



● Fancy a break from the library, or maybe Leeds on the whole? Check out our Berlin travel guide *ITM* p.18



● In *The Middle* speak to the cereal connoisseurs over at the brand new Moo'd Cereal Cafe *ITM* p.19

p.8

*Features*  
Men's rights: hearing marginalised voices or just plain misogynistic?

p.14

*Debate*  
Is our prison system broken?

p.16

*Science*  
Beware the rise of the machines



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Leeds RAG Fashion Show 2015: models hit the runway for charity: pg. 7

## Protesters in despair over 'illegal' removal

● Uni and police face questions over methods

Charlotte Mason  
News Editor  
Lucy Connolly

Protesters have said that they are considering taking legal action after they were removed from University land last week.

Three members of the Leeds Community Project were arrested during a six-day occupation of 6 Grosvenor Mount in protest of plans to sell the holding to private investors.

University security and police officers attended the scene on Thursday 19th February, when demonstrators were arrested on suspicion of stealing electricity from the site. They were later released without charge.

The group claims that activists were 'unlawfully evicted' and that University security staff entered the site illegally.

However, the University has argued that protesters were trespassing on its land.

A Police spokesperson confirmed that officers had made the arrests after being called to the scene to deal with 'squatters who were in dispute with representatives of the site's owner'.

In a statement, Leeds Community Project writes, 'These were wrongful arrests as LCP had accounts set up in order to pay for the electricity. As a result of the arrests, the site was no longer occupied by LCP and the University was able to reclaim it. Other members arrived soon after and were threatened with detainment for trespassing. Given this ultimatum, LCP members chose to leave to avoid any further arrests'.

Leeds City Council rejected a bid to recognise 6 Grosvenor Mount as a community asset in January, and stated that the site has 'no current use'.

However, Leeds Community Project

argues that the land 'holds many future possibilities for sustainable food growing and can be envisioned as a space for education and social events, as well as a space for nature and wildlife'. They also claim that local residents have been unable to access the site as it is currently closed off.

A University spokesperson said, 'We can confirm that the University became aware of the occupation of the land and property at Grosvenor Mount by members of the Leeds Community Project and accordingly, the University security team attended the land. The land and property at Grosvenor Mount is privately owned by the University. As a result, members of the Leeds Community Project were trespassing on the site and accordingly, left the land after security and the police attended'.

A local food poverty café has come...  
-->-->--> continued on page 2 -->-->-->



27.02.15

Weather

Friday	cloudy	8	3
Saturday	cloudy	9	6
Sunday	rainy	7	2

## Tweet of the Week

"Don't tell your daughter  
not to go out, teach  
your son to behave  
#sendanlat

-@camouflagetuk

*Men in Turkey have taken  
to the streets in miniskirts  
to protest against a culture  
of sexual violence against  
women in the country.*

## Contents

3-7	News
8-10	Features
11-13	Comment
14	Debate
16-17	Science
18-24	Sport

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# Editor's Letter

## Banking on a greater good

Banksy stands as a testament for why we need the arts. His scathing video travelogue, which appears on his website, [banksy.co.uk](http://banksy.co.uk), demands viewers to 'make this the year YOU discover a new travel destination', as he directs his attention towards the devastated lands of Gaza.

Three works feature in the war-torn zone. Although the pictures of children riding swings tied to a watchtower and a naked man holed in a coffin-esque space evoke the horror normally evoked with the conflict, the playful, bow-clad kitten gained the most attention. 'Please - what does this mean?' asked a passerby, staring at the remnant. Banksy said 'I explained I wanted to highlight the destruction in

Gaza by posting photos on my website - but on the internet people only look at pictures of kittens.'

Banksy's video asks us to question apathy, and mocks our desire to seek the luxurious in our quest for validation. We live in the information age, but our ever-increasing ability to siphon the content in front of us makes it incredibly easy for us to sideline issues in favour of a digest far more agreeable.

Reading a pithy listicle or watching a droll vine undoubtedly provides its entertainments, and as a newspaper, we are no stranger in acknowledging that the world's events are organised to provide a reader with a scheme of

escapism. Whilst the plethora of click bait acts as a veritable distraction tactic, it is worth making a venture to more difficult side of reportage, stretching the confines of the bubble into a reality that doesn't seem quite our own.

Jasmine Andersson  
Editor-in-chief

### Continued from p.1

Charlotte Mason  
News Editor  
Lucy Connolly

out in support of the occupation, and has condemned treatment of the protestors.

Co-Director of The Real Junk Food Project Sam Joseph told *The Gryphon*, 'The way that the University, in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police, dealt with this situation was unlawful. We sincerely hope that justice is served on this matter. As an organisation, we are always happy to support community groups trying to reimagine urban spaces that serve the people rather than corporate interest'.

The Leeds Community Project's statement added, 'LCP is exploring its legal options regarding the unlawful and unjust eviction that occurred and is committed to continuing its resistance to the development of 6 Grosvenor Mount'.

*The Gryphon* understands that Leeds Community Project intends to continue its operation to prevent the land going on sale.

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## Leeds alumna organises autism charity gig



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Elli Pugh

A Leeds alumna is performing in a gig to raise funds for an autism charity with the band she formed at the University.

The neo-soul, jazz band is made up of BA Music graduates Pheobe Katis, Ed Rice and Matt Fletcher as well as medic Joe Ledsam.

They will be playing at 'Unplugged for Autism' at The Wardrobe next Thursday to support The National Autistic Society.

Band member Phoebe told *The Gryphon*.

'I loved every second of Leeds and miss it dearly, as I am now living, working, and performing in London.'

Since graduating, Phoebe has kick-started a career in London, and has written and performed the theme song for BAFTA-nominated war film, *Kajaki*.

She explained,

'I know the organisers of the gig via Autonomy Music, and David Rowell, a music management company who have been helping me with the release and promotion of my single from *Kajaki*. The Wardrobe is a great venue. I saw Snarky Puppy there last year and they were amazing. I can't wait to play the same stage!'

The gig is organised by Rob Pringle, a student at Leeds College of Music.

Phoebe added,

'The National Autistic society we're supporting is doing some really great things for autism and I'm excited to be a part of an event in aid of them.'

The event also features Laminate Pet Animal and Ed Goodale.

## Trinity Leeds art project



● This week's photo shows an art project at Trinity Leeds. Led by artists Rozi Fuller, Jim Bond and Liz Walker, the public fired paint from nerf guns at canvases throughout Saturday. Image: Tammi Nowell

## Luxury student apartments to open in time for September

Elli Pugh

A £15 million development of luxury student flats will open this September in Leeds.

Situated on Westfield Road in between Hyde Park and Burley, 'The Edge' residences will provide students with their own apartment complete with king-size bed, designer fitted kitchen and en-suite.

Promoting the features of the residences on their website, developer IconInc explained that the apartments

they offer have 'the luxury and added extras of a boutique hotel'.

Features include an on-site gym (complete with personal trainers), a 24-hour concierge, complimentary daily breakfast and even deliveries of Egyptian cotton towels and fresh fruit upon request.

The cost for such luxury? Rent starts at £140 a week for a 'Smart Studio', rising to £160 for an 'Elegance Studio' and £190 for a 'Grande Apartment'.

However, news of the development has been met by cynicism from some students. Fi Harris, an International Relations student, told *The Gryphon*,

'In student accommodation, I want to spend time with interesting, fun people. I don't want to live somewhere luxurious but isolated- you don't even share a kitchen with anyone in this place. It feels like businessmen are just taking advantage of students' (and their parents') money'.

Kristina Smirnoffa, a Fine Art student, told *The Gryphon*,

'Boutique hotel style living definitely ruins the student experience. I imagine their main customer base will be mature students who want somewhere nicer to live than the usual student houses'.

## Have your say...

“”

It seems extremely decadent given the current situation, and I think it's kind of an insult to poorer students who could never afford to live there.

Chris, second-year Geology

It offers an alternative to those not wanting to move into houses and a similar environment to halls in the sense of safety and socialising. If there's is demand for it, why hold back?

Lucy Reid - second-year Broadcast Journalism

If it's a private company, they must think it's worth the investment - and it's not the first of it's kind in Leeds, is it? If it's private money I don't feel like it's my place to comment on how they've spent it.

Chad, second-year Broadcast Journalism

I think it sounds like an awful idea, as it would inevitably be a place full of people detached from the real world and unable to relate to normal students.

Joe, second year History and French



# EXCLUSIVE: No laughing matter as NOS posters come down

Josie Hough

Posters advertising 24-hour delivery of 'NOS' (nitrous oxide) around Leeds are to be removed.

In a statement exclusively obtained by *The Gryphon*, a spokesperson from Leeds City Council said,

'Although we do not own or manage these advertising sites we do work closely with the company that does and have been in discussions with them regarding the appropriateness of these posters. They have now arranged for them to be removed.'

The sale of nitrous oxide, also known as laughing gas, for recreational use is prohibited by UK law.

However, its sale for catering purposes, for example when used in making whipped cream or soda water, is not included under this legislation.

One student who has used nitrous oxide said,

'It makes you feel carefree, giggly and tingly. I know there are risks but it doesn't really feel dangerous because the effects are over so quickly.'

There are dangers involved in inhaling NOS as a party drug. In 2012, 17-year-old art student Joseph Bennett suffered a cardiac arrest after inhaling nitrous oxide.

On their website, the Home Office state that,

'Nitrous oxide is a legal substance that has a number of legitimate medical and industrial uses, but any suggestion of abuse, particularly by young people, is

of concern. Like all drugs there are health risks, and nitrous oxide should not be experimented with.'

It has become popular in universities across the country and the dealing of nitrous oxide can prove to be lucrative.

Home Office figures show that 470,000 adults used NOS recreationally in 2014.



# Leeds scientists to fight ebola

Katy Frodsham

University of Leeds scientists are travelling to Sierra Leone to help tackle the Ebola epidemic.

Four researchers from the Faculty of Biological Sciences will spend five weeks in laboratories in the West African country to diagnose cases of the disease.

Over 9,500 deaths have been confirmed from Ebola since its outbreak in March 2014, with most affected areas including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Dr Hazel Stewart was the first scientist to leave for Sierra Leone last week.

Before her departure, she said, 'I am apprehensive and nervous, but excited as well. I became a scientist to help people and this is a clear opportunity to do that'.

The 29-year-old researcher added, 'My parents were not happy when I first told them I was going, but they realise that this is what I want to do and this is why I have done all my training'.

The remaining three volunteers will be deployed within the next few months.

Dr Zsafia Igloi explained, 'I feel very proud to be playing my part in the network of scientists and medics confronting Ebola in West Africa and this programme is a particularly clear opportunity to make an immediate impact'.

Dr Stewart and Dr Zsafia, who have backgrounds fighting the hepatitis C virus, will be joined by fellow researchers Dr Rebecca Surtees and Mr Andrew Buckley.

The Ebola virus is spread by contact with a sufferer through broken skin, bodily fluids or contaminated surfaces. The outbreak is thought to originate from a 2-year-old girl who died of an unidentified fever in Guinea in December 2013.

The epidemic in West Africa has been labelled by some as the deadliest disease outbreak in history.

