

THE GRYPHON

WE NEED YOU

I remember, exactly this time last year, that I said I would do everything in my power to serve this student newspaper.

I am writing this open letter today because the time has come for me to enact my promise.

As a student publication, The Gryphon is faced with a difficult task, in which it has to balance its journalistic responsibility with the fact that it is an LUU society.

This has always sat the newspaper a little awkwardly. It serves to hold the Union to account, yet lives within it. What does that mean for it, and for you, as its readers?

Firstly, it means that the publication's role as the voice of Leeds University students has to be taken seriously. In the Union bye-laws, it is stipulated that the Editor-in-Chief of The Gryphon has to be elected.

This allows the newspaper to represent the views of its readers in the most accurate manner, as well as permitting it to hold the University and Union to account.

Sometimes, finding out the truth isn't easy. People can get hurt. Reputations can be damaged. Reparations need to be made.

Today, we at The Gryphon want to share a difficult truth with our readers.

Last year, our Editor campaign was sidelined without discussion, by LUU. As our previous Editor can testify, this decision was conveyed without any liaison between the Editor and senior LUU staff members.

This resulted, in the first time in roughly forty years, of the Editor's removal from all Lead LUU promotional material, the enlistment of a separate briefing for Editor candidates, as well as The Gryphon candidates being placed on a separate ballot.

In spite of promises that LUU would help the newspaper find its feet again after our grievances were made public, we are still struggling in our quest to be a voice that is heard.

In spite of the fact that the decision to remove The Gryphon Editor from the Leadership Race ballot, with the other executive hopefuls, was taken without our consent, we have to ensure that 1500 vote on this campus next week to say yes to fair representation for The Gryphon.

It might not feel like this should be an issue that matters to you. You might pick up the paper every now and again, find it a mysterious entity, and wonder why we are airing discontentment.

To consciously sideline the Editorial campaign without the permission of the campus is to jeopardise your freedom of speech.

No matter how subtle these movements are, to marginalise the Editor's election without the permission of the student body is nothing short of unjust.

Being the voice of the students comes with great responsibility. We decide what you get to read, how we say what you do read, and what is the most important part of those stories.

That is a job that needs to be taken seriously, and the dismantling of Editorial responsibility is one of devastating effect.

LUU prides itself on being a democratic platform which allows its student's voices to be heard. When the paper's own democracy is threatened, LUU's reputation comes into question.

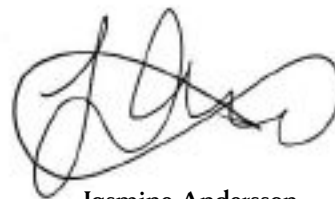
We would like you to join with us, and appeal to the Union's finer sensibilities. We want to build a bridge which allows the student body to be given a voice in deciding what happens with the newspaper that is built for them.

We offer out this editorial as an olive branch. We want to operate in a way in which we are responsible to you — our students, and only our students.

If you believe in being fairly represented on your campus by an institution that seeks to give you an unbiased perspective on what is happening at your University, then vote 'Yes' in Monday's referendum to give The Gryphon Editor equal coverage in the Leadership Race campaign.

We want to build a bright future with you, for you.

Yours,



Jasmine Andersson
Editor-in-chief





13 03 15

Weather

		HI	LO
Friday	snow	9	2
Saturday	cloudy	6	1
Sunday	rainy	6	3

Tweet of the Week

"I'm so hungry I could punch a producer."
-@rickygervais

Ricky Gervais pitches in to the rumbling Clarkson furore with his own little quip.

Contents

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

Credits

Editor-In-Chief - Jasmine Andersson

Associate Editors - Jamie Taylor, Ste Topping

News - Abba Kloo, Charlotte Mason, Jake Hookem

Features - Ruby Lott-Lavigna, Brigitte Phillips

Comment & Debate - Philippa Williams, Ella Healing

Science - Alice Hargreaves-Jones and Michael Owen

Sport - Adam LeRoux, Peter White, Alex Bowmer

Head of Photography - Sam Broadley

Photographers - Lucie England-Duce, Alice Greenfield, Will Stanley, Anne Wyman and Sam Lewis

Illustrator - Danny Wilson

Designers - Frazer Sparham, Ben Sandin and Sophia Kossoski

Societies backing us

Lippy
UML
POLIS
French soc
Welsh society
Homed
Motorsport society
Hip-Hop
RAG
Mind Matters
Conservative Future
Taekwondo
Food society
Spoken Word
Isoc
LUBS
Anti-death penalty
Revolutionary Society
Marxist
Labour
PSG
ShockSoc
Jsoc
Chemical Engineering
Book Club
STAR

Biosoc
Lingsoc
Socsoc
Physoc
FoodSoc
Fashion
Amnesty
English
Re-Thinkers
ACS
Slapsoc
Socialist Students
Communications soc
Vegetarian and Vegan
OASU
Classics
Leeds Surf
SMS
Ahlul Bayt Society
Philosophy soc

Fortune Cookie

Raglan Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.

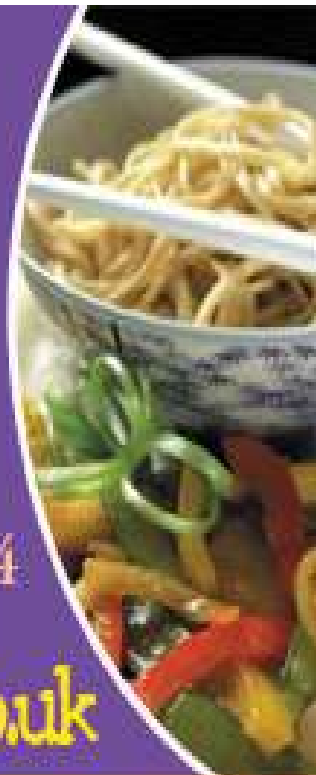
Tel: (0113) 244 2228

Freephone: 08000 155 444

Open 7 Days From 5pm Till Late

www.fcookie.co.uk

"Supporting Students for 20 Years"



Gryphon criticises LUU for 'undemocratic' sidelining of Editor election

Jamie Taylor

The Gryphon are putting LUU under fire for claiming that they were unfairly sidelined in the recent Leadership Race elections.

The elections, which saw six executive officers run for LUU posts, also included the campaign for *Gryphon* Editor. This position was not included in any of the marketing material or social media campaigns by LUU.

Gryphon candidates Ste Topping and Benjamin Cook also saw their manifestos uploaded a week later than the other executive candidates. Student could vote for *The Gryphon* once they had voted for the executive positions, but the location of this ballot confused many students.

The society were offered the option of holding a separate election ballot in May, but believed that the removal of the elections from the Leadership Race would indicate the Editor's position to be of lesser responsibility than the Lead LUU candidates, and would be of great

disruption to the newspaper's functions. The Union cited that this decision would be made due to 'confusion' amongst students as to the responsibilities of the Exec members and *The Gryphon* Editor. *The Gryphon* Editor is also not positioned as an LUU trustee — an individual with a share in the Union — due to the fact that it would conflict with its journalistic independence. Complaining that it had been unclearly signposted, so and so said on Twitter: "Another student also said: "

The Gryphon have aired their grievances over the process, in which they alleged they were not consulted over the decision to separate *The Gryphon* ballot, citing it as 'undemocratic'.

Editor-In-Chief Jasmine Andersson said 'We want a fair, democratic election for the newspaper.'

We have been deprived of coverage during this year and last year's leadership race.'

At the time of printing, *The Gryphon's* public change.org petition to lobby LUU over the election process had received 369 signatures.

The Gryphon's plea has also garnered societal support.

Amnesty International supports freedom of expression at all levels and in any capacity. As such we believe that attempts to suppress, delegitimise or hinder student journalism should be checked challenged, and we endorse any campaign that aims to provide students with a voice in affairs that matters to them.

Organisation of African Student Unity said: 'In a top-academic red brick university, it is essential that the staff as well as students express their views and opinions in order to maintain the university's academic integrity. Students should therefore have a right to vote on what they believe is best, by supporting and also questioning outlets that represent the voice of the students.'

CommSoc added: 'CommSoc understand the importance and significance of the media which is why we support a fair election. Students should be able to exercise their right to vote but due to

the lack of coverage for *The Gryphon* candidates and election, students are unaware of their policies and how to even vote. *The Gryphon* hold a huge responsibility in representing students interests, they should be a voice for students which is why this role is just as important as any in the leadership race."

Jasmine, however, says that she hopes for the referendum to incite a productive change, rather than immobilise relations between the Union and the paper. 'I hope that this referendum, and our protest, will be used to start a key dialogue between LUU and the newspaper.'

I believe that LUU has enacted many great policies and holds some fantastic staff members. I believe that the reassessment of the treatment of *The Gryphon* holds the key to not only a fairer, better newspaper, but a most importantly, a more democratic Union'.



Sam Broadley



LUU Democracy in focus

LUU spends 4k a year on forums



Jessica Murray

The Union spends over £4,000 a year on cash incentives to encourage students to participate in forums, it has been revealed.

The Better Union, Better University and Better Leeds forums are held five times a year to facilitate student-led change. Panels are made up of 16 randomly selected students, who are paid £20 each to attend.

Yorkshire-based charity Scurrah Wainwright, which specialises in funding participatory democracy, paid participants when the forums were first established in 2010. However, the Union continued paying students after the charity pulled out of the initiative after two years.

The Union claims that 82% of participants admitted that they wouldn't

have attended a forum unless they were paid, and 52% said they would participate again for free.

Fourth-year Politics student Phil Mann, who was paid £20 to attend a recent Better Union forum stated, 'I was pretty surprised they paid students to attend these forums. Twenty pounds was obviously a good incentive, but it seems a lot. It's good that LUU consults students on issues, but I think lots of people will be surprised it happens in this way.'

Rachael Phillips, a second-year English literature student who has attended two forums stated, 'On the whole, it's a lot of money but it's definitely an incentive. I probably wouldn't have been that bothered if it was unpaid, and it actually made me more aware about how the union works and what it does.'

Welfare Rep Lawrence Thompson sets out a vision for a more democratic and accountable Union

Our democratic system of Union governance is failing students. Its flaws have been exposed over the past twelve months and they are complex, intensely political in nature and need to be addressed by the next Exec.

At present, five times a year, forums are convened to address ideas presented by students. These ideas, designed to deliver a 'Better Union', a 'Better University', and a 'Better Leeds' are discussed and debated by the relevant delegates and reps who articulate the opinions of the student body. If 75% of the randomly selected panel vote in favour of the 'idea' it becomes Union policy, if 75% vote against, it fails and can't be resubmitted for 12 months. If a conclusive decision cannot be reached, the idea goes to a campus-wide referendum for a final decision. Importantly, after three years even successful ideas expire and must be re-submitted to remain Union policy.

As Welfare Rep, I've held regular Welfare Assemblies to students' opinions on what should or shouldn't become policy.

Needless to say, some ideas are more successful than others. The 'Time to Change pledge' which the Union and University signed originated in LUU forums and has since served to revolutionise Mental Health support on campus. Unfortunately however, there are numerous good ideas which are

currently not being implemented despite their success at forum.

Students determined that LUU society members should be able to evaluate their committee's performance through surveys and consequently offer constructive feedback. Nobody I know, to my knowledge, has been given this opportunity.

Similarly, last May, students passed my proposal for LUU to publicise and promote the Little LUU House. As of yet, there's been no social media push and only one sign has been erected outside the building. Although consistent with the wording of the idea, it is certainly contrary to its spirit.

This has become massively frustrating. Every student who attends assemblies has thought: 'What's the point? Nothing will happen.'

There is a better way forward but we must be able to formally hold the Exec to account over the implementation of ideas.

Currently Exec officers are only held accountable for their own policies and not those passed through forum. This has to change.

