 'individuals along the path towards adopting violent Islamist viewpoints'. These were an exposure to an ideology;

exposure to individuals able to persuasively articulate the ideology, a personal crisis of identity perhaps enhanced through racism or discrimination and finally a perceived injustice to which violence is deemed the only answer.

All of these were deemed to occur at UCL and City University. Quilliam's findings suggested the small number of extremist members within City University's Islamic society created an environment where the potential for radicalization towards terrorism would be possible.

But such ideas about religious societies at university could have a huge effect on the liberties of students and their right to free speech. Quilliam's findings may put an end to many societies who rely upon political debate and the handling of contentious issues. Public speakers are the life blood of certain societies and although vetting public speakers may reduce the threat, it could equally discourage individuals from joining and creating societies.

Leeds ISoc said they are deeply troubled by the report.

Extremists can often take over religious societies at uni and promote an extremist and pro-violent ideology, think tank Quilliam claims

Maryam Ahmad, a spokesperson for the society, stated: "This report adopts a sensationalist approach to the issue and the attempt to link a conservative religious ideology and Muslim identity with violent extremism has no evidence to support it, as highlighted by several reports including those by Gallup and MI5.

"The MI5 report in particular stresses that terrorists tend not to be religious, they understand very



little about Islam and that a strong religious identity actually protects against violent radicalisation.

"Notwithstanding the fact that many of the views expressed in the report would be considered repugnant and without basis within Islam to the majority of Muslims, the MI5 report recognised that the primary concern should be those who use violence or actively support the use of violence and not those who simply hold politically extreme views, which should remain topics of debate within the Muslim and wider community."

Yet Quilliam's report stressed that small minorities can infiltrate a student society or body, leading towards potential future violence.

The organization recommended some changes in order to minimize the risk of radicalisation, including the regulation of prayer spaces, student societies guest speakers complying with the university's statement of values, student unions employing an individual who would be able to discourage societies from inviting intolerant speakers, and student union management across Britain ensuring that all student society websites share the same URL as the Student Union webpage.

Liberty @ Leeds, a Leeds University society, said more than

one Islamic society within a university might help prevent the spread of Islamic extremism instead.

"The problem in City [University] appears to be that there was only one Islamic society with one dedicated prayer space, which was occupied during prayer times by radicals.

"Of course, there are many branches of Islam and the one that was funded by the Student Union in City was a minority sector, of the Wahabist tradition. It would have been helpful if there were a pluralism of Islamic societies that enabled every Muslim to feel comfortable - and would provide

Leeds ISoc said they are deeply troubled by Quilliam's report

non radicalising spaces and alternative narratives."

Indeed it was reported that City University's Islamic Society members felt "hijacked" and thus not able to influence the decisions

made by the president, highlighting how the smallest minority of people can become a threat.

Leeds ISoc stressed their society promotes a welcoming attitude for all. Maryam Ahmad said: "Our activities in support of societal progress range across the board from charity fundraisers, education campaigns and human rights, and promote a strong sense of identity, political participation and social responsibility within our members as well as providing for their religious needs."

Although Quilliam's study illustrates certain problems within City University's Islamic society, the report does not offer a great deal of perspective in terms of how much risk a radicalised society actually presents, nor whether this is a problem occurring across all campuses or concentrated areas such as London.

An analogy offered by Liberty is that "we carry on selling alcohol despite alcohol related deaths".

Perhaps therefore we should continue to promote free speech in spite of the potentially tenuous related risks, whatever Quilliam says.

LSI Investigates: Leeds

Gone in a sniff: legal highs

With more and more coverage in the news about 'legal highs' being made 'illegal', Mark McKay finds out about the suppliers that are finding loop-holes in the law to keep on selling to internet users.

The Law

In April this year, the then Home Secretary Alan Johnson announced that the recreational drug mephedrone, along with other similar products was to become a controlled substance under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. This act came in the wake of several deaths which were given a high profile by the media and were linked to the use of the drug, albeit with dubious evidence to support such a claim. Almost as soon as it was announced that mephedrone and related substances were to be banned came other announcements that replacement chemicals, ones that would not be covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, were waiting in the wings as replacements. This writer remembers a particular news broadcast in which a Sky News spokeswoman spoke directly to suppliers in China who had two new chemicals ready to unleash upon the UK market. However, it has to be noted that in the six months since mephedrone was outlawed there has been an underwhelming impact made by these so-called replacements.

The possibility of similar replacement chemicals being manufactured originates due to the fact that the Misuse of Drugs Act outlawed a batch of chemicals known as synthetic cathinones. Cathinone is the active chemical in

mephedrone and many of the other substances banned. However, it was argued that minor molecular tweaks to these already existing chemicals would spawn new chemicals. These new chemicals would create a similar effect and would have the dual added bonus of legality and, therefore, also availability.

"...Reports of prolonged anxiety and panic attacks were common in online forums"

NRG-1

One of the earliest chemicals marketed as a replacement was a chemical known as naphyrone, which was commonly known as NRG-1, and which has since been outlawed. Similar to a substance known as MDPV which was banned at the same time as mephedrone, naphyrone acts as a stimulant upon

the central nervous system of the user. The potency of naphyrone contributed to the danger of this drug and therefore contributed to its lack of popularity among users. In particular, reports of prolonged anxiety and panic attacks were common in online forums. While mephedrone and other cathinone derivatives are active from around 20mg, the family of chemicals known as pyrovalerones, of which naphyrone is a part, are active from 1mg making it twenty times more potent than mephedrone. A single milligram equates to 0.1% of a gram. In order to judge this amount correctly, scales are required that display weights to the nearest hundredth of a gram, however, if judging by eyesight it could be dangerously simple to overdose, especially in the setting of a nightclub.

MDAI

Another potential substitute was MDAI. Developed as an antidepressant in the 1990s this drug primarily stimulated the release of the neurotransmitter serotonin, which can lead to increased empathy and the 'loved-up' sensation. However, unlike mephedrone, MDAI had little stimulant effect and there are reports of MDAI causing drowsiness, again indicating a reason for the drug's lack of

popularity within the club scene.