# Campus Watch



## 1 Los Angeles

### Two deaths as super bug hits UCLA campus

A law suit has been launched against a medical manufacturer after two students died from a super bug at the University of California in Los Angeles. Olympus Corp has been accused of negligence for selling a medical scope hit by hygiene concerns. Five patients are currently being treated for the infection.

Euan Hammond

## 2 Aberystwyth

### Aberystwyth could scrap their dorm room bibles

Bibles may be removed from dorm rooms at Aberystwyth University after a student complained that their presence was 'inappropriate in a multicultural university'. More than half of students claimed that offering the holy book in university accommodation was 'unacceptable'. A proposal to remove the bibles will be considered by the Students' Union later this month.

Elli Pugh

## 3 York

### Inquest launched into deaths at university

An inquest has been launched into the deaths of two students who died within days of each other at York University. Saher Ahmad and Alexander Hurry both had a history of suffering from depression. Their bodies were found at accommodation in the city earlier this month. A spokesperson said the University was 'greatly saddened'.

Emily Willson

## 4 Oxford

### Former Oxford Union President rape case re-opened

A rape case involving the former President of the Oxford Union will be reviewed by police after an appeal by the alleged victim. History and Politics undergraduate Ben Sullivan was arrested in May last year and released without charge. A former officer said there were concerns that the case 'was not thoroughly investigated'. Sullivan has continually denied the allegations.

Sammy Porter





# Community service? Leadership race candidates opt for paperless campaign



© Jack Roberts

Emily Willson

Students seeking to be elected as LUU's community officer for next year have pledged to go paperless with their campaigns as the leadership race gets underway.

Each of the six hopefuls is opting to ban paper flyers and posters in a bid to protect the environment and win students over with a 'green' campaign.

Candidate Jonny Foster told *The Gryphon*, 'I think it's a great way to reduce our impact on the environment. It leads not only to far more creative campaigns but noticeable ones also. I hope to see future leadership candidates undertake the paperless campaign regardless of category'.

However, candidates agreed the difficulties in finding greener ways to promote their campaigns.

Edward Hardy explained, 'A paperless

campaign is a great idea for the elections, as it is extremely wasteful and damaging to the environment for candidates to print off a large number of posters and leaflets for a campaign lasting three weeks. All candidates should adopt a policy which is environmentally friendly and that is why I have chosen to use only up-cycled materials.'

Shona Brown added, 'A great way to measure its benefit would be to count the amount of votes the community officers get versus other candidates who used paper after the results are announced'.

University charities Green Action and Love Leeds have backed the move by donating bed sheets and recycled paint to help the students to raise their profile on campus.

Candidates for the role of community officer agreed to go paperless for the first time in last year's election. properly assessed.

## LUU PSG stage mock checkpoint as part of 'Israeli Apartheid Week'

Abla Klau  
News Editor

Members of the Palestinian Solidarity Group organised a mock checkpoint outside the Union on Tuesday. The demonstration was part of the nationally recognised Israeli Apartheid week.

The checkpoint was constructed to raise awareness of the restriction of movement for Palestinians caused by the Israeli occupation.

Students acted as Israeli Defence Force officers by holding cardboard guns, whilst others posed as Palestinians being restricted entry.

Chung Gilliland, a PhD student in Education told *The Gryphon*, 'Israeli Apartheid week has been a great success so far with the mock checkpoint attracting a lot of attention from students and staff'.

In addition to the checkpoint, the Week included a film showing, photo exhibition and talk on Wednesday from

US journalist, Max Blumenthal, who visited Gaza during the recent attacks.

When asked about the talk, Chung said 'the huge turnout was another great success. The Q&A session after the talk ran over time due to the audience's impressive enthusiasm in interacting with our speaker to gain further understanding of the situations depicted in the talk'.

According to Amnesty International, the recent attacks on Gaza saw over 2,000 Palestinian deaths (including more than 500 children) and more than 10,000 people injured'.

Chung further explained the similarities between South African apartheid with Israeli occupation of Palestine, 'there are a few things that could be drawn parallel from the two scenarios. The Palestinians are also deprived and disadvantaged by separate roads system, economic and political siege and military operations on a daily basis.'



© Reem Al Ajeel



© Reem Al Ajeel



# Amnesty continue to protest for release of British Guantanamo detainee

**Abla Klau**  
News Editor

LUU's branch of Amnesty International continue to campaign for the release of Shaker Aamer.

The human rights group have launched an extensive campaign to raise awareness of Aamer's illegal detention in Guantanamo Bay.

Aamer is a 46-year-old Briton who was arrested in Afghanistan by the United States on 14th February in 2002.

He has been held without trial or charge ever since.

LUU Amnesty's president, Wil Hutton, said, 'without charge or trial, Shaker Aamer is innocent under international law, and pressure has to be put on through all available channels to ensure that he receives his freedom as soon as possible'.

'Free Shaker Aamer' banners and dummies dressed in orange have been

spotted across campus.

To mark the thirteenth anniversary of his detention, students were encouraged to sign a valentine's day card in support of Labour MP Hilary Benn's commitment to the nationwide campaign calling for his release.

Speaking on this, Hutton said, 'Hilary Benn agreed to raise the issue in Parliament and will co-ordinate a letter to the US Embassy in London with us. The Shaker Aamer Campaign is of particular importance at this time because for 13 years the United States has carried out abuses of human rights that they themselves would declare unacceptable from any other democratic state'.

Speaking at the White House last month, President Obama said he 'will prioritise' the release of Shaker Aamer but human rights groups pledge to continue lobbying the UK and US governments until his release.



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## The Digest

### Greece agrees to four-month eurozone bail-out extension



©Yahoo

Last Friday, Greece negotiated a four month extension to the deadline on the country's €240 billion bail-out from the eurozone.

The financial deal is conditional on Greece submitting a list of reforms that would tackle tax evasion, corruption, unemployment and consolidate public administration.

If the European Central Bank, the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund are satisfied with the proposed measures, the four-month financial aid extension will be

ratified, allowing Greece to access a further €7.2 billion bailout.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis has said,

'The four-month period will be a time to rebuild new relations with Europe and the IMF'.

However, any failure of the Greek government to convince its creditors that it can pay back its debt and reform the economy may result in the much debated about Greek exit from the eurozone.

Valeria Popa

### Former Foreign Secretaries suspended

Two former Foreign Secretaries have been suspended from their parties after undercover filming showed them offering their services to private companies for cash.

Labour's Jack Straw and Michael Rifkind of the Conservatives were caught in a joint Channel 4 and *Daily Telegraph* 'sting' operation.

Rifkind was reported to offer access to 'every British Ambassador in the world', while Straw boasted of how he was paid £60,000 by a private firm to change EU rules.

Mr Straw was already standing down at the general election in May and since the story broke Mr Rifkind has announced that he too will resign.

Hugh Baillie-Lane

### 'No long-term future' for Television Licence

A select committee reporting on the future of BBC has said that compulsory TV licences have 'no long-term future'.

The BBC has accepted that the licence, which currently costs £145.50, needs modernising.

The announcement comes as a result of changing technology and audience habits. The chair of the committee said,

'We do not see a long-term future for the licence fee in its current form'.

It is not thought that the fees, which cover the running costs of the BBC, will be removed altogether.

It is instead suggested that the TV Licence fees will be replaced with a new Levy, although the BBC has been warned that major changes may be implemented in the 2020's.

Jake Hookem

### ISIS 'Jihadi John' suspect named as former Westminster University graduate

The ISIS militant known informally as 'Jihadi John' has been named.

He is thought to be Mohammed Emwazi, a Kuwaiti-born British man in his mid-20s from west London.

It is thought that he was known to UK security services, and was a 'man of key interest' to MI5 dating back to 2010.

'Jihadi John' first appeared in a video last August, when he apparently beheaded American journalist James Foley. He has since appeared in similar

propaganda videos with victims from around the world. It is not known whether he carries out the killings, but he is the man seen in the videos taunting the Western Powers with a knife before the videos skip to the headless bodies of the victims.

It is reported that Emwazi is a Computer Programming graduate from Westminster University.

Jake Hookem





# Giving a voice to the vocal: Who are the Men's Rights Activists?

*Is the MRA movement group simply looking out for men marginalised in society, or is it an ideology that pushes misogynist and anti-feminist beliefs? Anna Turner talks to two prominent voices in the movement – Guardian journalist Ally Fogg and activist Janet Bloomfield – to try and get to the bottom of it.*




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Anna Turner

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The Men's Rights Activists movement (or MRA) has consistently gained attention for its controversial position in a world where feminism is becoming more and more status quo. From 'GamerGate' to the deep dark realms of 4chan, their voices are emerging in the age of the internet, more often than not in a reactionary and aggressive form. At its lightest, the MRA ideology purports to support the interests of men, at its darkest, it's a movement associated with misogyny and anti-feminist hatred.

In a search to find out the truth behind the MRA movement, I decided to speak to Ally Fogg, a professional

journalist who believes that a distinction needs to be made between Men's Rights Activists and those who are concerned with gender-specific issues facing men globally. I also spoke to Janet Bloomfield, who can be found writing for the popular Male Rights website 'A Voice for Men,' and is perhaps best known for fronting and popularising the successful hashtag #WomenAgainstFeminism.

When I first contacted Ally, he was quick to assert that he does not identify as a Men's Rights Activist – and indeed considers himself to be highly critical of the movement. He does, however, acknowledge that there are a range of cultural, social and political issues which affect men and boys specifically. In fact,

Ally believes that part of the success of Men's Rights Activism is that its claims are valid and justifiable, that "men and boys in contemporary society face a wide range of gender specific problems and issues. Everything from male suicide and mental health issues to boys' underachievement in schools and male victimization within violent crime."

Ally's observation of the Men's Rights Movement has lead him to conclude that their ideology comes in two parts. The first part involves acknowledging and discussing issues which affect men in specific ways – such as "militarized cultures" which "value men based on their capacity for violence". This part of their argument, Ally suggests, is

"undeniably, patently and unarguably true," and he believes that as a society we don't pay as much attention to these issues as we should.

According to Ally, the second part of the Male Rights "agenda" is the idea that "those problems are primarily, or in some cases entirely, caused by feminism." He believes this is "patent nonsense" which "doesn't stand up to a moment's examination". As someone who advocates the discussion and promotion of all issues relating to injustice, Ally believes that MRAs are actually harming the cause of those who are genuinely interested in men's issues through their misuse or misappropriation of these causes as a way of promoting



fundamentally misogynist and anti-feminist ideas.

He highlights a problem which often occurs when the Men's Rights Movement is discussed; it essentially becomes very difficult to separate "what we are

hostility amongst some feminists towards the idea of men getting together and discussing their own problems" partly due to the poor example MRAs provide for this process. "So often in the past it has lead down a path where

“Feminists are the ones who are standing in our way, they are the principle opponents to men's equality”

– Janet Bloomfield

stating [that] is nonsense and rubbish, and what isn't". As a result, many attempts to dismiss or criticize the Male Rights Movement – something which is often done in response to its perceived misogynist elements and anti-feminist sentiment – also become synonymous with a dismissal of those crucial social issues which Ally values so highly. "There's a temptation – particularly on the feminist side – to dismiss MRAs by dismissing both sides of the equation. People minimize the extent of male victimization in domestic violence; they will dismiss the issues of men's mental health." It is this hostility towards MRAs that Ally feels is often misplaced, resulting in the dismissal of important social issues.