I propose that the policy-holder and relevant Exec officer should agree a timeline for action to be published online, with the elected Exec officer ultimately taking responsibility for its implementation. This proposition will visually convey whether the timeline

goals have been achieved and whether or not a project has delivered ahead of schedule. It is also clear that if ideas aren't worthwhile, such as Nap Space, then this should be actioned the same way it was passed: through the Better Union forum. The Exec could then publish these accountability reports to each Assembly in order to help others understand the progress of ideas and policy within LUU. As members of the exec are officers of LU, they are accountable to all students and it is my hope that this process will empower them to challenge staff members to deliver policy in a timely fashion. If an idea is not being well-implemented or goes beyond a given time-scale, it should be important that it's not sidelined in some forgotten corner of the website.

Regarding the implementation of ideas in LUU, there is also confusion as to whether an idea is to be implemented within a three-year period or whether it is to become policy for three-years. It clearly cannot be both. I believe that this ambiguity gives the Exec far too much power to interpret ideas in ways to which could be construed to suit their own agenda. Not only is this against the spirit of the by-laws of the Union, it is also against the letter.

Finally, and most importantly, we must be clearer on what decisions must be made through forum. I would like to

see strict criteria dividing operational decisions the Exec can make and those policy proposals which must be reached by consensus through Forum. I believe, as do many others, that the decision to strip the Editor of The Gryphon from the Leadership race coverage was illegitimate because it wasn't brought about through consensus but was instead done through diktat.

The paper is a student institution and belongs to them. If they decide it shouldn't be elected or that it should receive less coverage than that is their prerogative. The point is even those involved accept nobody outside the LUU building was consulted. This is unacceptable in a deliberative and consensus-based student democracy such as ours.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Working by consensus and being transparent in our dealings is the only viable way forward. Too many students are disillusioned and disappointed with LUU; genuine engagement demands trust that the process can deliver. As much as we celebrate the many thousands of people who participated in the Leadership Race, we still have a great deal to do in generating real and tangible engagement in our democratic process.



Sleepout organised in support of Leeds' homeless



©Bryony Jameson

Robert Cohen

On the 19th of March, Student Action for Refugees (STAR), Homed, and LUU Amnesty International, will hold their annual 'Sleepout' outside the Union building. Volunteers will sleep outside the Union building overnight, with a range of other societies providing entertainment and support including musical performances, film screenings, and talks. The organisers hope to raise awareness and funds for their work in support of the homeless, and against poor treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Hayley Rundle, president of Homed, said:

'I think the Sleepout is a really valuable event. There's a safe environment, with nothing like the fear or insecurity that make rough sleeping such a serious issue. However, it's still March: it gets very cold, and the floor is very hard! This year, we're planning to provide breakfast and sleeping bags to support the people who stay all night. I'd encourage anyone to come and get involved – it's a great cause, and it's always a great event.'

According to government figures, around 15 people sleep rough in Leeds on any particular night. However, while rough sleeping is a visible and extreme form of homelessness, the issue runs far deeper. Hayley emphasised.

'It's important not to forget the 'hidden homeless': people 'sofa-surfing', or living in hostels.'

Homelessness charity Emmaus, who run a hostel in Leeds, echo this.

'We estimate that at any one time there are several hundred people without a home in the city.'

For more details of the event, see the 'HOMED Leeds' Facebook page.

Students call for 'Free Education' in Yorkshire Regional Demonstration



©Jonny Dickens

Valeria Popa

Students taking part in the Leeds for Free Education campaign have joined a demonstration last Friday to fight for cutting tuition fees in UK universities.

The march started at Leeds University Union with speeches given by Sam Morcroft, a PhD student at the University of Sheffield and member of the University and College Union (UCU) and Lily Green who is a member of Greenhead College Socialist Students, in Huddersfield.

Activists rallied at Victoria Gardens, outside Leeds Art Gallery, attracting around 150 people from across the Yorkshire region.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, Mary Finch, an organiser of the Leeds for Free Education campaign, said: 'We think tuition fees should be abolished, and education should be publicly funded, for two reasons mostly – first of all, on principle, education is a human right. When you charge fees, especially fees as high as £9,000 a year (or even higher for international students), it becomes a privilege – something you have to afford.'

The other reason, she added 'is that there's an estimated £120 billion that goes uncollected in tax every year in the UK. If we closed loopholes and ended tax evasion by big corporations like Starbucks and Amazon, we could more than afford to fund free education'

Leeds for Free Education criticises the Labour party pledge to reduce tuition fees to £6000.

Mary Finch added: 'Ed Miliband has recently promised to reduce fees to £6,000 a year, but that's not nearly enough. It's not an issue of minimally reducing the debt students have to pay back – we have to make education genuinely equally accessible to everyone, and that can only be done by making it free.'

Members of the Leeds for Free Education campaign are planning further demonstrations calling action to increase the living wage and to abolish youth rates like £5.15 for employees between 18 to 20 years old and £6.50 for 21 years old and over.

Number of animals used for testing increases since 2010

Alice Handy

The number of animals tested for the purposes of scientific research at the University increased over a four year period to 2014, according to data obtained by *The Gryphon*.

Between 2010 and 2014, there was an 116% rise in the number of mice and an 165% rise in the number of birds and poultry tested on.

A first-year Biology student told *The Gryphon*, 'I think we should come up with a different method for testing medicine, as the use of animals is extremely cruel'.

The grading of the procedures is separated into four categories depending on severity – 'mild', where the animal is likely to suffer short term pain, 'moderate', 'severe' where the animal is likely to experience severe pain, as well as 'non-recovery', where the procedures are performed entirely under general anesthesia from which the animal does not recover.

A total 98,355 animals were tested on between 2010 and 2014, including 116 pigs and 16 sheep. The latest statistics

from the 2013/14 academic year reveal that 22% of 'regulated procedures' were graded as mild, with 67% graded as moderate, 6% severe and 5% as 'non-recovery'.

Some students however have argued for the benefits of animal testing in research.

Speaking to this newspaper, a first-year Politics student said, 'as humans it's selfish but we wouldn't be nearly as medically advanced without it'.

A University spokesperson said, 'The University of Leeds carries out research on animals to improve the health and welfare of human beings and animals, and to provide a better understanding of the animals themselves. It uses animals only when there are no alternatives, and is firmly committed to the principles of replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research.'

All research involving animals is carried out to high standards of humane care and treatment within a strict framework of legal controls.'

Have your say... “”

Rather than committing students to the same ethically debated means, I think the University should be focusing on alternative methods of scientific research.

–Taiwo, International Relations

If it helps further research for things that could save human lives in the future then I think it's tolerable but if it's not essential then an alternative method should be used.

–Jennie, Politics

I think that animal testing is cruel, and really we should look for alternatives.

– Mollie, Law

The University should have no role in animal testing when there are viable alternatives. Ethical investment and practice are paramount.

– Harry, International Relations



'Squatting? I don't have a problem with it': *The Gryphon* speaks to activists from Leeds Community Project

Charlotte Mason
News Editor
Lucy Connolly



© Leeds Community Project

The two members of Leeds Community Project sitting in *The Gryphon* office are calm. Both are taking part in the movement to occupy 6 Grosvenor Mount with the aim of opening the land up as a community space. Both have committed to shifts sleeping in the greenhouses at the University-owned site which is currently disused. Perhaps most strikingly, they are both passionate

protesters who seem unfazed by the possibility of legal action against them. 'We decided to occupy the land because it's a really beautiful site. It's got loads of potential as a growing space and as a community space', explains one of the activists, who wishes to remain anonymous. 'We wanted to open it up into a space that could be used by local people and by students to do interesting and creative things and to grow food, but also to conduct other projects'. Since first occupying the site last month, the protesters have started to implement their vision onto the former Botanical Gardens research facility. There's food, armchairs and even a piano. They have a dedicated website, e-mail address and Twitter account and a rota which ensures a constant supply of volunteers who occupy the land 24-hours a day, seven-days a week. The pair seem optimistic: 'We've had very good support from the local community, actually better than I was expecting. I don't know about other people involved but

all of the neighbours we've spoken to have been really supportive and loads of them have come to visit.' However, with the University seeking legal advice to reclaim the land, it is clear that not everyone is so enthused about the project. The group is currently re-occupying 6 Grosvenor Mount after the Police and University security entered the site on 19th February. Three protesters were arrested on suspicion of stealing electricity, and were later released without charge. 'Of course, we have political motivations but that's not to say that we have one political ideology behind what we're doing. We'd like it to be something that's open and beneficial to all of the groups in the community, to students, children, older people and everyone who wants to use it'. 'I think we all have different responses to (being called squatters). I don't have a problem with it. Squatting has got a very good tradition in this country and throughout Europe and I think it's a really good thing to do, but that's my personal

opinion.' As determined as they seem, the activists admit not to having a long-term plan for the future of the project. 'In my opinion, it doesn't really bother me to think too far ahead because you wouldn't really get anything done. We're doing what we can to make the site as good as it can be at the moment, so we're doing tons of gardening and trying to get it as nice as possible. But it's more about what we can do every day, rather than thinking about what we're doing for a month's time or a year's time, because we don't know if we'll be there that long.'

A University spokesperson confirmed that it was seeking legal advice with a view to regaining possession of property and land at 6 Grosvenor Mount.

13th February
Leeds Community Project occupies 6 Grosvenor Mount for the first time.

19th February
Protesters removed from the site. Three arrested and later released without charge.

4th March
Leeds Community Project re-enters the site.

5th March
The University confirms it is seeking legal advice to reclaim 6 Grosvenor Mount.

12th March
Leeds Community Project appears at 6 Grosvenor Mount on Open Street Maps.

Campus Watch



1 Oxford

Kanye stuns Oxford Union with 'bizarre' demands

Oxford Guild Society has revealed the demands Kanye West made before his well-publicised guest lecture last week. The rapper's requests included raw asparagus, hummus, bottles of Volvic mineral water without labels and a full-length mirror, which had to be sourced from a Guild member's bedroom. Abbas Kazmi, the Guild Chairman, said 'it was all quite bizarre'.
Faye Lawrence

2 London

Catholic university to open in London

The UK's fourth Catholic university is to open in London next year. Benedictus will be open to 50 students who will study the likes of Galileo and Chaucer, as well as classic philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. Co-founder Clare Hornsby said, 'We want to offer the best, liberal arts education that is available in the United States but that is almost totally lacking in the UK.'
Greg Whitaker

3 Durham

Students protest against soaring housing prices

Over 140 Durham students have marched on the University's Bill Bryson Library demanding a two-year freeze on accommodation fees. The University recently informed students that costs would rise by 8% for the next academic year. The average cost for a 38 week catered tenancy will be £6,819 next year, up £1,200 from the 2012-13 academic year.
Hugh Baillie-Lane



© Aled Jones

4 Oklahoma

'Racist' Oklahoma fraternity group suspended

One of the largest fraternities in the USA has closed its university branch and a number of students have been suspended after a video of members participating in a racist chant was posted online. Sigma Alpha Epsilon have now apologised for the video on behalf of the students and stated that anyone involved will be "dealt with" accordingly.
Katy Frodsham



The Gryphon interviews Former Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP



Jasmine Andersson
Editor-in-Chief

What do you think to the 6k fee pledge?