Siai

Siai is a chemical related to MDAI as they both belong to a group of chemicals known as aminoindanes. This particular chemical was marketed online towards the end of summer as one that would succeed where the previous two chemicals had failed. It was claimed to completely mimic the effects of ecstasy on tests on rats. However, the sale of this chemical was accompanied by reports that the product sold was not Siai at all, but was in fact either mephedrone or other banned substances. This was not an entirely new phenomenon; it had also been reported that sale of NRG-1 contained chemicals other than simply naphyrone. This should hardly be surprising given the sheer quantities of chemicals that were available to buy over the internet. Some websites could guarantee a 25kg drum (yes 25 kilograms) of mephedrone at your front door within a week, with a sum of £22000 going in the opposite direction, of course.

The Problem

However, while it is unsurprising that test batches of Siai were being found to contain banned substances, this creates a new problem for users. The lack of

regulation in the market of legal highs can now manifest a situation in which a person intends to purchase a legitimate substance but will end up in possession of one that is very much illegal. This creates a scenario in which it must be accepted that the potential illegality of 'legal highs' presents the user with a paradox in which they may always be the victim.

While only three other chemicals have been mentioned, the internet provides a dearth of others. Many are similar in chemical structure to mephedrone however, none have had the popularity or attention that mephedrone did. We could conclude that, although only fine molecular tweaks have occurred, the effects have been altered enough to put people off. The after effects of NRG-1 led to increased anxiety in the user: MDAI would have the serotonergic qualities often found in recreational drugs but lacked the stimulation and Siai has often been found to be either inert or simply illegal substances marketed as a legal one. For these reasons, the market for legal highs has diminished, and goes a long way to explain the lack of success that so-called mephedrone replacements had in the wake of the drug left when they moved up to being a classified substance.

Riding the wave of danger?

Leeds Student investigates the new craze, which is being branded as "the new meow meow", and the potential under-lying dangers that come with it.

Ivory Wave, a drug sold as bath salts and branded "the new meow meow" by the tabloids, is in actual fact much worse. In light of April's mephedrone ban and increasingly strict government laws regarding 'legal highs', pure chemical compounds are becoming increasingly rare on the drug scene, and it has been suggested that even the manufacturers and/or sellers of Ivory Wave are not sure what's in it. MDPV, a drug pre-dating mephedrone that offers a tremendously strong, if often paranoid and hallucinogenic, high, is the most likely culprit, but the bottom line is that no-one really knows.

Said to replicate feelings of cocaine and ecstasy, the drug is suggested to be even more addictive than either. "I've never seen an opened packet last more than a night," says an anonymous user, "and I've never seen more 'but your line is bigger' arguments." Having become popular in the few months since the mephedrone ban, at least ten people are on anti-psychotic drugs from a single use, and the drug has so far been implicated in two deaths. It is highly concentrated, about ten times stronger than mephedrone, and thus very easy to overdose on. The emotionally fraught and bodily aching comedown is said to last up to a week, and

hospital employees are already calling it "much worse" than mephedrone. "People are coming into the hospital in an extremely agitated state with acute paranoid psychosis," says Kate Wilmer, a consult cardiologist. "If you try to give them anything to help them, they are convinced you are trying to harm them, so we have had to completely knock out two or three of them in order to treat them." With effects like these, it's hard to see it catching on, but with pure drugs increasingly difficult to come by, and at £15 a packet, for many it may become a cheap last resort.

Jenny Hollander and Lucy Shaw



alternative drug scene

Idoser into another world...

The Idoser is a revolutionary idea that claims to imitate the world of getting high through "binaural beats", so does it really succeed in doing what it says? We give it a go...

"They put on their headphones, drape a hood over their head and drift off into the world of 'digital highs'." This is how the *Daily Mail* described the recent phenomenon of Idosing, a new trend that has taken off in the U.S. in which users download and listen to sound recordings from the internet in an attempt to mimic the effects of recreational drugs. No longer do those looking for a high need to delve into the murky underworld of illegal drugs. With just the click of a button and a decent pair of headphones, Idoser claims to be able to successfully replicate the effects of just about any drug you could think of, from the mellow buzz of marijuana to the euphoric highs of ecstasy.

According to the Idoser website, the key to these effects are "binaural

beats," where one frequency is played into the right ear and a slightly different frequency played in to the left. This supposedly stimulates brainwave patterns,

No longer do those looking for a high need to delve into the murky underworld of illegal drugs.

altering your state of mind and bringing on sensations of well being. Binaural beats were first discovered by German scientist Wilhelm Dove in 1838, and have since been used for a whole variety of applications such as meditation and therapy. Recently, founder of Idoser Nick Ashton has claimed that these specially-engineered sounds can be used for a more simple purpose: getting high.

Some of the claims made by Idoser seem fairly exaggerated, and even a little disturbing. One of the files available for purchase, Gate of Hades, has the following description: "Weeping and gnashing of teeth. Expect nightmares, near death experiences, and strong onset of fear." For this privilege, users need only pay the paltry sum of \$200. Another download modestly called

"orgasm" alleges that it will give you "a release unlike anything you have ever experienced," all this for just \$3.75. The website even offers a

Weeping and gnashing of teeth. Expect nightmares, near death experiences, and strong onset of fear.

"reset" dose that it claims will help you bring yourself back to your normal state after a strong "hit". So are these claims actually justified, or are users just lining the pockets of fraudulent charlatans? Videos posted on Youtube show teenage users convulsing or laughing hysterically, giving the impression they are genuinely off their faces. But there is little scientific evidence that conclusively proves that these binaural beats can significantly change your state of mind. Therefore, in the interest of science, we decided it was our duty to put Idoser's claims to the test. So, armed with just a pair of headphones and an open mind, we sat back and prepared to enter the perilous world of digital highs.

Marijuana

Idoser's description: 'One of our most complicated doses, with over a year in the making, provides a mood lift, philosophical or deep thinking, and increased appreciation of music.'