We asked Ally Fogg if he thought there were any alternatives for those who are interested in men's issues but don't wish to identify with the Men's Rights Movement. He admitted that "because of the history and success of feminism, there's a temptation to think we need to apply the same kind of model to men's issues. There are lots of ways that we can be involved without necessarily joining a larger movement." Ally's view is that large "mass movements" are not always the most effective or beneficial solution to every social issue or injustice. Just because it worked for feminism, doesn't mean it necessarily has to work for men's issues also.

For Ally, it's the social models of masculinity that are central to the problem. "When people talk about 'gender issues' they tend to think of it as 'women's issues', and that the two things are often interchangeable and if something is a gender problem then it must be a women's problem." He states that believing this kind of dismissive attitude towards male-specific gender issues is exactly the attitude that benefits organizations like 'A Voice for Men,' whom Ally believes promote dangerous messages whilst appearing to address social issues that very few others are willing to tackle. "What I would like to see is more people being prepared to recognise and take steps towards addressing some of the many male-specific issues in society."

Ally suggests that "there is a real

men, as is the case in the Male Rights Movement, get together and decide that in order to solve all their problems what we need to do is stomp all over women again."

When asked about the motivations that surround his own work and writing, Ally is adamant that his goal is to "speak up for the people who need support, help and advocacy. If there are people who have been assaulted, raped or abused – I will do what I can to support them. I don't stop to think whether they're male or female." He finishes by telling me "I really want Men's Rights Activists to read my work" in the hopes that he might be able to "offer an alternative to the quite poisonous ideology of the Men's Rights Movement".

Sitting firmly on the other side of the spectrum is Janet Bloomfield, someone who firmly embraces the title of Men's Rights Activist. "It took me a long time to embrace it" she said, but she adopts the label as something which allows her to be "a proxy for my son, for my brothers, for all men who are out there." She believes that within today's legal system "it is actually men who are in need of rights."

We spoke about the controversial relationship between Men's Rights and

“Men and boys in contemporary society face a wide range of gender specific problems and issues. Everything from male suicide...to boy's underachievement in schools and male victimization within violent crime”

– Ally Fogg

feminism, to which Janet agrees with although she is "profoundly grateful to those Second-Wave feminists for giving women the ability to decide whether or not we want to be mothers and to decide when we want to be mothers; this



right now needs to be extended to all people."

In order for gender equality to be realised, Janet argues that we need to start addressing injustices facing all genders and that feminism is ultimately focused on the rights of one gender. For Janet, feminism has neglected some of the most crucial social issues "like shared parenting as a legal presumption. Do men and women have the legal right to be presumed equally good parents?"

Janet self-identifies as "anti-feminist". I asked her how she felt about the accusations made by individuals like Ally who believe her movement is fundamentally misogynistic; she disagrees on the basis that "there's just so many women involved now". She thinks that the "misogynist" label is something applied to MRAs primarily because they're critical of feminism: "feminists are the ones who are standing in our way, they are the principle

branded as misogynists for saying things like "women can be violent against men and boys too."

Recently there's been a media fascination with the women of the Men's Rights Movement, with many pointing to them as evidence that the movement can't be misogynistic. Although she is happy for the opportunity to act as an ambassador for the movement, Janet does not see her role in this light. She believes "your role within the movement doesn't have much to do with gender, it's about which specific issues you're tackling. I don't really feel that my gender has anything to do with how I'm valued, appreciated or evaluated within the Men's Rights Movement".

I also asked how she felt about Ally's evaluation of the Men's Rights agenda as double faceted; with a primary focus on identifying male-specific social issues and a secondary focus on blaming feminists for these issues. "I think that's where Ally gets confused. I don't think you're going to find anyone who argues that feminism 'causes' male suicide. That's preposterous. How does feminism cause men to kill themselves?"

"Things like the breakdown of the nuclear family contribute to tragically high male suicide rate. Many fathers who go through divorce only get to see their children every second weekend. They go from this family environment where they live with their kids and all of a sudden you get to see your children 4 days a month. Imagine if that were being done to women?" For Janet, although feminists may not be the cause of these problems, "they're standing in the way of some solutions – such as shared parenting and the right to choose parenthood."

Although the two sides identify issues that men face, it needs to be noted that feminism is an ideology in place to tackle the social constructions of both genders.



# Blind date: Ruby meets Harvey

Fourth-year English student Ruby met French and Politics graduate Harvey in Call Lane's Distrikt for some tapas and a good bottle of red. However, did their fiery locks set each other alight?

## Ruby on Harvey:

### What did you expect?

Beyond low expectations. Having to drudge through a few hours of conversation and awkwardness before finding the right moment to leave. Or maybe meeting someone awesome and getting to have mind-blowing sex.

### What were your first impressions?

Oh thank fuck he's a feminist and he seems to know what I mean when I say 'heteronormative' and 'cis'. He seemed a bit nervous but fair I can be quite scary.

### What was the chat about?

We had a great chat about rap and hip-hop, as well as my personal favourites of racism and sexism. Religion came up, as well as a good bit of politics. I honestly have to say I thought the date was going to be tragic on this front, and it really exceeded my (albeit, low) expectations.

### Best bit?

That he was a feminist. There's nothing more boring than having to convince someone on a date that you deserve to be treated like a human. He was totally keyed into that shit and I never felt weird about referencing sexism or anything. Also really enjoyed our chat about music, I love when people are cultural engaged.

### Worst bit?

The first 5 minutes. So not only had I not been told his name "(hi...are you...a person I'm meant to be meeting?)", but also the bar hadn't got the memo that we got some free drinks. So navigating the awkwardness of selling your personality in the context of a date as well as trying to get free stuff from a woman who



seemed really reluctant to give it was not ideal.

### What made you face palm?

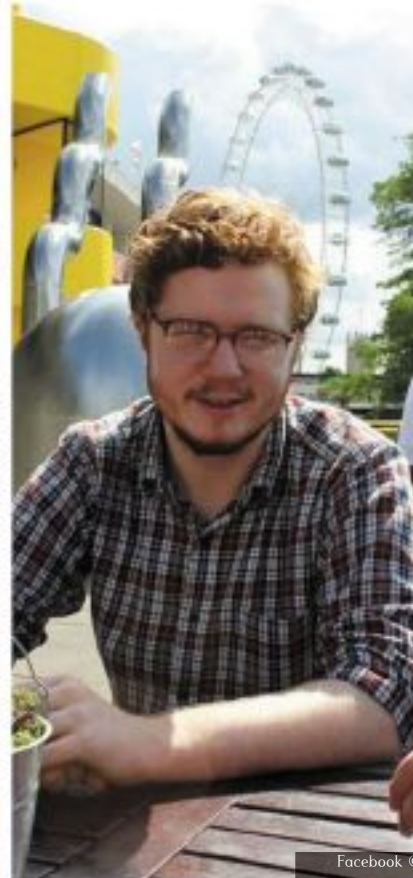
When he mentioned his dad was a priest.

### The meal ended, and then...

We had glorious sex. No, only kidding, I had a fucktonne of reading to do so I just couldn't continue the night whether I wanted to or not.

### Will you see them again?

I don't know if I would go for another date, but in a more platonic context I would be very happy to continue the discussion on Drake's new album and how feminist Nikki Minaj is.



## Harvey on Ruby:

### What do you expect?

Armed with the knowledge that the person I was meeting was a "cool feminist" and the safe assumption that they worked for The Gryphon, I thought this could be a pleasant evening. This optimism was tempered by the fear that our dear editor could in fact be a terrible judge of character (spoiler: she isn't)

### What were your first impressions?

While I managed to arrive on time, Ruby had had the foresight to arrive at Distrikt 5 minutes early. This strong move meant that I had to approach her and open with "are you er... here for the er..." (Impressive stuff). Though she kindly didn't let me flounder for too long and it was plain sailing from this point.

### What was the chat about?

There was certainly plenty of conversation and we managed to cover a lot of topics by way of numerous tangents. Topics included, but were certainly not limited to: doing a year abroad (how they are weird and how sunlight is a wonderful thing), rap music (songs about cunnilingus and the joys/pitfalls of writing about rappers in academic essays) and having red hair (and being able to tan, or not in my case).

### Best bit?

It was a lovely evening throughout! I didn't know beforehand that Distrikt did food and it was delicious! This combined with the great company made for a lovely evening.

### Worst bit?

Initial awkwardness was short lived and I'd be clutching at straws trying to find a low point.

### What made you facepalm?

Multiple cups of coffee throughout the day plus half a bottle of wine made for a number trips to the toilet for me. Although I'm not sure this qualifies as a facepalm, a light forehead rub maybe?

### The meal ended, and then...

Both having early starts (a seminar for her and a flight for me) we got the bus and went home. I can only apologise for not giving the exciting answer that the ellipsis in this question is looking for.

### Will you see them again?

I certainly hope so, I've got some half-baked theories about Drake that I need to run by someone.



# Comment

Celebrity culture

**Emily Roach** discusses what actually lies beneath this fad and whether we really need it

Leeds 2015

**Oliver Walkden** considers the rite of passage festival's anachronistic line-up

Leeds 2015

**Daoud Al-Janabi** discusses the history of exclusion that has haunted festival culture

Religion and politics

**Liam Kerrigan** Is the Church and politics as incompatible as we think?

## She's not a celebrity... get her out of here

Emily Roach

Politics

emilyroach20@hotmail.co.uk



I will be first to put my hands up and say that I am guilty of indulging in an interest in celebrities who are famous simply for being famous. This emerging culture simply gives ordinary individuals the fame and attention they crave... but for what?

Society has been engulfed by the rise in a celebrity that has replaced talent for the power of personalities. It seems that an exaggeration of character, and an incessant need to be more outrageous and shocking than the last, is allowing these people to enter the 'celebrity' world, and putting them on a pedestal for no reason, with social media and television programmes providing a platform to which these people can work to their advantage.

Celebrity culture isn't a new phenomenon. Admiring talented individuals does inspire us to reach out and follow a similar path that may have the same ramifications, and their glamorous lifestyle is envied by many. However, the media have, without

**"Society has been engulfed by the rise in a celebrity that has replaced talent for the power of personalities"**

question, created a huge divide between the talented and those who will do anything to climb the social ladder, and this glory-hunting can cause two reactions: you either love them or hate them. Either way, this Marmite effect gives attention to those who really do not need or deserve it.

Katie Hopkins is a more than perfect example of this. Only 'famous' because of her appearance on *The Apprentice*, she has managed to make her millions through her controversial persona. Either she behaves in the same way when outside of the limelight as she does whilst on TV and on social media, or she embellishes her conservative streak to start over the top debates which cause unnecessary anger and



© The Guardian

controversy. Awkward situations have been the continuing theme of the comments made by Hopkins. Only this last week when questioned about hurtful tweets, the sarcastic response failed to register as any sort of apology. Being criticised for being 'a talentless vile failure' announces what the majority of citizens believes she is. Even more so, her appearance on *Celebrity Big Brother* has bolstered her already sizeable ego significantly. Being pushed further into the limelight has allowed for the acceptance of her celebrity image to be heightened and arrogant persona to be massaged.