The introduction of tuition fees, variable following the Dearing report, was absolutely the right thing to do. I was the higher education minister who took it through parliament. That graduates, not students, should make a contribution to their higher education in the end was accepted by everyone. You'll recall that we commissioned the Brown report. I was deeply concerned about the trebling of tuition fees to £9000, because it suggested that the treasury had got hold of this policy, and suddenly realised this is a good way to pay for the whole of higher education. So, instead of students making a contribution, they'd pay for the whole lot. I think it's great, hearing a party leader say they'd do what they said they'd do on tuition fees, given what Nick Clegg did before the election. I think, it's rather bizarre, as an aside, that the Lib Dems, who didn't put a red line down about increasing tuition fees, are putting a red line down about reducing them. That is just incredible. I think it's absolutely the right thing to do. If the Tories and Lib Dems stay in Coalition, they would hike those fees up. I wouldn't put it past them. By the logic of their argument, it doesn't matter what the fee is, because they're making the argument you don't pay them back until you've graduated — which is our system by the way — the system we introduced

that the Lib Dems spent years saying was wrong, talk as if they've invented it. That rhetoric would apply if it's £20,000, £30,000. There was a strong possibility of them being increased. I think what we're doing, is putting a red line here, and saying £6000, we could live with. The increase to £9000 was not acceptable, and there's a really good argument to the taxpayer that they were never going to get that money back. It's the way it's been introduced that's a mess. A huge chunk

Alan Johnson MP

Labour MP for Hull West and Hessle

Former Home Secretary & Former Shadow Chancellor

First Elected: 1997

of analysis said it's not gonna come back.

What do you think to the Green Party surge? Do you think they have a sustainable outlook that rivals Labour?

The very basis that the Greens were set up on was climate change. A Labour government and Ed Miliband insists that CO2 emissions are reduced by law by 2050, and we should be applauding that. We've got a terrific record on climate change. In a proper system of voting — and I don't think first past the post is — proportional representation would be fair enough. With the Greens, it means it takes

votes away and it makes it more likely that the Tories will win. More seriously you have to look at those policies. We saw the Lib Dems come in, after years without power, the only way you could talk to a Liberal with any experience before 2010 was via a spiritual medium. They could say all things all things to all people. If the Greens were actually in power — and I hope people vote on the basis that they would actually be in power — it's inconceivable that they could carry out all of their policies, including abolishing tuition fees altogether. In the forty years of free higher education post Robbins the social gap didn't close, it widened, and let to a huge shortfall that was really damaging university education in this country. It's just away with the fairies, and I think that accurately describes a lot of those policies. It's a middle-class, Southern party, and I think that might draw in some of campus. They have no link to the trade unions there, nor working class communities. The appeal is to a very narrow part of the electorate.

How can we tackle the dire prospects that many young people face?

Housing in London is a real issue. *The Evening Standard* reported recently that you needed a joint income of £100k to be able to afford to buy a house in London in order to get a mortgage, such is the problem with house prices in London. It's a supply issue. It's usually outstripped by demand. It's definitely atop of our gender now. We've started a scheme in parliament where internships are paid. I've

got a working-class lad from Manchester who came in under that scheme and we've now given him a permanent job. There's other parts of the Arts and the Humanities that ought to replicate that. The reason why people get such a head start is because they come from a more prosperous background. We've got to tackle that. It was wider than just tuition fees, the young have had a raw deal over the last five years. Ed's speech on Friday was a rallying cry. He said, we don't care what the statistics are, whether they vote or don't vote, it's a matter of fairness.

A lot of people have touted you as the Labour party saviour. Do you feel honoured by that or pressured by such an accolade?

It's nice when people say nice things about you, but people don't always say nice things about you! It would be amazing if they did, but we're not that kind of society. We don't put portraits of our politicians on the walls. What I find difficult, when really nice people raise that with me, is if I fell for that — I'm not the greatest thing since sliced bread — I'm not the saviour of the Labour movement. There's not one individual that is. I'll do my bit and will always do my bit — I'm standing again for election. I find it hard to reply politely when the question implies that I'm letting the party down. I've decided to do it. I spent eleven years as a minister and I really enjoyed it. I'm in a different phase of my life now.



The Most Hated Women: online harassment of prominent females

From Josie Cunningham to Anita Sarkeesian, women online are subject to a seemingly constant barrage of hate and abuse. *The Gryphon* explores the phenomenon of online harassment.

Annie Foyster

At some point in most people's lives they will be the recipient of online abuse, with so-called 'keyboard warriors' directing torrents of hatred at anyone and anything that they even slightly disagree with. Public figures naturally become a prime target for most aggression and hate, and in recent times Josie Cunningham and Katie Hopkins have received the lion's share of this aggression. Both women have made a name for themselves in embracing a controversial lifestyle, with Cunningham most recently being dubbed 'Most Hated Woman' by a Channel 4 documentary. Rather than try to avoid abuse, Cunningham seems to actively encourage it as the documentary follows her and her 'agent' conjuring up new ways to enrage the twitter hordes. Similarly, Hopkins never shies away from the limelight, with each radio, television, and magazine interview becoming more and more excessive. She even went on *Celebrity Big Brother* to bestow on the British Public the honour of non-stop Katie Hopkins.

A quick twitter search for both Hopkins and Cunningham brings up a wide range of abuse and anger directed towards these women and, alarmingly, seems more focused on their looks and

gender than actual actions. Cunningham is compared to a pig in a wig and predictably called a 'whore', 'slut' and 'slag' within the first couple of tweets. Hopkins too, is frequently called 'ugly', with the *Daily Mail* dubbing her a 'grotesque loudmouth'. Why does her appearance need to be brought into this discussion, and more importantly, why is it that opinionated women are always 'loudmouths'?

Feminist blogger Sarah Dittum defines this online hate culture as a sexist issue, due to the recipients of this hatred being predominately female. Whilst controversial male figures do receive their fair share of abuse, the hate directed towards women is more personal. It is almost always engaged with their looks, sexual derogation and their children. We cannot escape the fact that the go-to insult for women is to sexually degrade them; whore, slag, bitch, slut etc. Rather than argue against the beliefs, ethics, and morals – which is what these women are hated for in the first place – it is simpler to give a generic sexual insult. When you only have 140 characters in which to release a torrent of hate and anger, it is a lot easier to go for these accepted abusive terms, rather than address and argue against an opinion.

Of course, there is the argument that

these women invite this abuse. While this argument can be debated, it's true that Cunningham and Hopkins do seem to relish the attention that this hatred brings. In their actions and opinions, they are asking to be harassed and attacked and are seemingly perpetuating the anger. Of course we can argue this, but should we? Is anyone, no matter how unpopular they are, really 'asking for it'?

“How has it got to the point that women in this situation are now able to make a career out of being professionally hated?”

After watching the Cunningham documentary, I was left very uncomfortable. The programme highlights the bullying she received when she was younger for having no breasts. She was literally urinated on because she has a condition which prevented her mammary glands from developing. It doesn't take a psychologist to figure out that Cunningham is so used to being hated she would rather just invite the hate than attempt to be liked. How has it got to the point that women in this situation are now able to make a career

out of being professionally hated? Surely the most sensible suggestion would be to ignore these people until they get off of our TV screens, yet instead the online community seems to relish in the opportunity to attack.

It is not just women like Cunningham and Hopkins who are attacked online. Popular feminist figures are usually the first in the firing line for online abuse

and sexual harassment. There is an alarming amount of anger directed towards women who are fighting for gender equality. Whilst many people who disagree with the feminist movement may not have the confidence to argue against it in public, behind the safety of a screen it is a different matter.

Anita Sarkeesian, blogger, media critic and public speaker, created the youtube video webseries 'Feminist Frequency' that 'explores the representation of women in pop culture narratives'. She takes issue with the representation of women in film, TV, and video games. Her questioning of women's representation in the gaming industry does not sit well with certain members of the online gaming community, resulting in many of them taking to twitter to vent their anger.

Sarkeesian has received so much abuse that she has even created a tumblr blog 'One week of harassment on twitter' chronicling a weeks' worth of abuse sent to her @femfreq twitter account after her 'Tropes vs Women in Video Games' project. Her claim that 'It can sometimes be really difficult to effectively communicate just how bad this sustained intimidation campaign really is' darkly intimates how lightly we take threats of sexual violence towards women; the tweets sent to Sarkeesian are incredibly threatening and violent. One user threatens to 'rape u all the way to 2069' whilst another asks her to 'go kill yourself oh wait did I hurt your tits with my keyboard'. These are nestled between the plethora of tweets calling her a 'despicable whore' and general



threats of her rape and murder.

She is not alone in this. Caroline Criado-Perez, another feminist activist has also involved herself in campaigns for better media representation of women, has also been subject to online harassment. Her campaign to get women on bank notes saw her receiving 50 threats an hour on twitter. Criado-Perez however does not think this is anger directed towards the feminist movement, rather "it's that some men don't like women and don't like women in the public domain", claiming that "men get attacked because they've said or done something someone doesn't like, whereas women get attacked because they're visible."

Does this suggest that we still think that women should be 'seen but not heard'? Threats of rape and sexual abuse arguably rob women of their agency. In ignoring the valid and powerful arguments that these women make, ignoring their intelligence and mental empowerment, it renders a woman incapable of defence by turning her into a sexual object who deserves sexual violation. The casual use of negative sexual terms (such as slut etc.) arguably make it difficult to understand the seriousness of threatening sexual abuse as these abusive terms are used all the time – not just by men but by women as well. We all laughed at the Mean Girls 'burn book' calling other girls 'fugly sluts' for no apparent reason, but a few minutes on twitter feels like one big burn book. One of Criado-Perez biggest trolls was in fact another woman. When asked if she was surprised about this, she responded that the women had 'internalized misogyny that was reflected in society as a whole.'

Why do these twitter 'trolls' feel the need to put women in their place whilst hiding behind a

computer screen, threatening sexual violence? Lindy West, feminist writer, claims that online harassment has become a part of her daily life, to the extent that she is always surprised when other people find it surprising. "You're telling me you don't have hundreds of men popping into your cubicle in the accounting department of your mid-sized, regional dry-goods distributor to inform you that you're too fat to rape, but perhaps they'll saw you up with an electric knife?"

Surely if this did happen in reality we would start to take it seriously but instead Sarkeesian, West and just about every other woman who is harassed by the online community are just told that it's part of the job. At the height of the abuse directed toward Criado-

Perez, she was simply told to fill out an online form for twitter detailing the abuse she had received. It was only through her own personal drive that two of her abusers were finally convicted. Unfortunately this is not a determination that is shared by all women, with some such as Cunningham simply giving in to the torrent of harassment and capitalising on it instead.

West too, seemingly accepted it as part of her life until one troll created a fake twitter account parodying as her dead father. She wrote an article for *The Guardian* detailing her experiences with this harassment, and how she eventually came to confront this troll via a two and a half hour telephone call on 'This American Life'. She asks of him the simple question, "Why?" Why did he feel the need to attack her so personally, and his answer is equally simple; he hated her for her not hating herself. At that time he felt fat, unloved and passionless and for some reason he found it easy to take that out on women online.

This harassment started up around the time that West started to criticise rape jokes, with West saying that "what we say affects the world we live in, that words are both a reflection of and a catalyst for the way our society operates. When you talk about rape, I said, you get to decide where you aim: are you making fun of rapists? Or their victims? Are you making the world better? Or worse? It's not about censorship, it's not about obligation, it's not about forcibly limiting anyone's speech – it's about choice. Who are you? Choose."

I have had twitter for one week now to conduct research for this article. It's been one week of chronicling and detailing every type of threatening message sent to prominent outspoken women, and it's been a week where I've realised how serious it is every time we tweet a woman to let her know she's

a bitch or slut. It is a way of silencing women, of letting them know it doesn't matter how intelligent or empowered they are, they can still be reduced to being sexually objectified. But West, Criado-Perez, Sarkeesian and countless others are not letting the trolls win. "Keep screaming trolls, I see you," West says. We see what this harassment is attempting to do and we refuse to be silenced.

“Why do these twitter ‘trolls’ feel the need to put women in their place whilst hiding behind a computer screen, threatening sexual violence?”



Some examples of the day-to-day hatred Anita Sarkeesian receives on twitter.