Our description: The monotonous drone is very similar to the alcohol dose but slightly more chilled out. I felt slightly refreshed by the end, but that might have just been from lying down for the recommended 45 minutes.

LSD

Idoser's description: 'Increased awareness of senses, closed and open eye visuals, and a profound life-

changing spiritual experience.'

Our description: This application began slightly differently with a more relaxed repetitive beat. Alas much like the others it offered little in terms of actual mental or physical effects leaving me feeling bored and frustrated.

Alcohol

Idoser's description: 'Our alcohol dose is like shot-gunning 5 glasses of gin, with force.'

Our description: As soon as it began, the continual high pitched repetition became almost unbearable. It sounded a bit like someone had left the radio on static only intensified. The only real effect it had was

making me feel tired and slightly irritated.

Ecstasy

Idoser's description: 'This is not for romance. This is not for cuddles. This was designed to make you explode in pure ecstasy, tingle your body, and melt your soul.'

Our description: After a couple of minutes I start to feel a bit woozy, but I don't get any explosions of joy. About half way through the dose the track starts to speed up and I feel my heartbeat getting steadily faster. But, when it finally ends I just feel a bit wobbly and before I know it I feel completely normal.



The Verdict

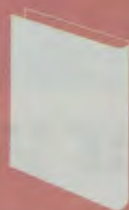
Despite following the site's instructions, listening to the full length of the doses and lying down alone in a dark room, overall we felt little of the advertised affects. Undoubtedly listening to music at a loud volume has an effect on the brain, and these binaural beats have been shown to induce specific brain wave frequencies. However, the idea that these sounds can replicate the effects of specific recreational drugs seems to be a total fabrication. The effects some users feel are probably

down to a pure placebo effect.

Whilst there has been an understandable moral panic about teenagers downloading and listening to files named crack or heroin, it's clear that this is just an attempt by the website to sensationalise their product to entice rebellious youths looking for a new buzz. The fact that Idoser now has over a million downloads shows that this marketing technique has been remarkably successful. However, the picture portrayed by the tabloids

suggesting Idoser threatens to corrupt the younger generations is totally unfounded. It seems very unlikely that in the near future teenage gangs will be roaming the streets robbing old ladies, in search of their next hit of l-crack. In fact, Idoser could prove to be a safer alternative for teenagers looking to experiment with drugs.

Paul Haydon and Ed Lee-Bull



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Leeds University Union.

Is sport

CATCH ALL THE REPORTS FROM THIS WEEK'S BUCS FIXTURES INSIDE

COMMENT

Europe's glass ceiling

Sat in a press conference in the heart of the Nou Camp, FC Copenhagen manager Ståle Solbakken looks pleased. In fact, he looks delighted. Forget the cream, this cat has the world in his hands.

For he is about to embark on his most recent managerial highlight: to lead a strong, diligent side out onto the Barcelona turf and lock horns with the Spanish giants in the UEFA Champions League. As I look up from my notebook, the grin is still there. A Spaniard asks him in broken English: "Do you think, if Xavi doesn't play, you can win tomorrow?"

The response lights up the room: "Definitely, if Xavi doesn't play we will of course beat Barcelona", the former Wimbledon midfielder jokes with a smile. Solbakken's humour might not be everyone's taste – evident by the fact some Spanish newspapers ran with his comment sincerely the next morning – yet underneath the jokey gesture lies an unfortunate hidden truth.

FC Copenhagen are the Danish champions. Indeed, their fans boasted a banner across the main stand against Rosenborg BK that simply read 'Konger af Skandinavien' (Kings of Scandinavia). And yet, compared to Barcelona, they are a tiny drop in an enormous Nou camp jacuzzi bathtub.

To put this into perspective, Barcelona are arguably the best side in Europe, or at least within the top four. They are expected to get to at least the semi finals of the Champions League. FC Copenhagen are the top dogs in Denmark; are expected to win the league, and yet are certainly deemed no match to their Spanish counterparts.

The complete imbalance in European football is staggering, yet it also reflects domestic leagues. Again, take FCK as an example. There are nine points between bottom and second place in the Danish Superliga, and fourteen between second and first.

Copenhagen are in a whole new league compared to their domestic opponents; and yet against Barcelona, they become the Lyngby Boldklubs and AC Horsens that are comfortably beaten week in, week out.

Solbakken's reaction said it all. He couldn't take the game seriously

– or as seriously as maybe he would have liked – because his side were playing Barcelona. The Barcelona. Everyone was so excited, as they should be; yet these guys are the champions of an entire region of Europe.

So where do FC Copenhagen sit on the European stage. Better than

any team in Denmark, indeed unbeaten this season, but still a million miles away from the likes of Barcelona. The gap in football was all too evident last week, where Messi and co. ran riot against defensive FCK, easily winning the game 2-0. Four days later, Solbakken threw the same XI out to play lowly Silkeborg IF, and walked the match 3-0.

One could argue that FCK's future looks bright, and that domestic success will surely lead to greater European strength. However, with the January transfer window looming and the wallets of the Germans, Spaniards, Italians and those damned English bursting at the seams, the glass ceiling of European football may slip even further away from den Konger af Skandinavien.

Joe Short

International Correspondent



Brits don't fit

On November 18th 2009, Jenson Button announced his decision to join compatriot Lewis Hamilton at McLaren Racing. The 2009 world champion would be doubling up with predecessor, the charismatic Hamilton to create a formidable British pairing, at the quintessential British racing team, and the only question seemed to be which of the two would be claiming the 2010 title. Twelve months on, things aren't so rosy. Button sits off the pace, 5th in the driver standings, whilst Hamilton too lags behind the feisty Ferrari first-choice Fernando Alonso, and the outstanding Mark Webber of Red Bull.

So why have the Brits failed to make a concerted title push this year? Button stormed last year's championship, albeit in the best car, and has certainly not made a step down in terms of teams, whilst Hamilton has been touted as the most naturally gifted driver of his generation. Have McLaren suffered from too great a wealth of talent?