The Kardashians are another prime example that there is a severe lack of any skill involved in order to become a celebrity. As interesting as it may be to some, the constant updates of the Kardashians daily lives really does start to become incredibly mundane. Being

a celebrity today has completely lost its value; 'fame' is something coveted and sought at any cost, even if it happens to make us more critical about ourselves, and weary of ongoing unnecessary debates in the process.

I'm not simply suggesting that we should shun these types of people in society and devalue them. At times they

**"We have given them the authority to explore this new era of celebrity culture because we get sucked into"**

have caused me to have the odd giggle to myself at the strange debates they have caused and power they believe they have. They do clearly perceive themselves to be on a higher pedestal than those of the ordinary citizen, certainly in the case of Katie Hopkins telling us what is best for our children,

or just being generally offensive. In reality, we are to blame. We have given them the authority to explore this new era of celebrity culture because we get sucked into their livelihoods and continue to comment on and watch their next step. Maybe then, we need to take a step back and not take too much of an interest. This is what allows them to continually be talked about, obsessed over and valued because of their quite frankly obscene comments, or because someone had a bit of a bad hair day. It would be much more of a success to just appreciate those who really do have some value, but in our social media-obsessed world, this seems unlikely to change.



# Leeds Festival 2015: A tokenistic minefield?

## This line up has no place in the 21st century

Oliver Walkden  
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In August 2013, Leeds was my promised land. I had just secured my place to study English here, and nearly vomited with excitement at the prospect of life in this big, grey, windy city. But a month before the shameful drunken feast of freshers even began, I was to have a little West Yorkshire aperitif. At the time, this aperitif seemed like a refined cocktail, but, looking back, it

Leeds Festival, without wishing to beat around the bush, is probably my least favourite music festival

was nothing but a dirty pint.

Leeds Festival, without wishing to beat around the bush, is probably my least favourite music festival. Like I did, so many rampant just-18 year olds sleepwalk into buying a ticket. It was, and is, a rite of passage for that age group. But that doesn't make it right.

It means that the festival's lineups are starting to suffer, to the point of prejudice. A bill that is 89.6% male has no place in 21st Century music.

I will agree, however, that the festival has gone some way to being more inclusive in the past 20 years. It used to be a rock and metal festival, two genres that scream "white middle class male".

Kendrick Lamar is the token black artist on the main stage

They now have the Radio 1 Extra stage, a Dance stage and a punk/metal stage. There's something for everyone, really. But one has to question this layout. Is the inclusion of a Radio 1 Extra stage not an exclusion (a pseudo-segregation), of the black community? Though there are obvious generic boundaries involved here, it still says something about the way we deal with race. If festivals are a microcosm of our society, then women and black people are marginalised. Kendrick Lamar is the token black artist on the main stage.

Like our attention to racial and gender

inequality in society, our listening habits and the bookings at big festivals are dangerously casual and narrow. In 2013 at Leeds I heard White Noise on seven separate occasions. Not only is this just bloody irritating, it is really damaging for popular music which is 'white noise', so to speak, in two ways: firstly, since the festival lost its rock and metal identity, and lairy kids started using the festival as a drunken creche, the acts may as well be playing white noise. The crowd

either don't care what they're watching, or are too fucked to notice. Secondly, the festival is transmitting a white noise – or the noise of the white middle class; the noise of the patriarchy. What looks like an inclusive, eclectic lineup actually only serves to further marginalisation, and narrow the minds of its punters.



The Reading and Leeds 2015 line-up without and with male acts – © Buzzfeed

## This is an insidious trend

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Much has been made of the shocking lack of non-male musicians at this year's Reading and Leeds line up. That 89.6% of the acts announced thus far are all-male is rightly being treated as a wake-up call for an industry that too often supports

Reading and Leeds also has severe problems with non-white representation

this homogeneity with absolutely no justification.

Reading and Leeds has historically lacked female artists; if we compare 2015's statistics with the Main Stage at 2014's Reading and Leeds where only 7% of the acts performing on the mainstage featured someone who was not male while the remaining 93% were all male it's clear that this isn't some sudden change. Admittedly one of those not-men was Hayley Williams, very much the face of

Paramore, and as far as Reading goes a notably prominent female face. Looking at past headliners, you have to go back to 1998 and Garbage to find another headliner fronted by a woman, and to 1995 and Björk for the only all-female headliner since Patti Smith in 1978. By no means a problem restricted to Reading and Leeds – though through their traditional status as a "Rock" festival – certainly makes women easier to avoid than a more esoteric festival like Glastonbury. That this deconstruction of Reading and Leeds' line up is happening at all undeniably positive but you have to wonder why it is now that people have leapt on this decidedly insidious trend the way they have done.

Reading and Leeds also has severe problems with non-white representation. Recently this has become even less excusable as the festival has made the decision to jump on the popularity of dance, hip hop and grime. In 1999 the festival introduced a dance stage which served as a catch all for anything that didn't fit in with the rest of the festival's boys club rock direction, this time headliners being The Charlatans, Blur and the Red Hot Chili Peppers; though as has proven time

and time again with its billing, you can escape Reading's musical ghettos by virtue of popularity, with The Chemical Brothers playing second fiddle to The Charlatans.

The inclusion of a dance stage also started Reading and Leeds' refusal to commit to dance as a genre. Till 2012 the Dance Stage alternated days with the Concrete Jungle, later Lock-In Stage which focused on punk and hardcore.

Many people have taken issue with the apparent incoherence of the line up. The vast majority of the people criticising the line up grew up listening to music in a time of album worship which, if we are to believe Radio 1 head George Ergatoudis

Many people have taken issue with the apparent incoherence of the line up

is over and to be replaced with that of "The Playlist". When a considerable portion of young people are consuming songs in an order they choose it makes sense that festival programmers might take a

similarly "incoherent" stance. The tribalism that dictated so much of the festival's line ups has also melted away, and in fact it feels that in terms of genre, the festival is more varied than it's ever been. This split coincided with the introduction with the Ixtra stage, which for the most part seems to have given a place for the festival to put black artists not quite in keeping with the aesthetic of the Dance Stage, or indeed lacking the popularity.

Ultimately then this is a case of Reading and Leeds trying to have their cake and eat it. By having the Ixtra Stage act as the de facto "black music" stage it only serves to highlight the extent to which of the rest of the stages indulge it what is tantamount to tokenism all the while under-representing both non-males and non-whites (let's not get started on women of colour). I'm for eclecticism as long as it doesn't serve to under-represent or separate those who are so often discriminated within the music industry.





# Divine intervention: the Church makes a major move on welfare and the state

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In an unprecedented move, the Church of England has published an open letter calling for a radical re-evaluation of government policies and political tactics in the run-up to the general election. The 52-page joint letter published by the Bishops of the Church of England is highly critical of the attempts by political parties to create division and hatred in society by scapegoating and dehumanising particular sections of the population such as the unemployed and immigrants. Whilst the letter neither promotes nor condemns any particular party, it is seen as being particularly critical of the Conservatives' welfare policies which have seen massive increases in the usage of food banks: figures have risen from 61,468 people receiving three-days' worth of emergency food between 2010 and 2011, to 913,138 people between 2013 and 2014. The letter is a bold move from an institution that has traditionally been seen as 'the Tory party at prayer' and indicates an increasingly progressive, left-leaning attitude from a Church that recently anointed its first female Bishop.

The intervention of the Church is massively important as it drags issues into the limelight which many people believe need to be addressed, but do not have the platform to cause a real discussion. The Church doesn't necessarily make any original observations, but it doesn't need to; as

“The intervention of the Church...drags issues into the limelight which many people believe need to be”

an institution that is difficult to ignore, the Church is forcing politicians to address the concerns that have long troubled the public conscience. And they couldn't have picked a better time to do so; the Tories recently announced that they are planning to introduce new measures that would mean that those who suffer from obesity or addiction, and are thought to be held back from employment because of these issues, will have their sickness benefits withheld unless they seek help for their conditions. Yes, the Tories, not merely contented with demonising the unemployed, are now actively targeting the most vulnerable. This comes on top of plans to have all 18-21 year olds who are out of work for

more than six months either enrol on an apprenticeship course, or carry out 30 hours' community work and 10 hours' job-searching per week to earn their benefits. If you consider the 40 hours a young person would have to put in each week and the mere £57.35 they would

“the Church of England is undeniably a national institution that holds significant importance”

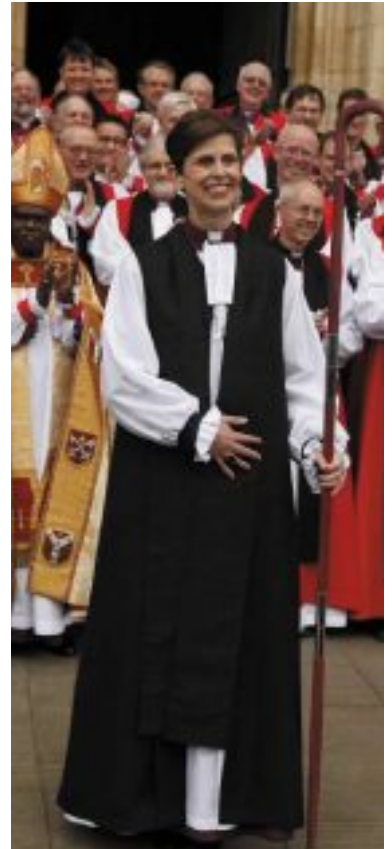
receive in benefits, this would mean they are earning approximately £1.43 for every hour they have to work. Leave it to the Tories to go after the poor when anywhere between £35-120 billion (estimations vary) is lost every year through tax evasion by the wealthiest in society; a problem brought to light once again by the HSBC scandal.

Considering all this scapegoating and bullying carried out by the wealthiest against the poorest and most vulnerable, you'd think that few could have an issue with the Church expressing its concern and raising awareness of these issues, right? Well, you'd be wrong. There have been some who have criticised the apparent left-leaning bias of the letter despite there being no support or criticism of any party. But some go further in that they think the Church should simply

remain quiet- that they shouldn't have written the letter at all. Whether or not you're religious, the Church of England is undeniably a national institution that holds significant importance and represents the faith of approximately half of the population, so to say that they should remain quiet on issues of both national and moral importance seems rather ridiculous. I suspect that those who oppose the Church having written the letter at all also oppose it for the apparent left-wing bias of it, and that they would have been the first to applaud had the Church come out against "scroungers and immigrants" etc.

“even I applaud the Church for using its power to shine a light on the concerns of the majority”

I'm not religious. Actually, I'm staunchly anti-religious. But even I unreservedly applaud the Church for using its power to shine a light on the concerns of the majority of the population- concerns which certain politicians would much rather avoid addressing- and for doing so at the most critical time.



A sign of the times? – © Christian Today



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# The Big Debate

In light of the recent prison book ban controversy, should the UK alter its penal system to be more like the Scandinavian model?