Blind Date: Melissa meets Ivan

Fourth-year English student Melissa met third-year Electronic Engineering student Ivan at Trinity Kitchen for a spot of Rola Wala. Has love got anything to do with this date?

Name:
Melissa

Age:
25

Course:
English

Likes:
Good red wine, swimming in the sea, crusty old paintings, yoga

Dislikes:
Misogyny, bad manners, the word 'bubbly' to describe people, country music



Name:
Ivan

Age:
20

Course:
Electronic Engineering

Likes:
Björk, Mara Wilson's Twitter, Drake, hats

Dislikes:
Neo-colonialism, country music, Iggy Azalea, winter



Melissa on Ivan:

What did you expect?

This being my very first blind date (for journalistic purposes), times are not that tough, I reassure myself. I went into it with an open mind and quite low expectations, unsure of whether to be completely trusting of my lovely editor's - Hull's answer to Cilla Black - choice in suitor.

What were your first impressions?

The only information I had prior to our meeting was that my guy was 'v chill', and that came across immediately. He had a really relaxed vibe and I thought he had a nice smile too.

What was the chat about?

What wasn't it about? Everything from Björk's *Biophilia* to Kanye's questionable Adidas show. It wasn't simply the standard dry chat of 'what do you study?', or 'where are you from?', which was refreshing. I was even educated on traditional Ghanaian food, and the amazing music scene in Indonesia.

Best bit?

Probably our shared rejoice when Ashanti's classic 'What's Luv' started playing during our game of Ping-Pong after the meal. Luckily, a few beers down, I was pleased that his Ping-Pong game was barely better than mine. I have to say that the whole date was great, there was minimal awkwardness, the conversation was genuinely

interesting, and I didn't feel the need to drink heavily at any point which is a surely a sign of success, no?

Worst bit?

The first part before the actual meeting: I showed up at Trinity Kitchen and couldn't see him anywhere. I only knew that my date would be wearing a green jumper and black shoes, so I spent ten minutes stood on my own, eyeing up every male passer by's shoes, like a creep with a penchant for jeans and sheux.

What made you face palm?

He mentioned his love for Drake... more than once.

The meal ended, and then...

The date continued with cocktails at The Alchemist. My drink had an actual orchid in it, and the company was equally delightful. However, we were both going out to different places after, so we said goodbye with an amicable hug under the streetlights of Boar Lane and went our separate ways.

Will you see them again?

As far as 'chemistry' goes, I think we will be leaving that to the bartenders at The Alchemist. Nevertheless, I had a really fun evening with him; it was great to hang out with someone who I'd never met before, and we had some really engaging conversation and lots in common in seems, so yeah, I hope to see him again.

Ivan on Melissa:

What did you expect?

I thought that possibly it could be Nicki Minaj as that's something I mentioned to *The Gryphon* before. I mean hopefully they'll holla at me if Onika ever contacts them.

What were your first impressions?

I don't really think about first impressions. I can go from being completely underwhelmed or unimpressed with a person to thinking that they're the most fascinating person I've ever met. 0 to 100. But first impressions were really positive. Melissa seemed really friendly and genuine.

What was the chat about?

We talked about fashion for a little while, which was bless because it's something that I don't really have experience with, entry level at best, so learning about it in depth was pretty eye opening. We also talked about music and family, and all the links between the above.

Best bit?

Finding out she was also a Björk and Imogen Heap fan. Also the food was really good, I hope that's not rude to say.

Worst bit?

There wasn't really anything bad about the date, I felt uncomfortable at times because I asked a lot of questions purely because I was curious and wanted to

know more, but sometimes I feel that came across as me trying to avoid an awkward silence.

What made you face palm?

Nothing above my usual levels of face palming.

The meal ended, and then...

We played table tennis. For real, the restaurant had table tennis and loads of noughties bangers were playing (notable mention: Fat Joe ft. Ashanti - 'What's Luv') so we stayed a while. We didn't really have a rush to be anywhere so we headed to The Alchemist afterwards and chilled on the balcony which was nice.

Will you see them again?

Hopefully, I would really like to read her piece on horror in art and the essay she wrote about literature in the perspective of the eye...I think that's what it was about.

Looking for love?

Send an email to editor@thegryphon.co.uk and Yorkshire's answer to Cupid could be setting you up next.



Comment

Against restraints

Liam Kerrigan on why free speech should never be limited no matter what

Leeds University Union

Jamie Taylor discusses just how important it is that *The Gryphon* editor election is representative

Counter-Terrorism Bill

Alex Scales argues that new measures are just another example of surveillance

Against restraints: speech without limits

Liam Kerrigan
Philosophy
ll13lk@leeds.ac.uk



There is nothing more important than the freedom of speech and, more generally, the freedom of expression. I must make it abundantly clear from the beginning that if you are reading this and think to yourself: 'I believe in freedom of speech, but...' then you are either deceiving yourself or you are delusional. There is no 'freedom of speech, but...' – speech is either free or it is not. I am not afraid to say that I am absolutely opposed to these restraints and resent those who try and implement them, for I believe that in our open, democratic society we must have absolute free speech – a belief that is, sadly, becoming increasingly idealistic.

Freedom of speech faces a battle primarily on two fronts: it faces limits from above by authority, as has been seen most recently in the disgraceful Counter Terrorism and Security Bill, and from below it faces limits by those operating under the cuddly guise of supporting 'cultural sensitivity and respect'. More often than not nowadays, the main argument against freedom of speech

...in our open, democratic society we must have absolute free speech – a belief that is, sadly, becoming increasingly idealistic

and/or freedom of expression comes from the latter rather than the former. We are told that our speech should be free up to the point that it becomes hurtful or hateful; that in an age of multiculturalism and varying ideologies and faiths, we should have free speech up to the point that it causes 'offence'. Now, if discourse is going to be muzzled by those offering the empty, whimpering defence of 'I'm offended by that', then let it be said that I'm offended by those who think that they can dictate what I may or may not say, and what I may or may not hear. 'I'm offended by that' is not any sort of argument, and it is certainly not a reason to limit free speech. You might still be thinking, however, that limits are needed



© bstack.com

so that hate speech, or opinions opposed to society's values, can be kept out of the public square. Well, I ask you: to whom would you grant the right to decide what you can and can't hear or say? To whom would you give up your right to decide what you are allowed to know? I should hope that you have said, resoundingly: 'no one but myself'. And yet there are still those who would limit our freedom of speech to spare the hurt feelings of particular groups and individuals.

It was John Stuart Mill who argued that in limiting free speech you not only deny someone the right to speak, but you also deny yourself the right to listen. In any views you might have on any subject, you cannot possibly be assured that what you think or feel or believe is right unless you have subjected your views to full and honest criticism. In seeking to limit

free speech, for whatever reason, you are inflicting injury upon yourself as much as everyone else. It does not matter whether someone's views are completely against orthodoxy for, as Mill also argues, if the whole world but one were to be of the same opinion, they would be no more justified in silencing him than he

in limiting free speech you not only deny someone the right to speak, but you also deny yourself the right to listen

would be in silencing them. If anything, that one person's views deserve greater protection for they are most at risk of being suppressed.

One cannot ignore the fact that there are groups who feel that, in compensation

for their offence, they are justified to carry out violent and hateful attacks. The actions of these groups are an unpardonable assault on free expression and free enquiry, and our right to exercise both. Those who argue that we should not offend these groups in the first place are guilty of the most gutless capitulation, for why should my right to expression be dictated by the belief system of a group to which I am entirely opposed? No, we must fight against any attempt to restrain our freedom of speech – whether from authority, benign multiculturalists or violent fanatics – for a truly integrated multicultural society can only function properly when discourse is open, honest and free. Defend your freedom whilst you can or you shall weep for it when it is lost.



The Gryphon Editor referendum: a yes vote is a vote for your freedom #afairerluu

Jamie Taylor
Politics
pt12jt@leeds.ac.uk
#afairerluu



Freedom of speech has been getting a lot of press of late. So much so, we could be forgiven for shutting off. We'd surely notice if our civil liberties begin to evaporate, right? Unfortunately, it is not out in the open where freedoms are lost; it is in the shadows.

Decisions taken by individuals in power behind closed doors mean that intelligence agencies have the ability to read our emails, listen to our phone calls and track our movements. We are ever increasingly monitored and few politicians or mass media outlets are prepared to step up to defend our freedoms.

Alternative and independent media outlets are a beacon of light in this dark room. Across the world, unique publications provide citizens with the information they need; the same information that media conglomerates, big business and governments will not provide. They give a voice to the unheard, provoke discussion and debate that aids the democratic process and hold power to account when others will not.

It is uncontroversial to suggest that every single person on the face of this earth deserves to be represented. All voices need to be heard. With this in mind and considering that it would be vastly unpopular to suggest similarities between our own campus and the dark back-passages of repressive states, they have this in common. The principles of representation and freedom of information stand strong the world

“Alternative and independent media outlets are a beacon of light in this dark room... They give a voice to the unheard and provoke discussion and debate”

over and just as journalists risk their lives and livelihoods to represent causes and cases in Turkey, Russia, India, Ukraine and so many other countries, *The Gryphon*, *The Tab* and many other student publications serve a legitimate and much needed purpose on campuses up and down our own country.

Student media exists to amplify the often ignored voices of students. We exist to serve and represent you when,

quite frankly, few others will.

At a time when young people face an uncertain and often distressing future, there has to be genuinely representative outlets capable of scrutinising those who take the decisions that impact upon our lives and our potential. The vast majority of the people reading this article will be paying nine-thousand pounds a year in fees, which gives some perspective to the struggle students have faced to be heard in the past. The looming prospect of further budget cuts and belt-tightening in the education sector means

the necessity to be heard is more prominent than

Gryphon Editor-in-Chief will be elected in a campus-wide vote. Perhaps surprisingly, such guidance isn't in place to keep local chalk and paper traders in business. An elected editor enables the students of Leeds to purposefully select an individual to represent their interests, convey their concerns and, most importantly, hold their university and students' union to account. An editor-in-chief elected by the few will only represent the few; but a democratically elected editor-in-chief will represent us all.

At present, internal and unilateral decisions taken in

organisation set up to protect and serve students, have made it more difficult for students to choose an individual who will represent their interests in print. And whilst it is unrealistic to

“By purposefully sidelining the election of the *Gryphon's* editor-in-chief for the past two years, LUU has directly inhibited the ability of students to easily choose an individual to amplify their voice”

expect students to be consulted on all decisions, significant decisions such as this one should not be subject to the whims, fancies and predilections of staff members. But unfortunately, they have been, and the allegedly democratic LUU policy-making processes have been exposed as inefficient and unsatisfactory.

The prevailing opinion appears to be that so long as there is an option to vote for *The Gryphon's* editor, then that is sufficiently representative. This is not the case. If, from experience, we know that many of the larger societies highly engaged with Union activity on campus have not been aware that *The Gryphon* editor election has even been taking place, how does LUU expect the wider student population to take part?

Or maybe they don't.

This newspaper is for the students of Leeds. Its purpose is not only to entertain and inform, but also to hold both the University and LUU to account. We need a voice and we need a newspaper that is representative of everyone on campus just as we need so many of the other services that LUU provides. Without this representation, we risk the welfare and interests of not only the most vulnerable on the fringes of our society, but the welfare and interests of us all.

We stand at a crossroads. A vote for equal coverage for *The Gryphon* election ensures a step forward on a path towards a more representative voice of students on campus. The alternative is step toward a darkened path, dimming another light in an already dark world.

Which will you take?

Head to the LUU website between 16-19th March to vote in the referendum for equal coverage of *The Gryphon* Editor-in-Chief election in the Leadership Race. Your support is invaluable.



ever before.

