



Interview
Owen Jones takes on the Establishment



Feature
Light Night: the blazing tour de force



In The Middle
FKA Twigs leads the Mercury brigade




UNI 30 BECKETT 46

Uni lose Varsity showpiece for second year in a row

Student backlash to fascists on campus

- Group aims to combat extremism
- 'National Action' target universities for protest

Valeria Popa
Sean Hayes

Students gathered on Wednesday evening to discuss whether they should form an Anti-Racist Society in light of actions by a neo-Nazi group.

The meeting, which took place in the Parkinson Building, was formed in response to activity on campus by the fascist group National Action.

A group of 14 individuals from the group came onto campus on Saturday 6th September. Whilst on campus they took a photograph of themselves mak-

ing a right-wing salute and brandishing National Action materials in front of a University sign.

This action was later broadcasted on their student media channels. CCTV footage of the men was later released to the West York Police by the University's Security Services.

In light of the incident, the anti-racist collective want to respond to fascist movements, which have been occurring at Universities across the UK.

The group stated that their ultimate goal is to "work towards eliminating

racism in campus."

Leeds University Union Welfare Officer Freya Govus attended the meeting, and told The Gryphon:

"It's positive to see that students have taken it upon themselves to take action against this racist group.

However our students decide to go forwards, it is fantastic to see them coming together to fight fascism and I'll help and support them in any way that I can.... More discussions are set to follow on this topic, with a second meeting...

» continued page 5





Contents

3-7	News
8-10	Features
11-13	Comment
14	Debate
15	Letters
16-17	Science
19-24	Sport

Quote of the week



Mildly miffed that there are no nude celebrity pics of me leaking. Ah. rethink that phrase. Sorry if it's ruined your day



- Stephen Fry

Jasmine Andersson
- Editor-In-Chief

Phil Mann
Ste Topping

- Associate Editors

Abla Klau
Charlotte Mason
Jake Hookem
Sean Hayes

- News

Ruby Lott-Lavigna
Brigitte Phillips
Vickie Hesketh

- Features

Phillipa Williams
Ella Griffiths
Ella Healing

- Comment and Debate

Alice Hargreaves- Jones
Michael Owen

- Science

Adam Le Roux
Peter White
Alex Bowmer
Euan Cunningham

-Sport

Sam Broadley

- Head of Photography

Lucie England-Duce
Sam Lewis

- Photographers

Frazer Sparham
Ben Sandin
Sophia Kossoski

-Design

Editor's Letter



When we're rushing from lectures, attempting to immerse ourselves in a droll textbook or curling up in a ball inside Edward Boyle, it's hard to realise how lucky we are. Safe in the confines of the tertiary academic system, we are temporarily relieved from life outside the LS6 bubble, a life which we will one day have to earn through the wages gained from the dreaded minefield: employment.

Jobs are capitalised with a big j in every strand of British life. To us, we can associate the term with the mysterious rhetoric of employability, but for many, that word is nothing more than a necessity that only just allows them to put some food on the table. In the wake of the last economic crash, these opportunities became even more precious, as more than 7 million people were declared out of work.

What seems all the more interesting out of the latest government proposals, however, is how the impoverished are somehow branded as seeing these means to an end as an optional joyride that they do not want to come to an end. Forced to survive on the threadbare jobseeker's allowance that averages a meagre £70 a week, masses are attempting to survive

them above the poverty line. In the past year alone, those desperate for work have visited foodbanks in their droves; all 913,000 of them.

It is with this in mind that we must question a government policy that is hellbent on demonising the suffering. If the anxiety and unpredictability of the benefit system is not enough to cause a bad night's sleep, the latest idea of an automated card system which limits the purchases of the recipient to certain shops and items completely saps the individualism of those who have lost so much already.

For a hit closer to home, the latest proposals in action also intend to hit those our own age. After six months, 18-21 year olds will be offered no financial help at ALL by the government if they still have not found work.

With this in mind, it is time to accept a more communitarian ethos towards those who are not fortunate enough to be in a secure position of employment. It is worth realising that this unemployed image is not a delinquent wastrel hellbent on self-destruction, but a victim of a failed social system that we are still, somehow, endorsing.

on a figure that only just situates

Jasmine Andersson



Uni unveils kosher flat

Suhail Dhanji

The University's first private kosher flat has opened at Montague Burton Halls.