Split-second events and lucky moments make up a big part of Formula One. Hamilton owes his 2008 title to a wide final corner by Toyota's Timo Glock, the error allowing the Brit to finish fifth and pip Felipe Massa to the title by a single point. Likewise, Alonso's 2010 title credentials were given a boost last Sunday when rivals Webber and Sebastian Vettel, both of Red Bull, suffered disastrous races, despite starting first and second on the grid for the Korean Grand Prix.

With just two races left, a title defence from Button seems all but impossible, and remains a stretch for 3rd place Hamilton too. Unlike his rivals, Alonso has made few mistakes this year, the impetuous Spaniard instead capitalising on

the errors of the other challengers. The former Renault driver has won five races this year, and three of the last four, yet has only managed two pole positions. By contrast, Vettel has turned nine poles into just two victories, the young German now unlikely to improve upon his second-place finish last year.

Hamilton, who will still harbour hopes of a second title, certainly has much work to do in the two remaining races. With three wins under his belt this year, including the Canadian Grand Prix which he led from start to finish, he certainly has the ability, but the cut-throat nature of his 2008 glory-days seems to have abandoned him.

Button, whose career was marred by mediocrity prior to 2009, seems to have reverted to type, despite two wins in the opening four races this term. The man from Somerset has made the podium just once since June, and excepting last year's title, has never seemed likely to trouble the big stars. Even a 3rd place finish in 2009 was tinged with disappointment, as he lagged 63 points behind Michael Schumacher, the German winning 13 of the season's 18 races.

McLaren themselves will hope a constructor's championship might still be on the cards, despite sitting 27 points behind Red Bull. McLaren are without a title since 1998, and will fervently hope that a late push by Hamilton can garner success for both driver and constructor. Yet perhaps in this year's team selection they have thrown away any chance of glory. Following two years of British supremacy in Formula One, it seems very much like the world is fighting back.

Jamie Prestand

Rest in peace Paul

The sporting world this week went into mourning with the sad news of the passing of a true sporting legend, a figure that transcended all types of sport, the cephalopod who made Mystic Meg look like a street corner performer, the magical mollusc, Paul the octopus.

Paul shot to fame during the 2010 football World Cup in South Africa with his psychic ability to predict the correct winners of all seven of Germany's football matches. When he also correctly predicted the result of the final between Spain and the Netherlands, Paul elected to swim off into retirement rather than risk tarnishing his 100% record.

His career didn't get off to such a successful start with two incorrect predictions in the 2008 European Championships, but he rallied two years later to become an underwater superstar. The keeper at the aquarium claimed that Paul was not the same octopus who predicted the results of the European Championships but this was unconfirmed.

In Britain especially the loss was felt particularly hard. Not only was Paul an ambassador for the England 2018 World Cup bid but he was also a British resident. Despite living in Germany for most of his life he was born in Weymouth and after only living for two and half years in Germany he did not qualify for German citizenship, so therefore was a British citizen.

After Paul's death Chris Davies, his agent, said; 'it's a sad day, Paul was rather special, but

we managed to film Paul before he left this mortal earth.' However he wouldn't be drawn on the claims of a conspiracy surrounding Paul's demise.

Some have claimed that he was killed by a group of angry German fans that reacted angrily to his predicting their defeat in the World Cup. Others have said it was the head of a gambling consortium that had lost so much money because of Paul's correct predictions.

It also has been rumoured that Paul has not actually died but has faked his own death to avoid having to make further predictions.

These claims and counter claims however sully the memory of a truly great icon of the sporting world and we should instead remember his achievements and his mystical abilities.

Rumours of a minutes silence at all Barclays Premier League fixtures this weekend are unconfirmed as are reports a post-humus knighthood for services to predicting in the New Year Honours list.

But whatever recognition the sporting world deems him worthy over in the pages of history to those of us who were there in that glorious summer of 2010, it will not matter. We will remember the power, the poise and the integrity of Paul the octopus.

Paul rest in peace, we will remember you.

James Green

BUCS round-up



With the second round of BUCS fixtures completed, Leeds women's Gryphons secured victory in all but one of their fixtures. A particularly impressive 4 - 1 victory for the 1sts against Sheffield Hallam epitomised the hockey teams' efforts across all the Gryphons sides this week. The 1sts sit second in the Northern Conference 1A, undefeated in

their opening two games.

The rugby union 3rds and 4ths, who both reside in the 4B Northern Conference, this week asserted their dominance at the top of the league. Both have recorded three victories in as many games, with a stunning 113 - 0 win for the 3rds.

The lacrosse 1sts and 2nds recorded their first victories of the season, a 14 - 2 success over

Newcastle, and a 12 - 5 win against Sheffield Hallam capped a successful week for the women's sides.

The men's volleyball side had the opportunity to avenge their 3 - 0 defeat in Varsity 2010, and reversed that score-line this week against the Leeds Met 2nds, a result that sees the men's side occupying a mid-table place in the Northern Conference 2B.

Tiebreakers take their toll once more

Men's Tennis

Leeds 1sts 4 - 8 Sheffield Uni 1sts

Mark Boyes

Next fixture:

Sheffield Hallam 1sts (a)

The first home fixture of the season for the Leeds Uni Mens 1sts, at the John Charles complex, Beeston, with its smooth acrylic surface created a detectably optimistic and jovial atmosphere amongst the home side.

With a first seed pairing of James Watts and Yann Idelsen and a second seed duo of Ramzi Cherad and Mark Boyes, Leeds Uni looked confident and calm, talking tactics in between points and producing some sublime tennis on more than a few occasions. The first seeds had a slow start losing the first set 6-3 but then the shots started to flow, and they cruised through the second set taking it 6-1.

This left the match, not for the first time this season, in the balance of a ten-point tiebreak to decide the victors. The away side managed to put the second set behind them to secure the tiebreak convincingly, leaving the Leeds first seed pairing somewhat bewildered as to how much the quality of their tennis fluctuated from start to finish.