Illustration: Danny Wilson

## YES

Last year, justice secretary Chris Grayling proposed a restriction on British prisoners' access to books, deeming them a "privilege". This move caused rightful uproar and although the ban was overruled in the High Court in December, the fact that it was able to gain momentum at all draws attention to the inhumane and largely ineffective nature of our country's prison system on the whole: a system which seemingly places more value on punishment than it does on care and rehabilitation.

However, one positive outcome of Grayling's proposal is that the amount of media coverage and conversation it garnered served to draw attention to this flawed system. The conversation deserves to continue, as Grayling's attitude towards literature is only demonstrative of wider issues with the

way British prisoners are viewed, both within prisons themselves and in wider society.

One of these issues is one of authority. Who is Chris Grayling to decide that to be able to read is a "privilege" that shouldn't be afforded to prisoners? Storytelling is an act that is entwined with the human experience. The ability to share experience in this way is vital in the development of empathy and connection with the world around us. When for the foreseeable future your vision of the world is restricted by prison walls, connection to the outside world and the intricacies of human emotion could surely only help with the process of rehabilitation. With this in mind, this seemingly counter-productive move on Grayling's part suggests that he has very little interest

in rehabilitation. This is not a man we should have in charge of our prison system.

This brings into question the purpose of prison altogether. If prison is not a place of rehabilitation, it becomes a space where we place members of our society that we deem "undesirable". If prisoners are othered in this way, and if no profound change is known to occur within prison itself, they remain marked by their past upon release. If this prejudice is all they have to be released to, what is there to stop ex-prisoners from reoffending? In this way, the prison system is not one of progress. This prejudice against prisoners suggests that we need to adopt a new model.

Sweden's incarceration rates are some of the lowest in the world. In an interview with *The Guardian*, director-

general of the Swedish prison system Nils Oberg explains his rehabilitative stance: 'Our role is not to punish. The punishment is the prison sentence: they have been deprived of their freedom. The punishment is that they are with us.' If we are to reduce the likelihood of further offences upon release from prison in this country, a change of perception is necessary. If we begin to view experience of prison as an enriching and rehabilitative, rather than a punitive one, instances of crime could be reduced. The book ban has drawn attention to the warped ideals behind our prison system – let's use this attention as a springboard for more progressive thought.

## NO

When it comes to crime and criminal justice, the current government get a bad rep. Last year crime rates fell to their lowest in 32 years, so they must be doing something right, yet we seek to bait them at every turn.

The recent suggestion to ban books for prisoners was met with outrage, but I can't help but see some double standards in this. There was also outrage when it was discovered that Rolf Harris was being given better treatment in prison than another man convicted of the same crime would have been. We're so hypocritical when it comes to the treatment of convicts. Rolf fast tracks to a better prison job and a better facility? How dare he get good treatment. Restrictions on books? Outrage.

Prison is for punishment. Think about

it: somebody has viciously assaulted or killed your child, denying them access to literature seems quite lenient considering what such a person actually deserves. For somebody who has committed such an atrocity, then books do become a privilege and not a right. Instead, we should actively seek to cater for the existing prison population, because there are issues. We should be helping those at risk of suicide and tightening security to deal with gangs. We should be having remand prisoners spend time in halfway houses rather than prison so as to free up space in prisons.

Yes, the Scandinavian model of the penal system results in lower crime rates, but such measures would take far too long to implement. I also doubt that the public would take kindly to being

in such close proximity to criminals. We are not in Scandinavia, and it will take us years to reach the levels of Norway and Sweden. The question also remains as to whether the British public will take kindly to a change of this ilk too. We can't rush out of our system into a new one, or cap life sentences as Norway do (the maximum sentence there is 21 years). Capping life sentences robs families of justice. When the concept of a life sentence as opposed to the death penalty was introduced, the British public thought life would mean life. Murderers and dangerous people are set free after only ten years and it's disgusting.

I do agree that sentences are often too harsh for minor crimes. The convictions handed down to some of the London rioters were far too harsh;

but when it comes to violent criminals, rapists, paedophiles and murderers, we must be firm. If you ruin somebody's life through a violent act, then your must face harsh consequences. A person's life should not be spoiled through something as minor as unknowingly handling stolen goods, but I can't say I care for a person who has taken a life or wounded another human being. Punishment, not rehabilitation is needed for serious crimes. The latter works for minor offences such as theft, but actively take or ruin a life and there is no hope for you.

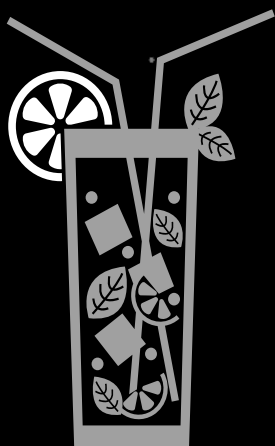
## Charlotte Gray

## Thomas Almes





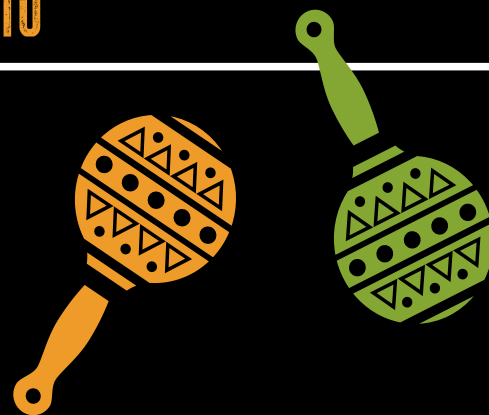
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# Beware the rise of the machines

Evan Canwell

From supermarkets with multiple self-checkouts, to borrowing books from libraries without the need for a librarian, it's clear that automation is upon us. Society won't stop the advance of technology, but there are questions to be answered before we become overly reliant on the use of machines in our everyday lives.

Last year, a report published by Deloitte and the University of Oxford estimated that up to 10 million British jobs (around a third of the whole UK workforce) could be lost to machines in the next 20 years. In London alone, automation has already replaced over 65% of librarians and almost half of all secretarial jobs since 2001.

Automation often replaces the jobs of factory workers, clerical staff and those in support positions – jobs deemed vital to business operations but considered repetitive and low-skilled. People earning less than £30,000 are five times more likely to be replaced than those earning over £100,000, which shows these technological “advances” will have a disproportionately large effect on the poorest people in society.

This issue is not unique to the UK. Later this year, Japan is opening the world's first hotel staffed by robots. A total of just ten robots will greet guests, carry luggage and clean the 72 rooms with little to no human intervention at any point. This is not a novelty hotel created to attract tourists; it aims to pave the way for many more. What will become of the hotel workers replaced by machines?

The good news is that as technology advances, it creates new jobs in areas which may not exist today. The engineering sector will likely see a jobs boon, as maintenance is required on the increasingly complex machines with which we surround ourselves. However, this could mean that higher levels of education will be needed to perform



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straightforward jobs. Where mechanics could once fix a machine with little more than a spanner and some oil, repairing modern machinery will probably require a university level education in a subject such as electrical engineering.

Science, engineering and computing jobs are considered the safest as these are the sectors that will be at the forefront of developing new machines. Jobs in law, the arts, media, management and financial services are also thought to be safe due to the need for some level of human experience, imagination and expertise; features that are difficult to program into a computer. The real issue surrounding automation is not that machines are becoming more sophisticated in the workplace, but that

low-skilled jobs are being replaced much more quickly than new jobs are being created.

The prevalence of automation in the workplace goes hand in hand with the development of the machines themselves and, in particular, the progress scientists have made in the field of Artificial

Intelligence (AI), and has gained the support of many scientists and several big technological names, such as Elon Musk and Bill Gates. It is hoped that through acknowledging these issues now, regulations can help to avoid the potential negative consequences of AI before it becomes a reality.

“People earning less than £30,000 are five times more likely to be replaced than those earning over £100,000”

Intelligence (AI). While some jobs may be safe from automation, people themselves may not be.

Artificial intelligence gives machines the ability to operate without human control, use basic learning techniques to become more efficient and to make their own decisions on the best way to carry out an assigned task. People have worried about AI since its invention. In the 1950s, the concept of a “technological singularity” was created which refers to some point in the future when machines will become more advanced than humans. This is the event to which Stephen Hawking was referring to when he spoke of artificial intelligence that “could spell the end of the human race”. Hawking has been a vocal proponent of heavy regulations on

One subject set to become even more controversial through AI is the use of combat drones in warfare. Military forces around the world are testing the idea of autonomous drones, which are piloted by artificially intelligent software and can choose targets to attack without the need for human intervention. Automation will raise interesting ethical points in the future, such as the accountability for mistakes made by an artificially intelligent machine, particularly if that leads to human injury or death.

While technological advancement mustn't stop, we must question if it should be limited, and what would become of the workers whose jobs are replaced by technology before machines are integrated into every level of society.



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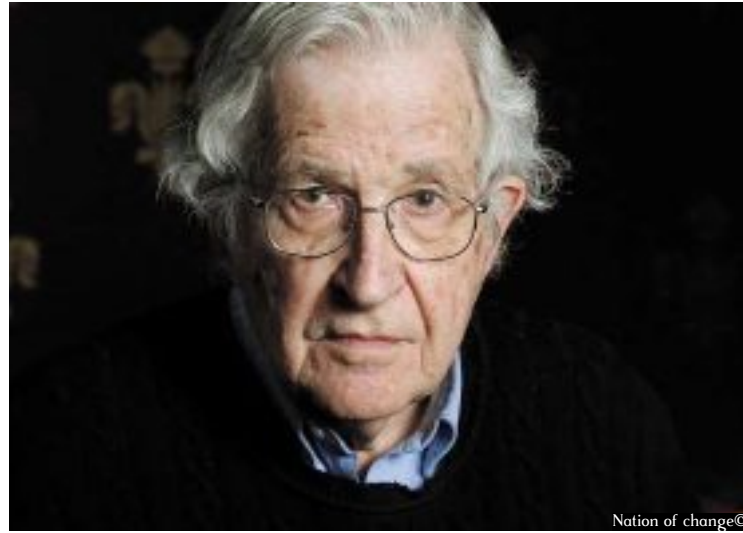
# Language: Is it innate or learned?

Michelle Heinrich

Language is a cognitive skill essential to human communication. Without language as a means of communication, life would be very different. In linguistics there has been a long standing debate as to whether language is innate or learnt. To this date, the nature versus nurture debate has proved controversial, with evidence supporting either side.

Children learn their native language with ease when they are young, though adults learn a second language with greater difficulty. As a result, linguists came to conclude that there might be something called a critical period in which your first language is learnt. Some children grow up bilingual and have two first languages. Some children however, have never been exposed to language at a young enough age, such as the feral child Genie. She was abandoned as a child and never managed to acquire language. She was given extensive language training when she was found at the age of 13, but was unable to pick it up.

Alongside the critical period hypothesis, nativist linguist Noam Chomsky proposed the idea that humans are born with a Language Acquisition Device, also known as LAD. It is said to be a mental faculty that enables children to learn the grammar of a language and this innate knowledge is called Universal Grammar. Universal Grammar is activated during first language acquisition, and the stages



Noam Chomsky: famous linguist, political commentator and philosopher

of grammar acquisition and language development seem to be independent of culture or language learnt. Also, these stages of acquiring grammar follow the same sequence and duration across all languages. However, this doesn't explain the importance of environmental influence.