Since 1897, students from Leeds have published a newspaper on campus and, with any luck, this will continue long into the future. This should be without question. One thing that is being questioned, however, is the ability of *The Gryphon* to fulfil its purpose as conceptualised all those years ago.

The issues we raise are not immediately about existence. They are about representation, editorial independence and the long-term financial security of an almightily important voice of students in Leeds.

By-laws that lay down how LUU should be governed state that *The*

the shadows ensure that the former is the case.

By purposefully sidelining the election of *The Gryphon's* Editor-in-Chief for the past two years, LUU has directly inhibited the ability of students to easily choose an individual to amplify their voice and ensure that it is heard both locally and nationally. Awareness of *The Gryphon* editor election is at an all time low and the actual voting mechanism has proven to be more difficult to locate than a working plug in Eddy B.

This did not happen by accident. Decisions taken by those who run the student elections, employed by an



Security or surveillance?

Alex Scales

Philosophy, Psychology and
Scientific Thought
acmgscscales@gmail.com



It's the 800th anniversary of the celebrated Magna Carta this year; the first British document that enshrined civil rights and liberties in law.

Yet in stark contrast, this government has just introduced sweeping new counter terror measures through the new Counter-Terrorism bill.

This draconian bill is advertised as offering national security, extending already existing police powers to monitor citizens suspected of mixing in extremist circles, as well as banning the return of some citizens from abroad and of extremist speakers at universities, amongst other new 'anti-terror' measures.

It defines extremism as, "vocal or active opposition to British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs." Yet even brief examination of the bill reveals this to be contradictory and hypocritical; British values, chiefly democracy and free speech, are impeded in this bill at great cost to individual liberties, and it discriminates against Muslim communities.

There is a dangerous conflation of extremist thought and hate speech in society, propagated by much of the political class and mass media. It's almost impossible to pick up a tabloid paper defending the right of extremists

“...the best method to tackle youth radicalisation is to engage in open discussion, using free speech as a weapon to steer extremist opinion – not naively banning it”

to voice their opinion – flying in the face of the vehement #JeSuisCharlie movement that recently exploded across the Western world. Likewise, politicians tremble at the prospect of voicing their support for free speech in communities whose opinions differ from mainstream political/social thought.

What concerns me most about the measures contained in this bill is the attack on free speech at our Universities. Despite the bill's noble intention of protecting us, by preventing open discussion on issues 'extremist' thinkers care about, the bill will only serve to further radicalise young people. The 5th March saw the entire BBC Question Time panel agree that the best method to tackle youth radicalisation was to engage in open discussion, using free speech as a weapon to steer extremist

opinion – not naively banning it.

The same panel also stressed that at present, it's already illegal to promote violence in public speech, therefore suggesting the new bill's measures are unnecessary. The Conservatives are worried that their childish personal attacks on Ed Miliband won't be enough to secure another 5 years of government. Our democratic freedom is severely under threat by these knee-jerk government policies, which could be viewed as a Conservative vote-winning tactic in the run-up to the general election in May.

The 1986 Education Act requires that universities "ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers", something which this counter-terrorism bill limits. With some government ministries and the police already viewing the harsh criticism of UK foreign policy as extremist, the

bill could also be viewed as censoring sensitive public debate surrounding the more controversial government policies of our time.

I used to subscribe to the 'if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear' school of thought. For instance,

“...hard-won civil liberties, such as free speech, should be defended at all costs – whether this from an attack of government censorship, or a barrage of private lobbying”

I do not reject the use of widespread CCTV on the streets, if anything I believe they act as a deterrent and make us safer. However, as with most people, I would reject to the installation of CCTV equipment in my living room – no matter how much safer this could make me.

This is just an example of the

emerging police state that we find ourselves living in. Britain is regarded globally as the most monitored state in the world. Naturally, this forces us to think about how mass-surveillance intrudes into our individual freedoms, and takes many forms, whether physically on CCTV, or the vast collection of metadata by GCHQ. Personally, I find this mass data collection grossly intrusive. Our generation has experienced an enormous curtail on civil liberties, inhibiting our ability to mobilise and express or communicate our views – this bill is a new burden on Universities to prevent open academic discussion.

Whilst some may call me delusional, I maintain that hard-won civil liberties, such as free speech, should be defended at all costs – whether this from an attack of government censorship, a sidelined election campaign, or a barrage of private lobbying. If we surrender our civil liberties now, it's difficult to foresee a future in which we'll win them back.



© indymedia.com



The Big Debate

Is the UK government right to be so harsh on terror suspects?

“He is not an extremist. He has never been involved in any political or religious organisation and has not attended any political or religious rallies or demonstrations.”

—Jamshed Javeed's lawyer



YES

Li Didsbury

I don't think any serious, rational person can have any doubts that the UK is absolutely right to crackdown on terror suspects. With an Islamic caliphate stretching across massive areas of the Middle East carrying out the most barbarous acts of violence and circulating high quality propaganda encouraging others to join them and/or take up their cause, it is undeniably necessary that the country should be taking a much tougher stance on those suspected of plotting terrorist attacks.

Equally, I think it is absolutely essential that we prevent individuals from either going to Syria, or returning from Syria, as they pose an immediate threat to this country. The Islamic State trains hundreds

of people to fight every day and these people are willing to die as martyrs for their cause. It would be incredibly dangerous to allow people to leave for, or return from places where activity such as this is widespread and occurring every day.

There are those who might argue that, in enacting such a severe crackdown, we run the risk of marginalising particular groups and individuals, and in doing so drive them towards the mentality shared by those members of ISIS. I think it is outrageous to seek to lay the blame at the foot of this country. It is because of groups who wish to enact violence and commit murder against innocent people that this country has to take such measures in the first place. So to blame this country's reaction

to terrorism for the increase in terrorism is to seek to absolve those who would kill themselves and others, for their faith, of the responsibility for their motivations and acts.

The alternative to implementing harsh measures against suspected terror suspects is, obviously, to have lighter measures against those who are suspected of plotting terroristic activities. Is there any person who is willing to argue that this is a sensible and safe idea? I should hope that no one honestly believes that we should not be taking as tough of a stance against those who pose a genuine security threat to this country and innocent members of the population. It does not take anyone more than a matter of seconds to think of an example of a terrorist attack that has occurred within the last

year alone. And yet people would argue that we don't need such tough measures against suspected terrorist suspects? You can argue for this if you wish, but you do so at your own peril and the peril of the rest of the population.

For the safety of our country and its people, and for the safety of those who might otherwise be indoctrinated by the same fanatical ideology as the perpetrators of such awful attacks, it is undeniably clear that we need to support these tough measures against terrorist suspects.

NO

Tim Van Gardingen

With the rise of ISIS in the middle-east, terrorism is near the top of the concerns of the UK. The actions of the terrorist group have been quite frankly terrifying, and so it is understandable that governments have reacted with disdain towards them. Likewise it is understandable that punishments of offending terrorists would be severe.

A terror suspect and an offending terrorist are however two different things.

The case of Jamshed Javeed has highlighted that the distinction between suspect and offending terrorist isn't taken seriously enough. Javeed has been sentenced to six years for planning to travel to Syria to join ISIS and just in case six years wasn't enough for not committing a crime yet, he has been put into a high security prison. Just planning to travel to Syria is not a crime. The majority of people have

thought about doing something wrong, but not done it.

Javeed claimed in court that it was the suffering under the Al-Assad regime in Syria that had given him his desire to fight in Syria rather than the ideologies of ISIS. This wouldn't excuse any atrocities he may have committed if he had got to Syria, but the comment itself is interesting in considering the driving factors and intentions of prospective terror group recruits. Intended actions that appear almost honourable lead, it seems, to crimes and atrocities of the highest degree.

Such extreme sentencing as to a high security prison for someone who has not committed a violent crime isn't an anomaly in the UK. The favoured rulings of the UK to combat terror suspects up to 2011 were 'control orders', which were comparable to

house arrest. These charges had very little chance of being overturned due to a number of exceptions from rules designed protect the rights of the person being tried.

A difficult and controversial point is the role of the secret service in identifying potential threats. The secret service is always incredibly secretive about the origins of its information. This questions their means of information collection, and if the past is anything to go by (considering now declassified information from decades ago), the secret service doesn't have a clean track record.

In the UK, there is a 'presumption of innocence' until proven guilty. This should mean that arresting someone before they have even left for a country they intend to commit crimes in is approached in at the very least in a cautious way. Although it

is perhaps a very optimistic view, just because someone goes to a country with the intent to join a terror organization, doesn't mean that they will certainly follow through with it. If for example Javeed's claims that inspiration was not the goals of ISIS, but the need to support ordinary Syrians, he may well have not joined after understanding better just how extreme ISIS' position is.

Defence against terrorism is important. There is no doubt about that, but an approach to defence where people are punished before punishable actions have even taken place is wrong. A heavy handed approach to punishment before it is required often leads in the long term to repeated, and an increased severity, offending. That remains the case in regards to terror suspects.



THE GRYPHON NEEDS YOU.

**Vote for a fairer LUU
Monday 16 - Thursday 19**

Vote Yes.

**#Yes
#AFairerLUU**

Head transplants more science than fiction



Sam Broadley ©

Steven Gibney

A new surgery could make it possible to transplant a head onto another person's body within the next two years. The question is, if feasible, how realistic or ethical is this surgery?

A human head transplant may sound as though it belongs in the realms of sci-fi but the concept will be presented later this year at a surgical conference in the US. The aim is to pitch the new procedure to surgeons of the annual conference of the American Academy of Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgeons (AANOS), in an attempt to gather support for the surgery to be developed.

Head transplants were initially suggested in 2013, by Sergio Canavero of the Turin Advanced Neuromodulation Group in Italy. The process combines a donor body, from someone deemed 'brain dead', with a 'working' head. If successful, the procedure could be used to extend the lives of those who suffer muscle and nerve degeneration.

An early attempt at a head transplant was attempted by Soviet surgeon Vladimir Demikhov in 1954. The procedure involved transplanting a puppy's head and forelegs onto the back of a larger dog, though the dogs only survived six days.

In the 1970s a team in Cleveland, Ohio, transplanted the head of one monkey onto the body of another. Once

again the animal only lived for nine days as the immune system rejected the 'new' head.

Since then, there have been few attempts at head transplants. Canavero believes that developments in surgical techniques make it feasible to overcome the roadblocks that have previously limited the development of this surgery.

Earlier this year, he released an outline for the surgical procedure. The first step involves cooling both the recipient's head and the donor body. The cooling process is essential to extend the time the cells are able to survive without oxygen. The neck and major blood vessels of the recipient are then dissected; the vessels are then connected to the donor body via a series of small tubes. Following this, the spinal cord of each person is severed and the recipient's head moved onto the donor body. The two ends of the spinal cord are then fused together, achieved by washing the surface of the spinal cord with the chemical polyethylene glycol. It is hoped that polyethylene glycol will cause the growth of spinal cord nerves. Finally, the muscles and blood vessels are stitched together and the recipient is placed in a coma for three weeks so movement does not damage the spinal cord.

Canavero claims that when the patient regains consciousness, they will have the ability to move and feel their face as well as speak with the

same voice as before. He predicts that following physiotherapy, the person would be able to walk within a year.

This radical idea has been met with some scepticism. Polyethylene glycol could fuse the spinal cords, but there is no guarantee that the connectivity between the brain and spinal cord will be fully functional. Canavero has faced this criticism by highlighting that polyethylene is just one method by which they could fuse the spinal cords, and that other options are viable. For example, injection of stem cells or cells of the stomach membrane, shown to help people walk after a spinal injury, could promote spinal nerve growth allowing the cords to fuse.

Another problem associated with this kind of surgery is the risk that the body's immune system could reject the new head. However, advances in drugs make it possible to manage the immune system in a way that would allow the acceptance of the new head. Despite the ability to overcome the technical aspects of such a major surgery, one of the greatest controversies arises when considering the ethics and approval of such a radical surgery.