The second seeds doubles match score line was much more consistent, after each side claimed one set each in two very hard fought sets. With

the home side 4-0 down in the second after taking the first 6-4, they started to produce strings of well-constructed points and they battled their way back into the match levelling the second set at 6-6.

With some excellent serving from both sides the breaker was won 8-6 by Sheffield, due to miss hit volleys from the home side at key stages, meaning there was to be another tie break to decide the outcome. The Leeds pair eventually triumphed 10-8 with some solid serving and precise volleying from both players, levelling the fixture at two a piece.

Unfortunately for the home side the first seed opponent from Sheffield was slightly too strong to hold off in the singles matches. Despite some well executed points from James Watts, this was not enough and his opponent had the answer to virtually everything that was sent his way winning 6-1 6-2.

This was a similar case for Yann Idelsen, as his opponent looked comfortable, even nonchalant, stretching the Leeds no.2 on both flanks throughout the match, producing another victory for Sheffield setting the overall match scores at 6-2. A draw at best was now the goal for the Leeds no.3 and 4 seeds.

Both of these final matches produced some excellent serving from all involved with each player finding their rhythm on the slick acrylic courts. The 4th seed match

was what one may call a typical encounter with yet another final set tiebreak, after two extremely competitive sets of high quality tennis. In the breaker Mark Boyes continued to return strongly off of the backhand side and also look to finish the point whenever possible.

This was not the case towards the end of the tiebreak however, with both players content to merely roll the ball into play and wait for their opponent to make the mistake. This tactic eventually tipped in the hands of the Sheffield no.4 as he narrowly edged his way past Boyes to win the match 11-9 and in doing so putting the match out of reach for the home side creating too big a gap with the overall match score at 8-2.

As the 4th seeds match came to a close, Uni 3rd seed Ramzi Cherad soon added to his earlier triumph in the doubles with an impressive display of powerful forehands and intelligent construction of points.

He mixed up the game well, ghosting into the net at key moments but never ceased to dominate from the baseline either. A very confident display of tennis left his opponent struggling for answers with the final score 6-4 7-5 to the Leeds no.4.

With a final score of 8-4 to Sheffield, the fate of the home side was ultimately and unfortunately decided, once again, by final sets tiebreaks.



Wednesday 27th October

Badminton

Leeds University Men's 1sts 3 - 5 Newcastle Uni 1sts
Leeds University Men's 2nds 6 - 2 Sheffield Uni 2nds
Leeds University Women's 2 - 6 Manchester 1sts

Basketball

Leeds University Men's 1sts 71 - 68 Manchester Uni 1sts
Leeds University Women's 1sts 38 - 23 Lancaster Uni 1sts

Fencing

Leeds University Men's 1sts 105 - 127 Keele Uni 1sts

Football

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 2 - 5 Northumbria Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 1 - 1 Leeds Met 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 4 - 1 Sunderland Uni 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 4ths 3 - 2 Sheffield Uni 4ths
Leeds University Women's 1sts 4 - 5 York St. John 1sts
Leeds University Women's 2nds 1 - 1 Newcastle Uni 1sts

Golf

University of Leeds 1sts 1 - 5 Leeds Met 1sts

Hockey

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 3 - 5 Loughborough Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 4 - 3 Durham 4ths
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 3 - 2 Sheffield Uni 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 4ths 1 - 5 Sheffield Hallam 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 5ths 2 - 5 York Uni 2nds
Leeds University Women's 1sts 4 - 1 Sheffield Hallam 1sts
Leeds University Women's 2nds 5 - 2 Leeds University Women's 3rds
Leeds University Women's 4ths 2 - 0 Sheffield Uni 2nds
Leeds University Women's 5ths 2 - 4 Sheffield Hallam 2nds
Leeds University Women's 6ths 2 - 0 Sheffield Hallam 3rds

Lacrosse

Leeds University Men's 8-1 Hull University 1sts
Leeds University Women's 1sts 14 - 2 Newcastle Uni 2nds
Leeds University Women's 2nds 12 - 5 Sheffield Hallam 1sts

Netball

Leeds Gryphons Women's 1sts 18 - 54 Loughborough Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Women's 2nds 73 - 9 York St. John 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Women's 3rds 27 - 35 Huddersfield Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Women's 4ths 32 - 50 Northumbria 4ths
Leeds Gryphons Women's 5ths 34 - 22 Leeds Trinity 2nds

Rugby League

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 40 - 18 Liverpool Uni 1sts

Rugby Union

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 34 - 24 Newcastle Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 20 - 13 Liverpool Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 113 - 0 Sunderland Uni 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 4ths 38 - 19 York Uni 2nds
Leeds University Women's 1sts 5 - 25 Liverpool John Moores 1sts

Squash

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 2 - 3 Durham Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 3 - 0 York Uni 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Men's 3rds 0 - 3 Duham Uni 3rds

Tennis

Leeds University Men's 1sts 4 - 8 Sheffield Uni 1sts
Leeds University Men's 2nds 6 - 6 Durham Uni 3rds
Leeds Gryphons Women's 1sts 10 - 2 Durham Uni 2nds
Leeds Gryphons Women's 2nds 2 - 10 Newcastle Uni 1sts
Leeds Gryphons Women's 3rds 6 - 6 Northumbria Uni 2nds

Volleyball

Leeds University Men's 1sts 3 - 0 Leeds Met 2nds
Leeds University Women's 1sts 3 - 2 Newcastle Uni 1sts

the big debate:

Across the pond?

With the NFL 'International Series' in England for the fourth consecutive year, and calls in some quarters for a permanent NFL side to be established in England, *LS Sport* asks: **Could an NFL franchise work in London?**

Time for NFL to touchdown in Britain
Adam Shaw

Few realise the popularity of American Football in the UK. With a fully functioning British league culminating in an annual 'BritBowl', the sport enjoys a deceptively high profile in the England. Yet the concept of a fully fledged NFL franchise in Britain is a whole different concept, surely?