Nativists view 'The Poverty of the Stimulus' argument as evidence that we must have an innate knowledge of language, asserting that language is too complex to be learnt by environmental linguistic exposure alone. The linguistic input and the utterances heard by a child learning their first language are incomplete and at times incorrect.

Nevertheless, the child acquires the correct set of rules for the language they are learning without support of their environment. This links closely back to the theory of Universal Grammar.

Despite the evidence for a naturalistic approach to language, behaviourist B.F. Skinner claims that language is learnt and not innate. Behaviourism observes human behaviours as a result of a response to a stimulus. It looks at language development as a type of imitation process. The behaviourist approach says that when a child learns their first language they receive positive feedback when they make a correct utterance, but receive negative

feedback from their environment when making a mistake. The feedback is expected to reinforce positive behaviour. Behaviourists believe that we are born with a blank slate, also known as tabula rasa, in order for this to be possible.

The behaviourist approach doesn't account for where, how and when language was started. If we were to argue that language or its knowledge isn't innate, the question arises as to why we have language. Communication and language can be said to be two different things. Communication is a way to make ourselves understood, whereas language is the medium to do so. In the wild, animals communicate with each other by various methods. Animal communication includes visual, vocal, olfactory and touch communication, different to vocalisation in humans.

It can be argued that there was no need for animals to have language but that there was a need for humans to have language. This could be down to evolution. It is possible that as humans evolved, it became clear that they were capable of many things that animals were not. This argument is problematic in that it is hard to argue why humans are different to animals in earlier stages.

It is debatable which side of argument is convincing. Evidence for the nativist approach comes from observations and hypotheses but so does the evidence from behaviourists. Humans may or may not be born with a predisposition for language. It is possible that it's neither nature nor nurture but a combination of both.

## The Week in Science



Jing Claussen ©

### Leeds team demonstrates new cancer treatment

Researcher at Leeds led by Dr Sunjie Ye have used gold nano-tubes to treat cancer. The study is the first to successfully demonstrate the biomedical use of gold nanotubes in a mouse model of human cancer. By engineering the tubes to the correct length and shining a near infrared laser on them (human tissue is transparent to this wavelength), they were able to heat up the nanotubes enough to kill local cancer cells.



M. Elsevier Stokmans ©

### CT scan reveals mummified Buddhist

The Meander Medical Center in the Netherlands ran an almost 1,000 year old statue through a CT scanner which revealed the mummified body of a Chinese Buddhist. It gives an insight into the mummification process. The researchers speculated that the man in question went through the painful process of self mummification - by consuming embalming fluid in life he was able to preserve his body after death.



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### Two fathers, one baby

A new paper in *Cell* investigates the possibility of using stem cells from a male to produce an egg, allowing an infant to have two biological fathers and removing the need for donor eggs. The paper describes the role of genetic regulators which influence whether an immature germ cell differentiates into a male or female cell, and how that process can be manipulated.



The joint blog ©

### Marijuana...again

A new study into marijuana has shown what many already believe; it is a lot safer than alcohol and tobacco. While using a novel method to test the mortality associated with each drug, it was found that alcohol was the most deadly while marijuana was the least. Undoubtedly, these findings will fall on deaf governmental ears as efforts increase to seek policy change on drug laws.



# Hosts too hot to handle in World Cup

Euan Cunningham  
Cricket

With most teams having played at least two matches so far in the ICC Cricket World Cup, it's becoming clear which sides are the ones to beat in the tournament.

Australia came into the competition as clear favourites. After annihilating England on the opening night of the tournament, their match against Bangladesh was washed out. They will be hoping to pick up another vital win when they play fellow tournament hosts New Zealand in Auckland on Sunday.

The Kiwis have been in imperious form in their opening games, first beating Sri Lanka by around 100 runs before following their co-hosts lead and dismantling England in similar style to Australia. They chased down England's miserable target of 123 in just 13 overs, a hammering far beyond what people were expecting. Their win against Scotland means they currently sit comfortably at the top of Pool A, with Sunday's mouthwatering match set to be the game of the tournament so far.

While most people expected England to lose against Australia – in home conditions, in Brisbane, on the first

night of the World Cup – they would not have expected them to lose so comprehensively. Neither would they have expected the absolute pasting that was handed out to them by New Zealand. While they did get their campaign up and running by beating Scotland on Sunday, they are still a long way behind the frontrunners. Their match against Sri Lanka on Saturday is vital.

The latter side have had a mixed tournament so far. After losing to New Zealand in their opening game, they beat Scotland comfortably before beating Bangladesh.

As for the smaller teams in this group, it's been a case of business as usual; losing to the established sides and competing with no little skill and determination against each other. Afghanistan produced a stellar performance to record their first ever World Cup win, against Scotland.

Onto Pool B, and here the attention turns firmly to South Africa and India. The two played each other last weekend, and it was India who came out on top after a thumping 130-run victory. They play the UAE on Sunday and will firmly believe that they can take top spot in the group.

The West Indies meanwhile have swung from zero to hero, losing shambolically to Ireland before demolishing Pakistan, who have themselves swung wildly between

mesmerising and appalling.

While the tournament is still anyone's to win, on current form it would take a brave person to bet against either of the hosts, or South Africa.



# All eyes on Aviva as Six Nations returns

Chris Chadburn  
Rugby Union

Dublin will host the biggest match yet of this year's Six Nations championship on Sunday as Ireland face England at the Aviva Stadium. The clash of the only two unbeaten teams left will go a considerable way to determining the destination of this year's trophy. Ireland will have ambitions of revenge after they suffered a serious loss at English rugby HQ last year, however defeat did not hinder their journey to overall victory.

It's likely that the victor of Sunday's game will go on to be champions in three weeks time. The absence of recent ever-present Mike Brown at full back may disrupt what was becoming a promising English back three, with Jack Nowell replacing Jonny May at wing only adding to the disruption.

A key factor in the game will be how they handle the unequalled kicking game of Sexton and Murray. The territorial and tactical domination Ireland achieved through their kicking last week against France strangled any glimmer of attacking play, which was incidentally not attempted by *Les Bleus*, resulting in a comfortable if disjointed win.

England have impressed most so far, yet they still haven't produced an 80 minute performance; although both second halves have been fantastic England will know that victory against Ireland will require a first half of similar brilliance. In truth Ireland will know that they will have to be better than they have been at any point so far in the tournament to leave victorious.

Every year there is renewed

optimism that Scotland vs Italy will be more than a wooden spoon decider, and yet again Scotland do not deserve to have lost both of their games. The Italians have yet to show enough to merit such comments, although their results have also not fully mirrored their performances. This Saturday at Murrayfield, the absence of Italy's charismatic prop Martin Castrogiavani –

because of a bizarre dog incident – will be felt more than the absence of Scottish fly half, Fin Russell, because of suspension. Expect a home win in this one.

Neither Wales or France have really impressed so far, both scraping nervy and error strewn wins against Scotland, so using current form as an indicator for this is somewhat futile. Wales have certainly shown more intent and threat, yet *Les Bleus* demonstrated intensity and ambition in a 15 minute spell in their last match in Dublin that would worry the Welsh defence this weekend.

Philippe Saint Andre appears to be changing tactics this week, omitting route one battering ram, Mathieu Bastareaud, hard running full back Scott Spedding and organizer Rory Kockott, and replacing them with the elusive Remy Lamerat, speedster Brice Dulin and undoubtedly the best scrum half in France, Morgan Parra. Who knows if these changes will do anything to spark *Les Bleus* into life, or if we are destined for another slow, predictable and direct display, in which case Wales will fancy their defence and the boot of Leigh Halfpenny to guide them to victory.





# Farah back on track in Birmingham

Alex Bowmer  
Athletics

Mo Farah provided the highlight of the Birmingham Grand Prix as he shattered the two mile indoor world record by almost a second. The Briton put aside his Twitter spat with fellow long-distance runner Andy Vernon to tear up the track and leave rivals Paul Koech and Bernard Lagat, securing the record with a sub-four minute mile in the second half of the race. Farah will not attend next month's European Indoor Championships in Prague, but will surely be one of the favourites for both the 5,000m and 10,000m at the World Championships in August, which will be held in Beijing.

Having broken the British high jump record in Sheffield, Katarina Johnson-Thompson secured another national best as she leapt to an incredible distance of 6.93m in the long jump. Despite her status as a heptathlete, there is no reason to suggest that the 22 year-old Liverpoolian could not challenge in both of these events in their own right. Having missed both of last year's centrepiece events, the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games, Johnson-Thompson is certainly making up for lost time.

Greg Rutherford was another success

story from the weekend's action, and improved his indoor personal best four times during his victorious outing at the Barclaycard Arena. Jenny Meadows and Nigel Levine were other home-grown athletes who excelled, triumphing in the 800m and 400m respectively.

However, arguably the greatest accomplishment was that of the evergreen Kim Collins, who, despite being 38 years-old is still running as impressively as ever. He stormed to the 60m title in 6.50s, narrowly defeating British hot prospect Chijindu Ujah

(6.55s).

If these athletes can continue to replicate their current form when the outdoor season commences in a few months' time, then we have a tremendously exciting season in prospect.



© Athletics Weekly

# Could Figo's new ideas form future of FIFA?

Nancy Gillen  
Football

With the recent announcement that the Qatar 2022 World Cup could be held in the winter due to its unbearably hot summers, eyes once again turn to the organisation that chose this unsuitable country to host the famous tournament. The issues of corruption and deceit have been raised over and over again as more problems with the 2022 World Cup are unearthed, adding to FIFA's already shady reputation.

The head of FIFA, Sepp Blatter, has been in charge for 17 years, and his supremacy over the organisation is seen as one of its problems. Therefore the presidential race, due to culminate in elections on 29th May 2015, is giving hope to many that a new, candid, FIFA president will be elected who can reform FIFA into a progressive and current organisation.

In the running for this position is former Barcelona and Real Madrid star Luis Figo. He released his manifesto last week, the first of the candidates to do so. Within it, Figo has suggested a 40 or 48 nation World Cup played across two

continents. In addition, he has called for more of FIFA's revenue and cash reserves to be spent on grassroots football and national federations.

Looking at the rules of football themselves, Figo has proposed for the reinstatement of the old offside law in which a player could be flagged offside whether interfering in play or not, and the trial of sin bins for unsporting behaviour.

Figo claims to have been motivated to run for the presidency after seeing the decline of FIFA over the years and is aiming to "restore transparency, cooperation and solidarity" to the organisation. However, despite this sentiment, Figo has the least connections with the voting members, and so is the outsider. Each of FIFA's 209 members has a vote, and so therefore the candidate with the most connections is most likely to win.

Because of this, Blatter is the favourite to win, having built up a network of voters after winning the previous four elections. The other two candidates are the FIFA vice president Prince Ali Bin Al-Hussein, who will be backed by the English Football Association, and Michael Van Praag,

the head of the Dutch FA. Both have previously criticised Blatter's regime.