Canavero states that ideally he would perform the experimental procedure in the US but believes he is more likely to gain approval in Europe. He understands that there will be many people who disagree with the idea. The ethical

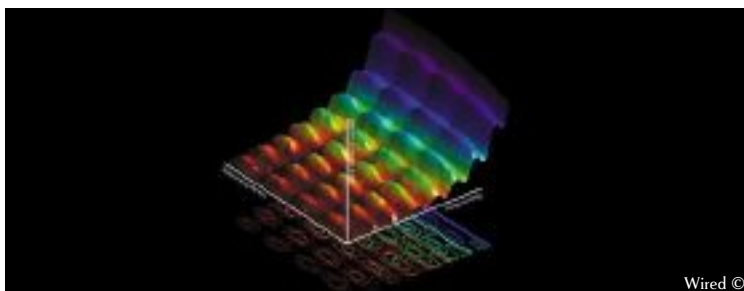
implications of this surgery stem from how the human life is defined. One theory suggests that a human is defined by what is contained within the higher cortex. Therefore, as this surgery does not alter the cortex, it could be argued that you are not altering what defines the individual.

The cultural impacts of such a procedure also need to be considered. For example, the belief that a human soul is not confined to the brain would conflict with the approval of a head transplant. There are also concerns about the abuse of such a radical surgery for cosmetic reasons. But if a head transplant were to take place, it would be a rare event and only used in extreme circumstances. If someone wanted to undergo this surgery for superficial reasons, such as ageing or wanting a better body, the surgery would never be considered.

The surgical community has met the idea with heavy criticism; they consider the idea to be too extreme to be of serious consideration. Nonetheless, Canavero is presenting his idea at the AANOS conference later this year where it will be assessed by top international surgeons. Canavero himself understands how radical this procedure is, and states that he won't go ahead with the idea if society doesn't want it.



I can see the light! Unbreak my heart



Evan Canwell

Is light a wave or a particle? The question has engaged physicists for over a century. It turns out the answer is both, and it can behave as either depending on the situation. Physicists have known this for a while, but until recently this wave-particle duality has never actually been observed.

Einstein first proposed that light was actually made up of particles, known as photons. His work on the Photo-Electric Effect led to him receiving the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics, and was arguably one of the most important works of the early 20th century, as it led to the mainstream acceptance of Quantum Physics.

Last week, a team of researchers from École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland managed to capture an image of light acting as both a wave and a particle at the same time. They shone UV light onto a metal wire, which created a stationary "standing wave" in the wire. Electrons were then fired at the wave which interacted with individual photons, allowing the energy change of the electron to be detected by a high-powered microscope. The

positions of the photons could then be inferred from the changes in energy so it was possible to build up an image. The researchers could "see" the individual photons, but they also knew there was a standing wave in the wire, so both the particle and wave-like nature of light could be viewed at the same time.

In the above image, the ridges that appear along the axis labelled "distance along the wire" are a visual display of light's particle-like nature and the peaks and troughs that appear along the "change in energy" axis are showing light's wave-like nature. It is an iconic picture as it marks the first ever time light has been captured displaying properties of a particle and a wave simultaneously. Quantum phenomena are notoriously difficult to image but this research shows how effective current research techniques are and how there is great promise for future breakthroughs.

The authors hope this work will lead to a better understanding of the behaviour of light, which will aid development of so called "photonic circuits", similar to fibre-optics. There are also hopes that being able to manipulate light on a quantum level could lead to potential breakthroughs in areas such as quantum computing.

Michelle Heinrich

Scientists claim to have found that a common antidepressant may reverse heart failure after a heart attack. A study from the Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, USA used mice to find that Paroxetine could be used to prevent further damage to the heart muscles in heart-attack patients in future.

Paroxetine is an antidepressant that has been prescribed in the UK since 1991, classified as a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI). SSRIs, amongst other types of antidepressants, are used to treat clinical depression, anxiety disorders and obsessive compulsive disorder. They are said to work by blocking the reabsorption of serotonin in the brain, increasing the level of serotonin in the synaptic cleft, the gap between nerve cells, and making prolonged chemical communication between nerve cells possible. It is theorised that the signal sent to the nerve cells encourages feelings of happiness.

A heart attack is an irreversible condition that affects around 146,000 people yearly in the UK. A blood clot in the coronary arteries is often the cause. The coronary arteries supply the heart with oxygen and essential nutrients. If the blockage is sustained for an extended period of time, the heart is deprived of oxygen and parts of the heart tissues – especially parts of the heart muscles – die. In effect, the heart grows in size and loses its efficiency in pumping blood through the body.

In the long-term, a heart attack is generally treated with beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors and sometimes low

doses of aspirin. Aspirin is known for its blood thinning property, preventing clots from forming via the accumulation of platelets (blood cells that typically clot to stop a bleeding in the body and on the skin).

Despite existing treatment options, scientists discovered that Paroxetine could be an alternative treatment. Paroxetine, alongside all other antidepressants, comes with side effects, and one of which seems to reverse heart failure resulting from a heart attack.

The study was carried out by a team of researchers led by Walter J. Koch from the Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, USA. Wild type mice that showed defects after a heart attack were treated with Paroxetine and Fluoxetine, another SSRI, two weeks after the heart attack. After four weeks of treatment, the mice treated with Paroxetine showed improved heart functioning and various factors that contribute to heart failure were inhibited or reversed. But the mice treated with Fluoxetine showed further heart degradation.

Paroxetine was found to be more efficient in treating heart failure than the frequently prescribed beta-blocker metoprolol. Additionally, after leaving the mice untreated for further two weeks after a month of treatment, the reversal of heart failure seems to continue.

It may be difficult to test these findings on humans, nonetheless, Dr Koch suggests that it would be worth considering whether prescribing Paroxetine to patients that suffer from clinical depression and heart failure might be beneficial to the patient, especially given Paroxetine is already approved for humans.

The Week in Science



Homeopathy is finally kicked to the curb

A large study has concluded that homeopathy does not effectively treat any health condition. This 'alternative' form of medicine uses extremely small doses of harmful substances to treat ill people. An extensive analysis of 225 controlled studies and 1,800 papers has found that homeopathy is completely ineffective in treating any health condition. Not muscle soreness, not sleeplessness, not rheumatoid arthritis; nothing.



New island formed in Tonga

A new island has been formed in the South Pacific after the eruption of an underwater volcano 45km (28 miles) north-west of Tonga's capital, Nuku'alofa. The 500m long island formed after the Hunga Tonga volcano started erupting in December. Satellite images taken within days of the eruption showed new rock formations, and more sediment in the sea. The island is currently highly unstable and dangerous to visitors.



Chameleons tricks revealed

A group of Swiss researchers have discovered how chameleons accomplish their vivid colour changes. It was previously suggested that the reptiles' famous ability came from gathering or dispersing coloured pigments inside different cells, but now it has been found that they light-reflecting nanocrystals in specialised skin cells to create different colours. The findings were published in Nature Communications.



Planet with four parent stars discovered

The biggest custody battle we've ever seen. Binary star systems are common, but researchers have found a planet in a quadruple star system, only the second of its kind to be found. The planet has been dubbed 30 Ari, and exists in the constellation Aries, 136-light-years from Earth. Confirmed by the Palomar Observatory in California, the published work can be found in the Astronomical Journal.



F1 teams revved up for Melbourne opener

Tom Moore
Formula 1

This weekend's opening round of the Formula 1 season is set to throw up a number of thrills and spills after a week of controversy and speculation.

Sauber are the latest team to have hit the headlines after former reserve team driver Giedo van der Garde won his courtroom battle which ruled that he must be granted a drive in Melbourne; leaving either Felipe Nasr or Marcus Ericsson without a seat, perhaps literally. Sauber lost their appeal on Thursday and it remains to be seen whether the team will drop one of their current drivers to accommodate van der Garde, or if they will risk going against the ruling.

The debacle has largely cast a dark shadow over what had been a very positive week for the sport. Popular British back-marker Manor Marussia are back thanks to Stephen Fitzpatrick's financial support. Furthermore, we know that both Lotus and Force India will now definitely make the grid after some

concerns about their continued financial woes.

For fans anticipating the weekend's race, the resumption of the intense rivalry between Hamilton and Rosberg is an exciting prospect; the two Mercedes drivers are again predicted to dominate certainly the early part of the season.

It is the battle for third which really looks interesting however, with any one of Massa, Bottas, Vettel, Raikkonen, Ricciardo and perhaps Kvyat vying for that final step on the podium. Expect great battles on track, and no quarter given between those six drivers.

It's also worth keeping a close eye on youngster Max Verstappen. At only 17, he's barely old enough to drive a road car, but testing has shown he's more than capable of competing in F1 and it will be interesting to see how he gets on in Melbourne.

It will also be interesting to cast a watchful eye on McLaren's performance this weekend following Fernando Alonso's crash in Barcelona last month. Kevin Magnussen is set to temporarily replace the Spaniard and the team will

be eager to prove that they have the capability to compete with their rivals this year.

Finally, spare a thought again for Manor Marussia. Having been resurrected at the last minute, they head to Melbourne with an underpowered 2014-spec Ferrari engine, a car built in

less than three days and two drivers who between them have never finished a race in F1. No pressure then.

After such a big week for F1 the world is, once again, waiting in anticipation for the light to go out and for the season to get started.



Guardian ©

Chelsea feel blues after European collapse

Euan Cunningham
Football

Chelsea were knocked out by PSG on Wednesday night after an epic clash at Stamford Bridge.

After a fiery first half during which Zlatan Ibrahimovic saw red for a two-footed lunge on Oscar, Gary Cahill gave the Blues the lead in the 81st minute, lashing home after PSG failed to properly clear a corner.

It was a familiar face who gave PSG the goal that they craved, as David Luiz thumped home a brilliant header from a corner in the 86th minute – a goal which sparked wild celebrations from the Brazilian defender against his former club.

In extra time, the home side again held the advantage as Thiago Silva gave away a penalty with a foolish handball as he contested a header. Eden Hazard coolly converted, and Chelsea looked set to hold on, despite a couple of nervy moments.

But just as Mourinho was starting to dream of another shot at the Champions League, his hopes were dashed in spectacular fashion.

After seeing a header wonderfully saved by Thibault Courtois, Silva netted with a carbon copy of Luiz's header, evading Chelsea marking at a corner and sending the ball soaring past the

Belgian keeper.

Real Madrid progress alongside PSG, but only just after surviving a major scare against Schalke at the Bernabau. After going 2-0 down early on, Ronaldo got them back on level terms before half time. Karim Benzema scored early in the second half and at this point Madridistas probably thought the tie was as good as over.

Two Schalke goals left the visitors

just one more strike away from recording easily the biggest upset of the tournament though. For Roberto di Matteo it was not to be, but it was clear from the booing of the home crowd at full time that things are not at all well with the Galacticos.

Bayern Munich made a somewhat more serene progression through to the quarters, annihilating Shakhtar Donetsk 7-0 in Munich after a goalless first leg.

Thomas Muller scored two, with Mario Götze, Robert Lewandowski and Franck Ribery also netting.

With Chelsea out, it will be up to Arsenal and Manchester City, who both lost at home in the first leg, to defend English honour in the competition when they play Monaco and Barcelona away respectively next week.



Screamer ©



England in disarray after World Cup exit

Euan Cunningham
Cricket

Yet again England are heading home far too early from an international limited overs tournament after an abject display of astonishing nervousness and ineptitude against Bangladesh on Monday morning.

Chasing an easily-gettable target of 275 on a good batting wicket, and facing a bowling attack not really comparable to Australia's or New Zealand's, England should have progressed.