Perhaps not. If the NFL's sister leagues in America can incorporate Canadian teams then why not allow their cousins from across the pond to enter the fray? Many will argue that Canada, without wishing to offend, is 'practically the same place'.

Regardless, by letting teams from another country play in your major professional leagues you by default remove the barrier of 'national identity'.

The idea of a London franchise is a huge selling point. Whereas thousands of passionate Americans perhaps wouldn't fancy a 3,000 mile trip to watch their team take on the 'Burnley Bakers', a fixture against the 'London Blitz' presents a totally different question.

London is like no other place in the world, even by American standards, and many fans would simply view the journey as a 'vacation' as opposed to a chore they feel obliged to engage in for the good of the franchise.

Furthermore, the niche factor of having an international team in the league would be seen as positive, particularly through the eyes of a nation, and a sport that are all about razzmatazz.

Even if Americans weren't keen to trek across the Atlantic, there are no doubts that a stadium could be filled every week by the thousands of American Football fans in the UK. The current situation, that is one regular season game played outside of the US and dubbed 'The International Series', has proven that the game is flourishing over here, at least at spectator level.

In 2009, 84,254 fans descended on Wembley Stadium to watch the New

England Patriots defeat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and in 2007, 40,000 tickets were sold for the event in the first 90 minutes.

The question of a stadium does however loom large. Using Wembley, 'the home of football', would quite rightly outrage most football fans. Perhaps if it was properly expanded, the 2012 Olympic Stadium could provide an excellent setting and this would also end the squabbling of Tottenham and West Ham for the use of the ground.

It seems as if American Football in Britain would have a similar effect to 'Soccer' in the US. It is never going to reach the levels of popularity that it does in its 'homeland' but year-upon-year, the franchise would grow in strength.

It would give American Football-loving Brits the opportunity to have their own outlet in terms of support, as opposed to choosing a current franchise because they 'like their kit'.

Fans would feel part of a franchise, and the sport's popularity would inevitably rocket. The financial factor would also be huge. People complain about the current situation in English football, that it is dominated by men in suits with little interest in the game.

Yet this is all American Football has ever known. Glitz, glamour, and huge sums of money.

If the obstacle of a stadium could be solved, there is absolutely no reason why a NFL Franchise in London couldn't work.

NFL in London an Offence?

Joanna Pendleton

A couple of sell outs at Wembley, a few late night showings on Channel Four and suddenly the NFL is destined for our capital city. According to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell the potential for a London franchise can no longer be ignored because, 'if the interest continues to grow, it's a very practical way to go'.

So before us Brits get swept along in a tide of NFL euphoria let's take a look at how practical this franchise idea really is.

Firstly there's the obvious problem of location. Can you imagine the huge expenditure of time and money that would be required to facilitate the transportation of players and staff to their away games in America? In the current financial climate the cost would be

insurmountable. Then what about the fans? Away games would end up being played in front of 100% home support and what is the point of having a franchise in London if Londoners can't travel to support their team away from home, a pastime that is ingrained into British sporting culture.

Secondly we need to ask where are all these high standard football players going to come from? Most players drafted for American teams come from top American Universities.

Their dream is to play for one of the staple NFL giants such as the New York Jets or the Dallas Cowboys. To the vast majority of the London draft picks, moving to another continent to play for a newly established team would be a less than appealing prospect.

The London franchise would never be able to compete on an equal level with the quality of American NFL teams.

Nevertheless, arguably the biggest reason why an NFL franchise would never work in London is because American football is in its very essence, American.

The NFL is almost a religion to many Americans whilst in England the sport is widely regarded to be weak imitation of Rugby Union.

Despite filling out Wembley's 80,000 capacity once a year, the NFL has no real fan base in England and with a desperate lack of terrestrial TV coverage it has little chance of enticing more support.

The distance between England and America makes the reality of a London NFL franchise blatantly unfeasible.

Even positive aspects of the idea have ridiculed the by top NFL professionals such as the New England Patriots head Coach Bill Belichick, who claimed, 'it would be nice if we could hang around a little longer and go see the Tower of London and all that'.

Clearly not even Americans can take the idea of an English NFL franchise seriously, so what hope do we have?

Let's just leave the American football to the Americans.



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Leeds off target in opener

Men's Darts

Leeds 6 - 8 Liverpool John Moores University

Next fixture:
Newcastle (H)

The Leeds University darts team traveled to Liverpool John Moores on Monday, with a much-changed side from last year.

The ten-man contingent knew that JMU would provide a stern test, following last year's narrow 8-7 victory in the reverse fixture.

The best of fourteen match, three doubles matches, one treble,

and ten singles, promised to be a tight affair, and with the two sides evenly matched, Leeds knew they would have to be at their best to cement an away day victory.

Leeds started strong with Andy Bartle, Danny Banks, and Liam Burke securing the first point, winning their treble with a degree of ease.

However, parity was restored as Tom Richards and Gareth Davies fell to an impressive JMU performance.

Leeds were soon in lead again as Alex Brydon and George Johnstone edged a tight affair to make the overall score 2-1.

Leeds had a chance to claim a two-point advantage in the final doubles match, but Mike Oxborough and Leeds captain Josh

Powell fell to another quality JMU performance, leaving the score at 2-2 after the first four matches.

Alex Brydon, Leeds top ranked player, opened the singles matches, and he repaid his captain's faith with a comprehensive victory by two legs to nil, giving Leeds a slender advantage.

Tom Richards stretched Leeds lead further, last year's Leeds University cup winner continued his recent run of form with another two-nil whitewash.

Gareth Davies continued Leeds momentum adding Leeds third victory on the spin, but this run came to a halt as Mike Oxborough fell to a solid performance by two legs to one.

Despite leading 5-3, victory was

not guaranteed and a spirited JMU comeback saw Leeds lose their advantage leaving the scores level at 5-5.

Repaid his captain's faith with a comprehensive victory

From this point onwards it was JMU applying the pressure. First George Johnstone was defeated in a close encounter, and Liam Burke was unlucky as he threw well, only to lose in yet another decider.