The flat has been specially adapted to house religious Jews observing the Sabbath Day, which forbids the turning on or off of electricity.

The news follows the University's closure of kosher-friendly accommodation at Leodis Residences, where the use of automatic lights and electric gates was seen as 'problematic'.

Speaking to this paper, President Max Sherrard explained that Leeds is the 'first University that has actively pursued anything like this'.

Students can access the flat with a traditional key rather than fob. It is

also secured by a non-electric gate, in accordance with Sabbath custom.

The Gryphon understands Montague Burton's residence to be the first unique block for Orthodox Jews.

J Soc Co-Shabbat Officer Benjamin Lee said of the lack of facilities for Jewish students, 'It became clear to members of the Jewish society committee that this was an unacceptable situation that would prevent observant Jews choosing to study in Leeds in future years'.

He added, 'It ensures that students arriving this September at the university who wish to be Shomrei Shabbat whilst living away from home are able to do so'.

Leeds named third most expensive student city



Lucie England-Duce ©

Hugh Baillie-Lane

Research conducted by banking giant Santander has placed Leeds as the third most expensive student city to live in the UK.

Leeds rose seven places to third, with only Cambridge and London rated as more expensive cities in which to live. The research revealed that Leeds costs the average student £10,022 per year, excluding tuition fees. The figures showed an increase of £2,548 from last year.

However, some students have argued against these findings. Third year Geography student, Lily Feasby stated that compared to many of her friends in other cities, Leeds is comparatively cheap. She mentioned that

rental costs average at £60 per week compared to the pricing of houses in Newcastle which costs more than £75 per week.

Critics have been keen to point out that the analysis includes annual predicted expenditures and costs that students may also not choose to incur.

The analysis does include outlays that are unlikely to be incurred annually, such as £418 per year on 'IT Equipment' and costs that students can choose not to incur, such as public transport.

The research raises the importance of how expensive it is to be a student in 2014, whichever University you go to. Tuition fees included the average cost of university is now expected to be £54,000 for a three-year degree.



Alice Greenfield ©

Sculpture vultures

Robert Andrews

A new sculpture in the recently developed Beech Grove Plaza near the Union has been officially unveiled today.

Called a 'Sign for Art', the monument was designed by Yorkshire-based artist Keith Wilson.

The sculpture is intended to represent two spaced fingertips in waved motion across the forehead of a student, and is inspired by his work with blind and deaf pupils. The artist adds,

'In the face of the proverbial 'What does it mean?' this sculpture, at the very least, has an answer.'

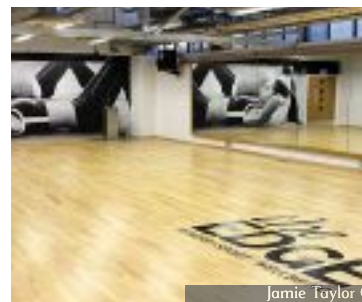
The sculpture has had mixed responses from Leeds students.

Lucy Kelly, 21, said, 'It certainly attracts your attention when you walk past it, although I'm not sure what it really represents. It is quite impressive.'

However, others have not been as complimentary.

James Stockdale, 19, said, 'I think money could have been spent elsewhere or maybe on a sculpture which represents Leeds University more clearly.'

Keith Wilson will be joined by Director of Tate Britain, Penelope Curtis for the opening.



Jamie Taylor ©



Jamie Taylor ©

An Edgey refurb

Charlotte Mason

News Editor

The Edge has undergone a £1.2m refurbishment this summer.

New facilities include 250 pieces of state-of-the-art equipment and a large weights area. Head of Sport at the University of Leeds, Rob Wadsworth, explained, 'We wanted not only to make the gym bigger, but to invest in the quality of the equipment to make it more up-to-date and promote sustainability'.

Most pieces of equipment are self-powered by eco technology, with

only the gym's treadmills requiring electricity.

Users are also able to synchronise a mobile app to monitor fitness progress with the machines, with new interfaces allowing students to watch TV or use Skype and Facebook whilst they exercise.

Membership fees have risen by 2.5% this year, but Mr Wadsworth concluded: 'We want to be the number one provider of student sport in the UK and I think we will achieve that in the next five years.'



EXPOSED: Landlords on shaky foundations

The Gryphon investigates multiple claims of questionable landlord practice

Union warning after landlords dodge deposits

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The Union has warned of landlords who fail to inform students of money taken from their deposits after a letting agency was suspended from the Unipol Code.