Instead, they fell 15 runs short in a tepid batting performance that seemed to have as much strength and solidity as a blancmange.

Despite still having one more game to play, against Afghanistan on Friday morning in Sydney, everyone in the camp will want nothing more than to just get out of there and back to England. There, the fallout and

ramifications will start. This will be a lengthy process, as the only certain thing about fixing England's woes in ODI cricket is that it is sure to be a complicated, drawn out process requiring plenty of different changes.

The captain Eoin Morgan and coach Peter Moores will be sure to receive plenty of pressure and criticism over the coming weeks and months, but for now the decisions to keep them or not rest with the newly-

appointed ECB chairman Colin Graves, who has a reputation for not being afraid to make the unpleasant decisions and ruffle a few feathers in the process.

He may need to do that here. England's next task is the tour of the West Indies in April, and all who devotedly follow the team will be praying for a change of fortune after a fairly miserable year.

In other World Cup news, most of the other big guns have qualified for the knock out stages.

Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa have all made it to the quarter finals, as have Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Ireland could make history as they seek to book their place in the knockout stages for the first time ever

at a World Cup, with both Pakistan and the West Indies unsure of their fate going into the last round of games. After all the group stages have been completed, the teams will take a short break before preparing themselves for the quarter finals, at which point the competition really hots up.

It is just a shame that once again, this feast of high-class, adventurous cricket will take place without England.



Cardiff set for Six Nations showdown

Chris Chadburn
Rugby Union

Having dismantled England two weeks ago in Dublin, Ireland will be feeling like the Six Nations title and another Grand Slam is inevitable should they manage to repeat the feat of their previous conquests and beat the Welsh in Cardiff on Saturday. Ireland's tactical brilliance and precise aerial control strangled any attempt at English attacking last time out, with Conor Murray and Johnny Sexton showing the world their full range of kicking abilities in the resounding 10-point win over England - their 10th consecutive test victory.

From an English perspective, it is hoped that Wales put up more resistance than Stuart Lancaster's men did so that we get a three-way contest heading into the last round. Since crumbling to defeat in the second half against England on the opening weekend, Wales have steadily improved and last week's ground-out win in Paris will certainly fill this week's hosts with real belief. Wales will need to cope far better with the high ball and offer more than direct running if they are to trouble a so far resolute Irish defence. Should Leigh Halfpenny and co. in the Welsh back three manage a better return than the hopeless England trio of Goode, Watson and Nowell did, then expect Wales to cause substantial problems and potentially sneak victory in what will surely be an excellent, close

contest.

For France, a defeat to Italy on Saturday would no longer surprise most people. The introduction of Brice Dulin against Wales in their last match ignited the occasional frantic forward enterprise that we know les bleus possess, but such efforts were so infrequent and inaccurate that little ever materialised from them. In contrast, Italy stunned the Scots in Edinburgh, producing for the first time in a few years a disciplined and precise display

combined with their usual graft and fortitude. The exact opposite arrived from the Scottish corner, whose ill discipline and wastefulness saw them squander possession, territory and points all too often.

It was also ill discipline which was England's undoing in Dublin; needless penalties and naive decision-making meant establishing any momentum or possession was not achieved until the game was beyond them. Both Scotland and England will need to improve on

Saturday, but the reintroduction of Mike Brown and Courtney Lawes for the hosts should bring back the solidity and physicality to the side, which went missing against Ireland.

The big showdown in Cardiff will go a long way to determining the fortune of this year's Six Nations. For the victors of the other two matches, this year's championships can still be salvaged; for those defeated, a miserable campaign is all that will be perceived.



Independent ©

Leeds alumni flourish in sports awards

Alex Bowmer
Sports Awards

The Leeds Sports Awards took place on 5 March at Clarence Dock, and a number of stellar names claimed the major gongs. Former Leeds student Alistair Brownlee MBE scooped the Sportsman of the Year prize, while diver Rebecca Gallantree claimed the women's equivalent.

Brownlee once again had a superb year in 2014, securing his third European Triathlon Championship in Austria, before heading to Hamburg a few weeks later and helping Great Britain to gold in the World Team Championships, in a team which also comprised Lucy Hall, Vicky Holland and his brother Jonathan. However, his most notable success came at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, as he sealed victory in both the individual and team events.

Chelmsford-born Gallantree isn't as heralded as Brownlee, but she certainly shone last year, and is set to compete in the FINA World Championships this summer. Despite her dominance on the national stage, the Chelmsford-born athlete had struggled to translate this to the major tournaments. Post-London 2012, she combined with Alicia Blagg to take two silver medals in the 2013 FINA World Diving Series, as well as a bronze at the European Championships during the same year. However, the best was yet to come, as she joined forces with Blagg once again to claim the Commonwealth Games 3m synchronised title. In winning the award, she saw off stiff competition from middle-distance runner Laura Weightman, Olympic Champion boxer Nicola Adams and Holland.

In disability sport, Hannah Cockcroft once again proved why she is one of the most highly-regarded wheelchair athletes in the world. After her double triumph at the London Olympics, she could have been forgiven for losing motivation, but the Halifax-born athlete



has continued to rack up the medals. After winning double gold in the IPC Athletics World Championships, and then claiming top spot T33/T34 100m at the Anniversary Games, she secured a world record at the Bedford International Games, and subsequently won double gold at the European Championships to complete her set of international medals.

Ali Jawad was awarded the title of disability sportsman of the year. After the agony of finishing fourth at the London Paralympics in the -59kg category, he ended 2013 as World No.1, following success at the European Senior Championships and the Asian Open Championships, where he won gold and broke the world record. He then claimed gold at the IPC Powerlifting World Championships in 2014, and qualified for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, competing in the men's 72kg category and picking up bronze: an incredible effort. University of Leeds

table tennis starlet Kim Daybell was highly recommended for the award and will be looking to claim the award in the coming years.

Yorkshire County Cricket Club claimed the County Championship with a game to spare against Nottinghamshire in September, so it was expected that they would be crowned professional club of the year. Leeds Rhinos ruled themselves out of contention for that accolade after finishing sixth in the Super League regular season. Catalans Dragons then ended their hoodoo at Headingley Carnegie Stadium with a 24-20 win in the play-offs, dashing home hopes. The Rhinos did pick up the Challenge Cup however, seeing off Castleford Tigers 23-10.

Potential winners in the next few years include Blagg, who notched up her first British 3m individual springboard title in June and her

partnership with Gallantree has come on leaps and bounds. Jack Laugher took the 1m springboard title at the Commonwealth Games, and will look to step out of Tom Daley's shadow. Nile Wilson is one of a number of British gymnasts who is set for big things, and 2014 proved to be a watershed year for the 19 year-old, and he became one of the stars of the summer, winning two golds, one silver and one bronze at the summer showcase in Glasgow.

Sophie Carrigill is also making waves in the world of wheelchair basketball, leading to Great Britain to bronze in the European Championships and fifth in the World Championships in consecutive years. At just 21, she has plenty of time on her side to win international honours.

The event served to demonstrate how many top-quality sportsmen and women currently ply their trade in Leeds.

Gryphons caught out to end season badly

Kayley Dickinson
Women's Football
Leeds Uni 3s 0-1 Newcastle 2s

Eleven points separated these two sides coming into this game with a win for Newcastle meaning they would finish the season in second position.

Heavy rain and strong winds made for a scrappy game with both teams struggling to pass the ball effectively. Leeds started the better team however, with some good early work on the

wings; the final ball wasn't good enough though.

The game was tough and fierce, with both teams seeking to end their respective seasons with a win. Leeds knew it was a lot of their players' last games for the club, as they are due to graduate this year, so emotions were high.

Chances were limited throughout the game, with neither team being clinical enough to really test the opposition goal keeper. In the second half however,

Leeds keeper Jen Doyle pulled off some outstanding saves that kept Leeds in the game.

At the other end, Newcastle were panicking; the game was 0-0 with 10 minutes to go. This was a game they clearly believed should have been a walk in the park. Leeds didn't allow this though and continued to pressure their defence.

A good attacking move from Leeds saw them commit too many players forward, which left them vulnerable

at the back. With five minutes to go, Newcastle broke down the other end of the pitch and scored, putting themselves 1-0 up.

Despite Leeds pushing forward, Newcastle stood firm and held onto this lead to give themselves an arguably undeserved victory. For Leeds it was a heart-breaking way to end the season and epitomised their entire campaign; they are good enough to compete, but lack the final touch to kill games off.



LUU kickboxer Wilebore strikes it Rich

Sophie Westbeech
Kickboxing

Last weekend saw Leeds University host the National Student Kickboxing Championships for the seventh year running. Thirteen universities – from Southampton to Edinburgh – brought their best fighters to Leeds in what turned out to be an incredible tournament. With 161 fighters in total, things had to start early.

At 11am the preliminaries kicked off. All of the fights were semi-contact, which kept injury to a minimum, although Chris Valatsos had to take a trip to A&E with a suspected broken nose.

President, instructor, and three-times-champion Zachary Cieslik (dubbed “The Concrete Butterfly”) had been struggling with injury weeks before the big day, but battled through the pain to represent his university. He fought well but didn’t

make it to the finals. The Concrete Butterfly still holds the title for the most wins in this competition; the future is bright for Cieslik.

With Leeds’ best fighter down, it was up to the rest of the squad to bring home the bacon. Representing Leeds in the final were beginner Lozzy Watts, intermediate Sarah Ward and advanced Richie Wilebore.

With the boxing ring set up and the finalists’ entry music chosen, the judges took up their positions. Whilst the fighters were nervously stretching and receiving pep talks in Pulse, the spectators were surrounding the ring and the drinks were flowing.

Lozzy and Sarah brought home the runner-up trophies, but the star of the day was undeniably Richie Wilebore. He was only in the ring for 20 seconds before a roundhouse to the jaw of his Newcastle opponent, saw the clash come to a sudden end.



Richie Wilebore ©

Celtics’ success sees them in good cheer

Amy Simpson
Cheerleading

Now in their fifteenth year, Leeds Celtics have a history of being at the top of university cheerleading, and this season has been no exception.

Valentines Day saw the Co-ed and All Girl teams competing against the UK’s best university teams at the Genting arena in Birmingham. With a predominantly new team this season, All Girl felt the nerves as they took to the floor, but performed their fast-paced routine like pros.

It was then Co-ed’s turn to compete, this year entering the highly contested level 3 division. As a largely experienced team, they nailed their routine and hoped to place in the top three.

After a small mix up at the start of awards, results were ready. All Girl were pleased to have been placed in the top ten of their division; a successful first competition for the majority of the team. Pressure was on for Co-ed, as they were up against some of the best university teams. Placing first, they were ecstatic and the elation continued as they were awarded the Grand Champions trophy, making Celtics’ Co-ed the best university team in the UK.

Almost a month and countless tough training sessions later, Celtics boarded their coaches to Blackpool to defend their titles at Jamfest. Both Co-ed and All Girl were competing in open divisions, and both faced the Edge Hill and Durham

teams.

All Girl’s hard work paid off as they hit a flawless routine, wowing the judges with their skills and their sass. With undoubtedly one of the best pyramids at the competition, All Girl were unstoppable and left the floor on a high.

Next, Co-ed took to the floor. After a shaky time in warm up, and with a title to defend, Co-ed were more nervous for this competition than the first. But after a quick pep talk from their coach, the team were ready to put their all into their performance.

Maxing out their skills and throwing top level tumblers, Co-ed showed the judges just what they’re made of.

In such small divisions, Celtics knew it would be close. Anyone could take home first place. Nervously holding hands, they waited.

As the results came through that All Girl’s outstanding performance had won them first place in their level 2 division, the Celtics erupted with cheer as All Girl received their trophy and medals. Co-ed were tense, until it was announced that they too had placed first in their level three

division.