Regardless of Sepp Blatter's weight in the voting arena, it is hoped that the national federations can see that FIFA is desperate for a new era of reform and

progression. For too long the organisation has been overshadowed by controversy and accusations of bribery. A new president will go some way to restoring the faith in football's governing body.



© ESPN





# BUCS Nationals 2015



The BUCS Nationals are the highlight of the season for individual sports at university. *The Gryphon* highlights star performances from the University of Leeds in the UK's largest annual multi-sport event that took place last weekend in Sheffield.

## Judo - Aidan Radford

The men's judo team encountered some tough competition at this year's BUCS finals; with Leeds represented in the -60, -73 and -81kg in the black belt category by Martin Woodhams, Sam Smith and Aidan Radford respectively. After some gruelling fights Radford and Smith made it through to the knockout stages of the competition, but failed to medal. Highlights included Radford winning a fight in under four seconds and Smith lasting for three minutes in a bout against one of the best judoka in the UK, who just last year represented England in the Commonwealth Games.

The biggest congratulations go to Amy Higginbotham, a first year who was recently promoted to blue belt, and had to fight in a weight category two above her own. She overpowered her opponents, winning every fight except one with the highest score possible of an ippon and earning herself a gold medal.



## Fencing - Jordan Au

James Foreshaw and Jordan Au competed in the sabre and made it to the knock out stages.

Both fencers made it past the first round of direct elimination, yet Foreshaw swiftly lost the next round 15-9 to finish 39th out of 98, while Au fought a closely contested match against the second seed but lost out 15-12 to end up in 59th.

Catrin Smith and Ava Martinez-Lambert represented Leeds in the women's foil. Both competed well with Smith winning a direct elimination fight but losing 15-9 in the last 64 to finish 37th out of 73.

Martinez-Lambert was in great form, winning all but one of her fights in the poules and cruising her way past two direct elimination rounds to finish 16th, only losing to the overall third placed foilist.

Men's epee was represented by Josh Stuart, Robert Ward and Alastair Plant. Plant won once in the

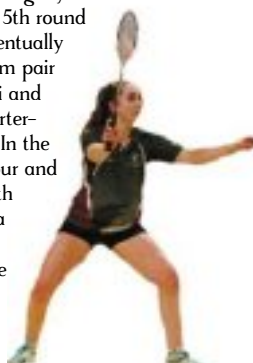
knockout stages, finishing 54th out of 115 after

losing 15-10 to the third seed. Stuart finished in 71st, while Ward ended up 94th.



## Badminton - Beth Moorley

The men had a tough draw and Leeds' number one Thomas Li was beaten in the second round by the competition's number three seed. In the women's singles, the Gryphons made it to the last 16 but the doubles was where real progress was made. Buoyed on by great vocal support, Li and Kingsley Tan advanced all the way to the 5th round in the men's competition, eventually losing out to a strong Durham pair who made the final, while Li and Serena Midha made the quarter-finals in the mixed doubles. In the women's contest, Rae Larmour and Harriet West reached the fifth round, yet Midha and Helena Lewczynska made it all the way to the semi-finals where unfortunately they lost out to Loughborough in a breath-taking match which finished 21-17, 21-17.



## Athletics - Ed Hall

The team was slightly reduced due to a series of injuries; however there were still some notable performances. Sports scholar Oli Back ran a strong heat and semi-final to make it to the men's 60m final. Back ran 6.99 seconds to secure 7th place in a close final with only two tenths of a second separating the whole field. Bex Myers also progressed through the rounds to make it to the women's 800m final. She ran well to produce a time of 2:17.40, securing 6th place. Elsewhere, Chloe Boomer and Natasha Segal reached the semi-finals of the women's 60m, while Segal also progressed to the semi-final of the 200m in which she finished a close third. Ben Marriott narrowly missed out on a place in the final of the men's 3000m, being beaten to the line by 0.33 seconds in a tightly contested heat.



## Climbing - Beth Moorley

The women's team finished comfortably in the top 20, ranking 14th out of 52 universities. The men finished 23rd out of 82 universities in what was a very close battle with the teams around them. Phoebe Blackney performed well in the individual event, finishing 10th overall. In the men's competition, Fergus Greig top scored for Leeds with a 56th place finish.





### Karate – Amber Brennan

Kayleigh Smyth was the first female Gryphon to medal in the BUCS nationals, taking bronze in the novice kata category, while Daniel Carter took silver in the men's senior kata competition. It was extremely exciting to watch as Carter performed under the spotlight in front of a silent stadium in the final. Massive congratulations to them both.

All of the competitors deserve congratulations after their efforts over the weekend. The competition was tough with an extremely high standard throughout. There were some close calls, with our male team fighting for the repechage in the team kumite, and individuals showing fantastic commitment, despite suffering some nasty blows.



Beth Moorley ©

### Trampolining – Aaron Howells



Ten individual competitors travelled to represent Leeds and the team produced some excellent routines against tough competition. With categories of numbers pushing into the hundreds, it took a high level of skill, stamina, and bravery to execute a stand out routine. Amy Turner, Emily Batson, Ashley Stammers, Sophie Woodhead, Katherine Stoodley, Amy Reid, Marie Guerinet, Rachel Openshaw, Karishma Patel and Sophie Lewisall performed valiantly for Leeds and a few competitors missed out on qualifying to the final round by just 0.1 of a mark. However, Turner produced two outstanding routines that secured her qualification and despite a tiny error in her final routine, she finished 15th overall – a commendable achievement in a national competition.

### Squash – Alex Bowmer

Kirsty McGuff and Ben Mann both won the Plate title in their respective divisions.

McGuff and Mann both got through their first round encounters, with the latter squeezing through 3-1, clinching the match 12-10 in the final set.

McGuff then cruised through to the semi-finals with a consummate performance and 3-0 victory. Mann soon followed suit, with silverware in sight for both. The duo both made it through their semi-finals and then made no mistake in the showpiece event.

### Swimming – Beth Moorley

In the individual events, Rachel Williamson finished 12th in the women's 800m freestyle, while triathlete Beau Smith put in a solid performance to finish 11th in the men's 1500m freestyle and Amanda Kelly ended 18th in the women's 100m backstroke final.

Both men's and women's 400m freestyle relay teams performed well in the heats and they went on to finish fourth and first in the B finals respectively, while the weekend ended on a high as the women's 400m medley team finished ninth in the final.



## Leeds are Craven medals

### Callum Craven Boxing

Leeds had two boxers competing for gold medals after progressing through the Championships in Newcastle earlier in the month. The 60-64kg fight between Callum Craven and Calvin Pattinson from Leeds Beckett was a close one. In the first round Craven started much faster, beating his opponent to the jab, setting the pace and settling any nerves at the same time. Pattinson seemed to be lunging in with attacks, struggling to find his range and allowing Craven to set the tempo and counter his attacks with sharp, straight shots. Craven deservedly won the round, producing cleaner work and a much higher work rate.

The second round was very close with both fighters cautiously trading shots. Pattinson was getting more into the fight and finding his range with a few good right hands early on, while also showing good head movement to avoid an attack from Craven when he was pushed back in the ropes. Craven, not wanting to get left behind, attacked behind fairs and tried to land his own right hands. Pattinson's shots seemed to be the stronger but Craven still managed to avoid most of his raiding attacks and counter when in range. Overall, it was a very even round from two technical boxers; Pattinson had some strong attacks but Craven was still setting the pace of the fight.

The 3rd round was close again. Pattinson tried to step up the pace but didn't always throw his shots when in range, allowing Craven to get his own attacks off. Both fighters traded shots but as the round went on it was Craven that still had the fresher legs, moving out of range when Pattinson tried to pin him down. The round ended frantically with both boxers trying to land as much as possible until the final bell.

The scorecards read 29:28, 29:28, 28:29 to Craven in

the red corner, giving the Leeds representative the win by split decision. The cleaner, more accurate work and higher tempo throughout the fight was from Craven and he deservedly secured gold and subsequent bragging rights over local rivals Leeds Beckett.

Next up, Ben Akram faced Derrick Osazemwinde of Nottingham Trent in the 69-75kg final. The 1st round started fast with Osazemwinde coming forward straight from the bell, attacking with powerful shots in the first minute and catching his usually slippery opponent off guard and landing regularly. Akram came back in the 2nd half of the round by rolling under shots and countering his foe with accurate left hooks. The round ended with Akram on top but Osazemwinde had done enough in the first minute or so to win due to his early powerful flurries.

The second started much the same as Osazemwinde launched forward and pinned Akram to the ropes with straight shots. However, this attack only lasted a short while as Osazemwinde tired visibly and Akram started to get his own shots off. A big left hook in the second minute and another strong end to the round made the 2nd a very tough round to score for the judges.

The last round was a boxing lesson by Akram from start to finish. He led with jabs and left hooks and worked hard all the way through, catching his opponent with hard telling blows. Osazemwinde was tiring from his earlier work and Akram was looking fitter as the fight went on. The 3rd round was the Leeds man's best and made the fight very tough to call for the judges.

The result was a unanimous decision to Osazemwinde as all three judges scored the bout two rounds to one to the Nottingham Trent man, but it was a much closer fight than the score suggested with many of the crowd commenting that Akram had shown the better skill throughout.

Nonetheless, overall one gold and one silver represents a great achievement for the Leeds boxers.



# Celtics fall short in season climax

**Nick Knight**  
American Football  
Leeds Celtics 22-28 Bradford Bears

For the final game of the season the Leeds Celtics welcomed the Bradford Bears, in a rematch of last year's season opener that went right down to the wire, resulting in a Celtic victory. Sunday's game was a similarly close affair with both teams wishing to end their season on a high note.

The Celtics won the coin toss and elected to receive the opening kick-off. With the wind in their faces the Celtics were able to pick up a couple of first downs before being forced to punt the ball away to the Bears. Bradford had similar problems trying to find yardage, working most of their offence through their running back and fullback combination. The teams exchanged punts and the Celtics came out to start a drive on the Bradford 30 yard line. After a few plays for short yardage, quarterback Adam Smith found receiver Guy Weisselberg deep down field for a 60 yard touchdown reception. With the two point conversion good, the Celtics found themselves 8-0 up at the end of the first quarter.

Bradford came out in the second quarter eager to put points on the board. A blocked punt gave Bradford a short

field to work with and, sticking with their running attack, they were able to find the end zone twice before the half was over, and went into halftime leading 14-8.

To begin the second half, Bradford took possession but were unable to capitalise on the momentum they built going into the half. The Celtics then put their foot on the accelerator to get back into the game, as quarterback Smith found tight end Alex Hall in the end zone to tie the score at 14 apiece. Bradford were kept off the scoreboard in the third quarter by a strong defensive showing from defensive linemen Mike Calvert and Nik Kozina, with Kozina chasing down the Bradford running back several times. Linebacker Rory Ellis was also able to disrupt the backfield and keep the Bears from advancing.

Later on in the third quarter, the Celtics retook the lead with running back Toby Richardson receiving a toss play and running 70 yards down field all the way to the end zone, making the score 22-14 with only one quarter remaining.