At 7-5, Leeds had to win their

remaining two fixtures to force a play-off, and Robert Plumbidge rediscovered his best form in the second leg to secure a crucial victory for Leeds making the score 7-6 going into the final match.

The quality of darts was high but JMU's last man held his nerve to defeat Leeds captain Josh Powell and secure the victory for his team, condemning Leeds to defeat in their first fixture of the new season.

Leeds were unlucky to come away with nothing; none of the Leeds players were outclassed and ultimately it was JMU's experience and home advantage that proved decisive. No doubt another close score line will be on the cards as JMU visit Leeds next semester.

Leeds not punching above weight

Gryphons

Men's Rugby Union

Leeds Gryphons Men's 2nds 19-12 Liverpool 2nds

Next fixture:
Birmingham 2nds (A)

A fiercely contested match at the North Pavilion culminated in a 19-12 victory for the Gryphons 2nds after a triumphant second half performance. The euphoric celebration of the players at the final whistle emphasised the team's relief in finding form on the pitch after a shaky start to the season.

The Gryphons hopes for a runaway victory in the match were instantly thwarted by a calamitous opening phase of play in which Liverpool were

able to capitalise on some sloppy passing and indiscipline courtesy of the Leeds backs to take a 5-0 lead.

This untidy start to the game persisted throughout the first half with neither side able to make a decisive breakthrough. More occupied with throwing punches than passes, both teams suffered from a lack of fluidity in their play and consequently neither side was able to add to the scoreline before half time.

After the restart, however, the match was a different story. Both teams reappeared for the second half with an imminent sense of urgency in their passing.

The Gryphons were immediately rewarded for their improvement through Phil Fell's try two minutes into the half and it was subsequently converted.

Uni's accurate kicking had become more influential as the game progressed and they were now pressing Liverpool much higher up the pitch. A brilliant clearance from the Gryphon's fly-half on 60 minutes led to a try by John Carroll. The Leeds scrum exploited a weak Liverpool lineout to place Carroll in a position to force the ball beyond the line.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Leeds fight for possession from a line out photo: Joel Hamatt

The Liverpool team seemed to let their frustration get the better of them after this and several of their players resorted to lashing out at the opposition. With 15 minutes to go one of these indiscretions resulted in Chris Hill sent to the sin-bin.

When explaining his actions to his teammates Hill merely shouted 'He punched me so I punched him back'. There was no further comment on this incident.

As the Gryphons closed in on victory there were audible calls for discipline amongst the players. Nevertheless, the Liverpool team was faltering and when Rob James took advantage of a careless knock on to put Leeds 14 points in front Liverpool looked dead and buried.

Although a consolatory late Liverpool try made the final score 19-12, the Leeds players remained ecstatic with the win.

Scorer of the Gryphon's second try John Carroll stressed the importance of Wednesday's result in the context of the season saying, 'we haven't won since Varsity so we're very pleased with the result. Liverpool are a big physical side and it's important that we can beat teams of that calibre'.



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Loughborough snatch win after Leeds lose concentration

Gryphons

Men's Hockey

Leeds Gryphons Men's 1sts 3-5
Loughborough Men's 1sts

Adam Shaw

Next fixture:
Durham 1sts (h)

A contest with Loughborough is always a highly anticipated fixture and as the two teams took to the field the healthy crowd were expecting a classic encounter. Last year Loughborough swept the board for BUCS hockey and many would have expected them to dispatch the enthusiastic Gryphons with relative ease. Yet by the final whistle, the visitors had been in a game; and they knew it.

Leeds stunned their opponents by adopting a 'Blitzkrieg' tactic, attacking with pace and fluidity. Having burst through their opponents' back

line, they were awarded a penalty goal when the keeper felled the Gryphon's centre forward. Leeds did not let their early successes go to their head however and continued to frustrate the visitors. Eventually, however, the pressure told and through a short corner, Loughborough punished their opponents.

The Gryphons should have really regained the lead when their central midfielder burst through but could not apply the finish to a breathtaking counter-attack.

A period of high quality hockey that included some inventive ball-juggling from both sides was broken when ill-discipline again got the better of Leeds. Another Loughborough short corner had the same outcome as the first, with the ball finding the roof of the net making the score 2-1 to Loughborough.

A pattern began to emerge as Loughborough saw a lot of the ball but struggled to break down the Gryphons' defence. They were made to pay as the home side hit the ball forward optimistically and were rewarded with an equaliser on the stroke of half-time.

In the second half, the importance of the fixture came through as both sides put their bodies on the line with some

crunching tackles. Despite the slippery conditions underfoot, mistakes were minimal and Loughborough only regained the lead thanks to a fortunate ricochet.

Leeds responded immediately, applying the pressure that had reaped such great rewards at the start of the match. A move down the left was tucked away and the teams were once again all square.

Loughborough continued to pass hard but were met by a wall of green that refused to be breached. At 3-3 and with the game heading for a totally just result, the Gryphons lost their focus and were made to suffer. With tiredness setting in, a series of errors led to Loughborough scoring a scrappy goal, the ball agonisingly creeping over the line, to give the visitors a 4-3 lead.

From the restart, the visitors headed back towards the Leeds goal and a cheeky little reverse strike meant the points were headed for the Midlands.

Ultimately, the Gryphons had been undone by a few minutes of poor concentration and in a game where they should have really come away with at least a draw; the fantastic performance will be little consolation.



IN FLIGHT: The Gryphons attack in a close game - photo: Joel Harratt

Gryphons pay Price for failing to keep lead

Gryphons

Men's Football

Leeds Gryphons 1sts 2-5
Northumbria University 1sts

James Abbott

Next fixture:
Birmingham 1sts (h)

A hat trick from Peter Walton and two from strike partner Matt Price ensured Northumbria came away with the points at Westwood on Wednesday.

Leeds struggled to get a consistent rhythm through the match, with chances hard to come by against a solid Northumbria defence. Gryphons coach Brian Dean will be disappointed by the nature of the result as the teams were evenly matched for long periods of the game.