A tribunal in June found UK Pads had withdrawn from the deposits of students living on Royal Park Grove, but told them only when it was too late to challenge the deduction.

Unipol requires students to make a complaint about unfair deposit deductions within three months of the tenancy ending, although UK Pads informed students of money taken after the deadline had passed.

The agency also failed to return students' deposits within 28 days of the end of tenancy.

The Union's Community Officer, George Bradley told *The Gryphon* that

landlords can 'unfairly keep parts of student deposits because of the time restrictions to register complaints'.

He added, "We strongly suggest that students request their deposits back immediately after their tenancy ends, and if there's reasonable cause to challenge any deductions, then do so".

UK Pads was suspended 'indefinitely' from the Unipol Code following two separate complaints about deposit deductions from former tenants.

Director of UK Pads, Hedley Manton argued that the students did not take the opportunity to discuss the deductions:

"It is unfortunate that a small minority of tenants who do not follow the correct procedure feel the weight of Unipol will ultimately resolve their predicament by applying pressure on agents and landlords".

Former tenant of UK Pads Charlotte Warner advised students, 'If you miss the

deadline, your only option will be going to court if the landlord won't pay up'.

The Gryphon spoke to two students who felt their landlord had deliberately made it difficult for them to appeal.

They told us, 'Our landlord knew that the time limit to appeal a payment was three months after the termination of our contract. They were difficult to deal with, meaning constant explanation of our situation was needed each time we spoke to them. They continuously contradicted each other about the amount that would be deducted from our deposits, and had we not finally come to an agreement, we would have been out of time to appeal to our deposit protection scheme'.

iFor Homes suspended from Unipol



Sam Lewis ©

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Leeds letting agency iFor Homes has been suspended from Unipol this summer following a housing tribunal.

An inspector found tenants on Hyde Terrace were living in 'such a condition that it should not be occupied'.

The tribunal in June heard one student had to sleep on the sofa as water from the roof dripped onto his bed. Damp in bedrooms had not been properly treated six months after tenants complained, with Unipol reporting 'evidence of substantial disrepair'.

It was decided that iFor Homes also provided 'misleading' information about whether the landlord or tenants would pay for gas, water and electricity bills. *The Gryphon* understands iFor Homes now has an action plan to deal with the issues.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, a student who currently rents from iFor Homes described coming home to find the ceiling had leaked. He explained, 'On a rainy day in August, I was flabbergasted to see water coming from the ceiling. My flatmate's radiator still doesn't work and the house isn't water tight after sending numerous maintenance reports'.

In a statement, Unipol said, 'Students will not be advised to rent from this managing agent as they are no longer accredited'.

Unipol is now working with iFor Homes to inspect all their managed student properties. The Union is encouraging current tenants who are experiencing problems with iFor Homes to seek advice from the Student Advice Centre.

iFor Homes was unable to provide a comment.

Landlords fined £8,000 for illegal rents



Guardian ©

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Two student landlords have been fined £8,000 each this summer for letting properties illegally.

Mohammed and Amaad Afzal failed to obtain Houses of Multiple Occupation licences for their student lets on Regent Terrace and Estcourt Avenue. Leeds City Council was alerted to the issue after tenants in one house complained of poor maintenance and deposit problems. *The Gryphon* understands 'proactive work' was also undertaken to identify the unlicensed

properties.

The landlords, who let with Base Properties in Hyde Park and now defunct North Lane Properties in Headingley, were forced to pay a total £16,000 fine plus £3,350 costs. Speaking to *The Gryphon*, Union Housing Specialist Jenna Isherwood said, 'In our experience, where landlords are failing to obtain licences, tenants are likely to discover other problems too'.

She added, 'The council are prepared to take action if landlords don't comply with their obligations. No HMO licence should be a big red flag to

prospective tenants'.

HMO licences are required in properties of three or more stories and rented to at least five tenants who share an amenity such as a kitchen or bathroom. Although required by law, landlords can be deterred from applying as licences cost several hundred pounds.

Students who have signed a contract with Base or North Lane Properties or with Mohammed and Amaad Afzal are encouraged to contact the Student Advice Centre.



National Action targets campus

Continued from front page

» planned for early next week.

National Action has drawn controversy for their right-wing views and the extreme nature of their activities and materials.