It then came down to the Grand Champions trophy, and with the highest score of the day, Co-ed won the double.

In the evening, Celtics’ newest team, Pom Dance, took to the floor. They’ve come a long way in one year, performing student coach Harriet’s routine energetically and in perfect synchronisation.

With two weeks left until their final competition of the season, Celtics are

back to training hard to perfect their routines. All Girl are hoping to repeat this weekend’s first place success and the pressure is really on for Co-ed, who are moving up from level 3 to level 4.

With other university teams anxious to compete against them, Celtics have their sights set on more first place trophies, and a hat-trick of Grand Champs.



Leeds Celtics ©



Leeds squeeze into Championship final after points decision against Birmingham

Alex Bowmer

Women's Badminton

Leeds Uni Is 4-4 Badminton Is
(Uni won on points by 360-357)

Leeds saw off Birmingham in a thrilling badminton clash at the Gryphon Sports Centre to progress to the BUCS Championships final. The Gryphons had lost twice to the same outfit this year (6-2 on both occasions), but it was to be third time lucky, as they turned in a terrific display.

No.1 singles player Helena Lewczynska got off to a flyer. Her clinical smashing on a fast court was simply too hot for her first opponent to handle. Despite the Birmingham player showing flashes of brilliance, Lewczynska kept up the pressure to take the victory in emphatic fashion.

On the other court, Lizzie Hunt and Jojo Minihaan found the going much tougher. Despite picking up their performance as the match wore on, they were unable to come back into the tie, losing 21-12, 21-16.

Serena Midha was next to get involved, and she became immersed in a bruising encounter. Both players looked to vary up their shot selection, meaning that neither got much respite. It was a close-run first game, but the visitors ultimately claimed it. Undeterred, Midha returned to court seemingly a different player. Smash after smash found its way past the Birmingham player's rearguard, while her backhand also kept her opponent guessing. The

Leeds player duly forced a decider, and it was more of the same at the start of the third game as she continued to vary her strokes, at one point playing a beautifully-disguised drop shot.

Although her Birmingham counterpart never gave up, Midha sealed the victory to keep the tie very much alive.

Rae Larmour and Harriet West came very close to putting Leeds 3-1 ahead, but were edged out in an agonising three-game epic. After Birmingham took the opener, the second game started much more positively for the experienced duo, and their effective communication and clinical finishing gave them an 11-4 lead at the halfway stage. The smashes of both Larmour and West were in good working order, and, although the visitors raised their level, Leeds ground it out. The final game was, understandably, a nerve-jangling affair, but the Gryphons got off to the ideal start and they initially seemed to have handled the pressure better. However, the Birmingham pair suddenly picked up their game and reeled off eleven successive points, and although Leeds got some joy late on, it wasn't enough to snatch victory.

At this point, the tie was neck-and-neck. Lewczynska came in to bat, and once more overwhelmed a beleaguered opponent with superb smashing and incredible movement. Nearly every time Leeds' best player was tested, she came up with the perfect response, executing her shots to perfection. Although her opponent was much more energised in the second game and gave her a good



fight, it was to no avail, with the final score being 21-11, 21-15.

Despite getting their noses in front, Leeds soon found themselves pegged back fairly quickly. Hunt, who had just returned from a recently-sprained ankle, and Minihaan found it difficult to make much headway in a match which highlighted the strengths of a Birmingham pair that seemed very composed and rarely fluffed their lines. There was no repeat of Midha's first-match heroics. She lost out in a tremendously competitive opening game 20-22, before levelling up the scores by the same margin. The finale was extremely tense, and despite the match to-ing and fro-ing, it was Birmingham who took the spoils to lead 4-3 overall.

If Leeds were to have any chance of victory, Larmour and West had to defeat the West Midlands' second-string doubles pair in straight games to ensure victory. If they won in three games, then the winners would be determined by overall points. So, the margins were fine.

As was expected, the pace of the match was unforgiving from the off. Although both home players were finding some joy, so were their opponents, and at the crunch points in the first game, they came out on top. Larmour and West refused to let their heads drop however,

and continued to play the aggressive brand of badminton that has served them so well in past matches. During the final few rallies of the second game, they managed to squeeze ahead, and, aided by some tight shots from the Birmingham pair, kept their cool to force a decider.

True to form, the third game was also unbelievably close, with Larmour demonstrating a lot of finesse at the net, while West needed no invitation to bury the smashes from the baseline. However, both of the Birmingham girls were moving well and were able to produce offensive badminton of their own, and for the majority match they were the pair who looked most likely to go on and clinch victory. However, Leeds were not to be denied, and some ferocious rallies and plenty of scrambling saw the hosts pip their opponents to the post.

At this point, neither team was quite sure who had won overall, but, after some confusion, the individual points from all of the matches were totted up, and it was agreed that the Gryphons had emerged victorious.

Given their previous encounters with Birmingham, the team would have been forgiven going into it that this match would have been no different. However, their never-say-die attitude was evident throughout, and their determination eventually paid off. The team now go on to face Loughborough, who are widely regarded as the best sporting university in the country, but anything can happen in a one-off match.



Anne Wyman ©

Gryphons fly to league title



Anne Wyman ©

Adam LeRoux
Men's Volleyball
Leeds Uni 1s 3-0 Teesside 1s

The elation was clear to see on everybody's faces as the men's volleyball side wrapped up their seventh league victory of the season against Teesside 1s, and secured the league title in the process.

The Gryphons, who have looked untouchable at times this season, deserve no less than to be mixing with some of the best sides in the North next year as they progress to the Northern 1A division.

The confidence and verve that has flourished throughout the side this season was clear to see again right from the start as they looked to put their visitors to the sword. Even with the absence of regular first-teamer Mark Elgar, the side looked fluid and dynamic and they took an early lead in the first set thanks to some strong serving and resilient blocking.

The Teesside attack had no chance to get going as they were repelled time after time by Nigel Sibanda's gargantuan frame and the jet-propelled leap of Gabriel Leoni at the net. Even when the ball did make it to the other side of the court, Leeds would return it with interest; Jen Hsien Hsu, making his last appearance for the side after a five year spell, was obviously eager to go out on a high judging by his rasping spikes to fire Leeds to a 25-17 first set victory.

The second set continued in much the same vein, with Leeds dominating

the majority of points. To their credit, the visitors excelled in keeping the ball alive, but the final killer blow seemed to be elusive.

This has never been an issue for Savvas Anthi; the Cypriot has often stolen the limelight in Leeds' performances this year with his abominable spiking power. Although he had a quiet game by his standards, his oozing ability still shone through with some beautiful dipping strikes to extend the home side's advantage.

"We serve better, we defend better, it's definitely been the best year I've had in the side"

The jovial atmosphere of the team was infectious, and even the odd lost point or wayward spike was met with laughter and grins all round; this was a team enjoying their time on court, and toying with their beleaguered opposition. Coach Dave Speers was nearly caught out by the situation as he allowed some of the fringe players some game time to see the second set out, only to see the home side lose the next four points as the scores tightened up at 22-23. Speers was soon saved of his blushes as Leoni and Sibanda returned to court to see the second set out 25-23.

The final set was more like a lap of honour for the champions elect. All the successful components of such a rewarding season demonstrated their talent for one last performance. The visitors, who were simply outplayed for much of the game, were hopeless to stop the onslaught, as Leeds stormed the final set 25-11, and the celebrations began.

Speaking afterwards, five year veteran Jen Hsien Hsu was eager to praise the team and coach Speers for the success this season: "Dave came in two years ago and since then the whole structure of the team has been much better. We serve better, we defend better, it's definitely been the best year out of my five years in the side."

Speers himself was delighted with the victory, and hopeful for next year's campaign, despite the loss of a few key players: "That is one of the wonders of Uni sport, you have your peaks and your troughs as players come and go. We will still have Nigel [Sibanda] here next year, who has come on leaps and bounds. Hopefully volleyball players will see we are in the second best university league for volleyball now and will want to join Leeds for the opportunity to play at a high standard."

With strong teams such as Manchester 1s and Liverpool 1s in the Northern 1A division, next year will certainly be a challenge for the Gryphons, but one they will no doubt relish, and with Speers at the helm, they will always stand a chance of succeeding.



Badminton 2s (M) 3-5 Newcastle 2s

Badminton 1s (W) 4-4 Birmingham (Championship)

Basketball 1s (M) 70- 59 Huddersfield 1s

Basketball 2s (M) 37-70 Northumbria 3s

Football 1s (M) 3-1 Leeds Beckett 2s

Football 2s (M) 2-8 Leeds Beckett 3s

Football 4s (M) 2-3 York St John 3s

Football 2s (W) 1-1 Northumbria 2s

Football 3s (W) 0-1 Newcastle 2s

Hockey 2s (M) 0-4 Newcastle 1s

Hockey 3s (M) 0-3 Newcastle 3s

Hockey 2s (W) 0-1 Durham 3s

Hockey 4s (W) 2-3 Hull 1s

Hockey 5s (W) 0-3 Newcastle 4s

Lacrosse 1s (M) 4-7 Keele 1s

Lacrosse 2s (W) 17-13 Sheffield Hallam 1s

Netball 2s 52-26 Northumbria 3s

Netball 3s 38-38 York 1s

Netball 4s 70-27 Sheffield Hallam 2s

Netball 5s 21-35 Durham 3s

Rugby League 1s 28-18 Nottingham 1s (Trophy)

Rugby Union 2s (M) 0-31 Sheffield 1s

Rugby Union 3s (M) 7-29 Northumbria 2s

Rugby Union (W) 24 - 9 York 1s

Squash 2s (M) 2-1 W Sheffield 2s

Volleyball (M) 3-0 Teesside 1s

Volleyball (W) 3-2 Sheffield Hallam 1s



Vote 'Yes' and protect your platform

Ste Topping
Associate Editor

Every week, *The Gryphon* features seven pages dedicated to sport, and most of this is allocated to the University of Leeds' own teams.

With 38 sports clubs and numerous martial arts societies, it's difficult to feature every team on campus, but our passionate sports editors strive to ensure fair coverage and representation as much as possible.

As a media publication led by an elected Editor-In-Chief, it is our responsibility to represent the student community. Our commitment to LUU's sports teams forms a major part of this. Of course, the biggest societies would

continue to flourish without our support, but for many smaller sports teams *The Gryphon* provides a fantastic platform for their sports to grow.

LUU's successful Ultimate Frisbee society has benefitted with our support, as member Claire Taylor suggests, "[Ultimate Frisbee] is an up and coming, growing sport. Getting it recognised in university to a high level is really useful for progressing the sport in general.

"With any media coverage it enhances your sport; it lets more people see it."

Taylor's teammate, Katie Lear, believes there is a direct link to the publicity *The Gryphon* offers and the pathway to success for her sport, "It's a self-funded sport, because it's not

professional, so we have to raise £1000 each to go and play at the Worlds tournament. Getting any publicity for us is really good because people might be able to help us with funding."

The platform that *The Gryphon* offers also brings a sense of togetherness and belonging to sports societies; forming a link between themselves and the wider student community. Volleyball club captain Ashton Hills suggests, "[The coverage] keeps people's spirits up. It's nice to see coverage of the game and the names mentioned, it makes you feel part of the university."

Our newspaper – your newspaper – permeates through student life. It connects people with different interests and opinions, and gives you a voice in

the wider community. *The Gryphon's* coverage of sport is just one of the ways this is achieved.

By having an elected Editor-In-Chief, we can make a stronger claim to representing the student community, and provide you with the platform that you voted for. This is difficult if the turnout for the Editor election is low because of a lack of publicity, which results in a loss of integrity.

If you believe in having a voice on campus, and a platform that represents you in all of its sections, then please vote 'Yes' in next week's referendum. With a stronger presence on campus, we can truly represent you, and help to strengthen the student community in Leeds.