Both teams were slow to settle into the match, and there was not a clear chance created in the

opening twenty minutes as the teams battled for control in the middle of the park.

The Gryphons' long ball tactic initially failed to find Andy Vernon and Will Turl upfront, and was comfortably dealt with by the opposition in the early stages.

However, persistence eventually paid off in the 21st minute after a defensive lapse from Northumbria allowed Turl through on goal to coolly lob the onrushing goalkeeper.

The away players and staff immediately vented their anger at the linesman, as Turl looked to be in an offside position at the time of the pass by Tom Kelly.

Despite the contentious nature of the first goal, Northumbria's response was positive.

In contrast to Leeds, they passed the ball along the ground smoothly and began to control possession and create chances.

They got a deserved equaliser on the half hour from a corner

kick, with the Gryphons gifting a free header for striker Matt Price.

Despite the contentious nature of the first goal

Like their opponents Leeds responded well to conceding, and began to play a passing game that worked to good effect, forcing a great diving save from the Northumbria keeper.

The game seemed to be heading into half time at 1-1, but in what proved the last action of the half, Price latched on to a defence splitting ball by Mark Bertram to bag his second and put Northumbria ahead going into the second half.

The second half began with Leeds closing down Northumbria quickly to halt the effective passing game of the first half. Despite this, Leeds still struggled to hold onto possession and another defensive error led to Northumbria's third on the hour mark.

Leeds defender Daniel Boyle misjudged a long goal kick, allowing Northumbria's Peter Walton to capitalise and score his first of the game.

Leeds appeared to be back in it when Turl scored his second with twenty minutes to go, but these hopes were quickly dashed by a moment of brilliance from Walton. Northumbria were awarded a free kick on the edge of the box, and Walton curled the ball brilliantly around the wall into the top corner of the net.

Leeds were demoralised and Walton got his hat trick before the end with a controlled volley on the edge of the area.

From the response to falling behind and the commanding second half display, Northumbria were fully deserving of their win.

Player of the Match Will Turl

Scored the two goals that helped keep Leeds in the game but did not get enough service to really affect the game





Gryphons flying now Forshaw

Gryphons

Men's Football

Leeds Gryphons 4ths 3 - 2 Sheffield 4ths

Next fixture:

Bradford University 1sts (a)

On a sunny afternoon at the North Pavilion, the men's 4th team put in an impressive display to defeat Sheffield 4ths, three goals to two. The Gryphons were keen to take revenge on their rivals following defeat by Sheffield's 3rd team on the opening day of the season.

In the early stages Leeds put Sheffield under pressure, with early goals from Gareth Davies and birthday boy Anthony Forshaw settling the nerves.

Sheffield fought back before half time, however, when midfield powerhouse Barney Cotton halved the deficit with a beautiful curling free-kick.

Leeds striker Rowan Howard nodded in unmarked to make it 3-1 shortly after the break and although Cotton's second from the penalty spot set up a cagey finish, Leeds hung on for what was their first win of the season.

From the start the Gryphons appeared a well-drilled outfit, displaying crisp passing football and good width.

It was not long before Leeds crafted their first clear-cut opportunity of the match; a free header, squandered by the impressive Tom Hare from a corner.

Indeed for all Leeds' flowing passing football it seemed that a corner would present their best opportunity for a goal, with Sheffield struggling to deal with the home side's movement at set-pieces.

After a snap-shot from Gareth Davies was pushed onto the foot of the post, Forshaw, the smallest man on the pitch, muscled in to head home from Tay Siseci's resultant corner. It was the first goal of the season for the right-back who celebrated his 20th birthday on Thursday.

Leeds' dominance continued after the goal. Midfield dynamo Tom Hare was showing good vision and strength in central midfield and the Gryphons were finding space in abundance down the flanks.

Left midfielder Siseci's excellent ball control and blistering pace caused problems for the away side and he proved the catalyst for Leeds' second goal.

A fluid counter attack that began with Siseci on the left was finished calmly by Davies, cuing jubilant scenes from Leeds substitutes on the sidelines.

Up to this point, Sheffield had barely troubled Leeds keeper, Josh Knight, but the Gryphons' second goal did spark a response from the visitors.

Straight from the restart an acrobatic volley from a Sheffield midfielder drew a flying save from Knight, reminiscent of Gordon Banks, but just five minutes later Sheffield had scored.

A late challenge from Forshaw was punished when Sheffield's star man, Barney Cotton hit the top corner with the resulting 25-yard free kick.

In the second half Sheffield continued to work their way back into the match, yet it was still Leeds who enjoyed the majority of possession.

Their third goal, a header from Rowan Howard after good work down the left from Matt Roache, appeared to have settled the matter but again this prompted a response. On the hour mark, Sheffield were gifted a soft penalty following a clumsy challenge on their captain from Leeds skipper, Richard Woods, which was duly dispatched by Cotton.

In the final half hour, the game became increasingly disjointed and gritty, with tackles flying in from all angles, as one might expect with local pride at stake.

Leeds' right midfielder, Henry Dunn went close with a looping effort that rebounded agonizingly off the inside of the post.

Just before the full time whistle Leeds hearts were in their mouths when Cotton floated another free-kick narrowly wide. But ultimately Leeds hung on for what was a well-deserved victory.

After the match, captain Richard Woods was full of praise for his players, saying, 'it was a great effort from the boys. Performances like this bode well for the rest of the season.'

Player of the Match

Tay Siseci

Had a hand in two of the goals and troubled the Sheffield defence with good footwork and neat one-twos.



FLICK: The Gryphon's 1sts skillful play was enough against a well organised Northumbria side photo: Joel Harratt

Mixed day for Uni football teams

The 4ths was not the only football game played on Wednesday. The Men's 1sts were also in action against a strong Northumbria side. Despite taking the lead a hat trick from Northumbria striker Peter Walton and two

from Matt Price saw the BUCS Northern Premier division champions continue their poor start to the season with a second consecutive loss.

Read the full article on p. 23.