Bradford were then able to block another of the Celtics' punts, again setting themselves up in good field position. They were again able to take advantage of the short field and found the end zone to tie up the score once



Kevin A Bw ©

more. The Celtics' offence were unable to carry on the momentum they built in the third quarter and Bradford took to the field again. Their running back was brought down to the ground hard, and there was a 20 minute delay whilst he received medical attention and was stretched off. News came through after the game that he suffered no serious injury.

Bradford seemed to be fired up after the medical delay, and wasted no time

putting more points on the board with their sustained running attack, putting them back in the lead 28-22 with just two minutes remaining.

This did not prove to be long enough for the Celtics to equalise and the game finished leaving the Celtics with just one win on the season. The side is in need of a good off season to get themselves in a good position to challenge for the playoffs next year.

# Uni pegged back as York steal draw

**Daniel Nixon**  
Men's Football  
Leeds Uni 2s 1-1 York 1s

Leeds 2s and York 1s played out a 1-1 draw at Weetwood on Wednesday, where a dull first period was outshone by an all-action second half. York sat a comfortable two places higher than Uni prior to kick-off, with a deficit of seven points separating the two sides.

York displayed confidence in the opening five minutes with large amounts of possession, but couldn't fashion a clear opening. Leeds then began to pressurise the ball, which resulted in a competitive opening 15 minutes, as countless feisty challenges flew in.

Leeds' best chance of the half came in the 18th minute as Ben Leaman played in Isaac Crown down the left wing with a pin-point pass with the

outside of the foot. Crown cut in superbly, but the resulting shot rippled the side-netting without challenging the York keeper.

As the first-half drew to a close York looked more likely to get that all-important first goal and Leeds had their keeper Cody Wharton to thank for ensuring that the scores remained level at the halfway mark.

Uni broke the deadlock five minutes into the second half as Yoav Kestenbaum beat numerous York defenders down the right flank, before flashing a ball across the box from the by-line. Lurking eight yards out was Jack Seccomb, who unleashed a first-time effort which flew into the top left-hand corner, giving the York keeper no chance.

Uni's confidence was sky high after that goal and the team looked likely to add to their tally. Modou Touray sent a long ball into the opposition's danger area and James Hughes was in the right place at the right time to slot his shot into the bottom right-hand corner, only for the goal to be controversially ruled offside.

Seconds later, York broke through the Leeds defensive line. Wharton

Stats		
Leeds Uni		Leeds Beckett
2	Shots on target	3
4	Shots off target	8
2	Fouls	11
1	Offsides	0
3	Corners	2

saved the initial shot well but despite the Uni defender's best efforts to block the resulting rebound, the ball took a deflection, landing perfectly for the York striker who headed in from five yards out. It was now York's turn to ask all the questions with a number of long throws that Leeds struggled to clear. Either team could have come out on top heading into the final stages of the game, but the match petered out.

The result leaves Uni second bottom in the Northern 2B division. Despite this, the side sit seven points clear of Leeds Beckett, meaning that they should comfortably stay up.



Sam Broadley ©







Leeds Hockey women's 3s had a tough match against Leeds Beckett 2s this week at Weetwood. Although they pushed their opponents hard, the Gryphons eventually succumbed to a 2-1 defeat to their close rivals.

# Gryphons hold off Hull fightback to claim victory

**Euan Cunningham**  
Women's Hockey  
Leeds Uni 5s 3-2 Hull 1s

On a surprisingly warm and sunny afternoon at Weetwood, Leeds women's 5s won a close game against Hull 1s 3-2, and in doing so climbed above Leeds 4s in their BUCS league table.

The match started brightly for the Gryphons, with plenty of sharp, incisive passing and free-flowing attacking play. They were particularly adept at catching Hull on the counter-attack, waiting until the visitors had most of their team in the forward positions before breaking at speed.

It was therefore no surprise when they eventually scored the game's first goal, Hannah Cowie finishing off a period of sustained pressure around the area by finishing in composed style from close range. The 1-0 lead was no more than the team deserved for keeping the pressure on and not allowing Hull any respite.

It was soon 2-0 as Hull were carved open by a lovely team goal. Running

from deep, a Leeds midfielder made excellent ground, running past two Hull challenges, before sliding a well-timed pass into Sally Addison who had stolen in behind the Hull defence. One clinical finish into the bottom corner later and the lead was doubled. With a half-time score of 2-0, the Gryphons needed to make sure they guarded against complacency. Captain Alice Littler was vocal in her insistence that the first half standard should be kept up right until the final whistle.

They certainly continued in the same manner initially by scoring a third goal early on in the second half. Josie Blagbrough got it, finishing well at the end of another period of pressure in and around the Hull area.

However, Hull immediately reminded Leeds that the game was still far from over by starting to make some headway of their own. The Hull forwards in particular were enjoying some new-found space as the Leeds backline started to push up, and eventually a long pass in behind the defence left a Hull player clean through on goal.

Despite the best efforts of keeper Joanne Harding, who had already made several important saves, she finished well and reduced the deficit to 3-1.

3-1 soon became 3-2 as exactly the same move worked again for the visitors. A move which petered out around the edge of the Hull area left several Leeds players stranded upfield, and the ball was eventually worked through to the same Hull attacker, who bore down on goal before again finishing well.

Despite essentially letting Hull back into the game, Leeds showed no signs of panic, continuing to dominate the game and create chances. There were a couple of nervy moments around the shooting circle, but Leeds dealt with those, and as the full time whistle blew the players could reflect on a win that saw them overtake the 4s in the BUCS table, and a performance that fully merited taking the spoils.

The side will hope that they can replicate this result next week as they face Hull again in the reverse tie in the season's penultimate game.



**Badminton 2s (M)** 8-0 Teeside 1s  
**Badminton 3s (M)** 3-5 Hull 2s  
**Badminton 1s (W)** 5-3 Bath 1s  
(Championship)

**Basketball 1s (M)** 69-83 Sheffield  
**Hallam 2s**

**Fencing (M)** 135-80 Liverpool 2s  
**Football 1s (M)** 6-0 Leeds Beckett 2s  
**Football 2s (M)** 1-1 York 1s  
**Football 3s (M)** 3-1 Leeds Beckett 5s  
**Football 4s (M)** 3-1 Hull 3s  
**Football 2s (W)** 4-0 York St John 1s

**Hockey 2s (M)** 1-3 Sheffield 2s  
**Hockey 3s (M)** 2-3 York St John 1s  
**Hockey 4s (M)** 0-5 Leeds Beckett 2s  
**Hockey 5s (M)** 0-0 Leeds Beckett 3s  
**Hockey 2s (W)** 0-2 Sheffield Hallam 1s  
**Hockey 3s (W)** 1-2 Leeds Beckett 2s  
**Hockey 4s (W)** 1-2 Newcastle 3s  
**Hockey 5s (W)** 3-1 Hull 1s  
**Hockey 6s (W)** 1-6 York 2s  
**Hockey 7s (W)** 2-1 Leeds Trinity 1s  
**Hockey 8s (W)** 2-2 Sunderland 1s

**Lacrosse 1s (M)** 6-2 Sheffield Hallam 2s  
**Lacrosse 2s (W)** 17-2 Newcastle 3s

**Netball 2s** 39-18 Leeds 3s  
**Netball 3s** 18-39 Leeds 2s  
**Netball 5s** 38-34 York 2s  
**Netball 6s** 56-11 York St John 3s

**Rugby League 1s** 64-4 Northumbria 2s

**Rugby Union 3s (M)** 12-15 Sheffield 2s  
**Rugby Union 4s (M)** 20-11 Sheffield 3s

**Squash 2s (M)** 3-0 Hull 2s  
**Squash 1s (W)** 0-4 Bristol (Championship)

**Tennis 1s (M)** 0-12 Leeds Beckett 2s  
**Tennis 2s (M)** 0-12 Leeds Beckett 4s  
**Tennis 3s (M)** 0-12 Newcastle 2s

**Volleyball (M)** 2-3 Newcastle 1s  
**Volleyball (W)** 3-0 W Hull 1s





Can England keep their unbeaten Six Nations campaign going as they tackle Ireland? p. 18



How did women's hockey do as their season's come towards an end? p. 23



The FIFA presidency race is hotting up. Will Sepp continue his reign? p. 19



Football 2s draw 1-1 with York as they fail to hold on to their lead. p. 22



Sam Broadley ©

# Uni overcome lax-adaisical Newcastle

● Uni see off poor Newcastle side with comfortable win ● Gryphons in good form ahead of Conference Cup semi-final

**Alex Bowmer**  
Women's Lacrosse  
Leeds Uni 2s 17-2 Newcastle 3s

Following a double victory for Leeds at the National Universities 8s Tournament, confidence in the lacrosse camp was high. The Gryphons picked up where they left off as they put Newcastle 3s to the sword at Weetwood on Wednesday.

Leeds got off to a lightning start, as a blistering break saw them take the lead early on. Newcastle managed to hit back soon after, as their No.44 weaved through the defence and snuck a shot in at the near post.

The home side were undeterred however, with Georgie Stubble going on a mazy run that bisected the Tyneside outfit's defence and finished expertly. It was clear from the outset why the team had done so well throughout the whole of this year, as there was constant

communication and encouragement when the odd pass went astray. The Newcastle keeper had the unenviable task of repelling wave after wave of attacks, and although she did a good job in keeping the score down, it was always going to be a tough ask.

The away team did score again after a rare foray forward, but the momentum was very much with Uni. Kate McCully flicked a shot that flashed narrowly past the left-hand upright, and Sarah Christie also went close as Leeds kept up the pressure. However, it wasn't long before the girls doubled their advantage as Becky Cheall bounced a shot into the corner to put Leeds 4-2 up.

If Newcastle thought that their opponents would rest on their laurels, they were mistaken. More intricate play around the penalty box, eventually found the ball pinged to Vicky Schenk, who needed no further invitation, and buried the shot into the back of the net.

The Newcastle shouts of encouragement were becoming increasingly weary, as the deluge continued. McCully finished first time from a pull-back, and the ball shot into the top corner. The scoreline was starting to look embarrassing, and some tiki-taka play eventually led to Lela Long putting Leeds 7-2 up. Long was also involved in the next goal, as she fed Anna Townsend, who kept her cool in front of goal.

Newcastle's passing sequences were continually frustrated, and cut out by the Leeds defenders. When they did manage to find their way through, Ellie Eisenstadt in goal was able to block any attempts that came her way. Jenn Ball starred in the latter stages of the match, and scored via a few Messi-esque dribbles through the centre of the pitch. As the outcome was now a foregone conclusion, conversation among the defensive players turned to other things, including what the team might have for

supper.

The difference in quality shone through, as Leeds were able to carve open the rearguard of their opponents time and time again. Newcastle found it almost impossible to break through the Leeds backline, and were met with an imposing green and maroon wall every time they tried to advance. Stubble went off on another mazy dribble and laid it off to McCully, who once again made no mistake.

Further goals from Bell, Cheall and Octavia Manning-Cox added gloss to an already emphatic scoreline.

Overall, it was an excellent day's work for the Gryphons. Promotion is slightly beyond their grasp, but if they can perform in this vein next season, they will surely put themselves in contention.