The party has been known to quote Adolf Hitler in their strategy document, with their website stating that "Britain has become a nation of weak cowards who are hypersensitive and scared to say anything".

Many members of National Action are former members of the Young BNP, a youth-orientated branch of the far-right party.

Zarah Sultana, from the student National Executive, said in a statement: "Any group that promotes a 'White Britain', spouts racist, anti-Semitic or Islamophobic rhetoric and lists fascists including Oswald Mosley as their inspiration is not welcome on our campuses and under no circumstance should be given a platform to speak."

Official National Action policy states that they do not perform violent protests, however they do target University campuses to spread propaganda.

Suspect of Majestyk fire denies arson in court



Sean Hayes
Online News Editor

A 32-year-old man has been arrested following a fire which caused damages to the building formerly known as the Majestyk nightclub in Leeds City Centre.

A suspect appeared in Leeds Magistrates Court this morning to deny starting the fire that partially damaged the iconic nightclub on Tuesday night.

Grey smoke was seen to be coming

from the roof of the building.

Stuart James Jefferson, from Leeds, pleaded not guilty while appearing before District judge Roy Anderson. According to local reports, around 50 firefighters were called to the scene after the alarm was raised at 7.19pm.

The case has now been sent to the Crown Court, with the first hearing due to take place on October 16th.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have released a statement saying that ten fire engines attended the scene and crews used three aerial appliances to douse the

flames.

It has also been confirmed that nobody was inside the building when the fire broke out and there have been no persons injured.

Assistant Chief Officer Dave Walton said, 'The fire was largely under control by around midnight, however, crews have been in attendance overnight and four appliances remain at the scene this morning as the remaining pockets of fire are extinguished'.

He added, 'Our crews have worked fantastically hard to tackle this serious fire and I would like to thank them for their tireless efforts. This has been a massive multi-agency effort by all partners involved.'

'Although the building is extensively damaged, it is still standing and we are hopeful that this Grade II listed building can be restored to its former glory in time.'

Quebec Street has been closed off all week, however it will re-open after the building is restored.

It has been confirmed that the building was largely saved and that the fire did not spread to surrounding areas.

Student attacked on way home from night out

Jake Hookem
News Editor

Police investigating a serious sexual assault on a woman in Leeds have released CCTV images of a man they want to trace.

The incident happened at an address in Headingley in the early hours of Thursday, September 25. The 19-year-old victim was assaulted after she and her boyfriend had shared a taxi home with the suspect from Leeds city centre after a night out.

The victim is not thought to be a university student in Leeds.

Detective Superintendent Nick Wallen, of West Yorkshire Police Protective Services (Crime), said, 'The CCTV images are very clear and show the man wearing a distinctive striped T-shirt, jeans and green Nike trainers. I would ask that anyone who knows his identity or who has any information that could assist in tracing him contact us immediately.'

Police are interested in talking to the man seen in the pictures, and anyone with information is asked to contact West Yorkshire Police Protective Services (Crime) via 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.





'When I heard the national anthem starting to play, I certainly did not feel moved so much as angry. When it tells you, 'Arise! All those who refuse to be slaves!' — why is our treatment today any different from the slaves?'

Joshua Wong,

Student protester, Hong Kong



Dozens of students on campus protested the treatment of Hong Kong demonstrators on Wednesday, as the Chinese government refuses to renege on its position of Beijing-rule of the region.

PHOTO: Joshua Taylor

Key Club opens door

Cult club rebrands

George Dixon

Founders of The Cockpit have launched a new club that claims to be Leeds' first dedicated rock venue.

The venue, 'The Key Club', is to host three nights a week catering to all genres of rock along with regular gigs from widely known bands.

The news comes just weeks after The Cockpit, a centre of the city's alternative scene, announced its closure.

The Cockpit's most popular nights,

Slam Dunk and The Garage, will now be held at The Key Club every Tuesday and Saturday.

The venue will also feature a new metal and classic rock night on Friday.

The Key Club is situated on Merriion Street, only a few minutes away from the University's campus. It is hoped that the club's location will attract many of Leeds' students.

President of the LUU RockSoc,

Miley Stevens told *The Gryphon*, "It's early days in the life of The Key Club, and I think it is too soon to tell how it will fare on Leeds' alternative scene, but after visiting them a couple of times over Freshers' week it looks like it is a good substitute for The Cockpit."

Stevens added: "There is also so much hidden and unsigned talent in Leeds that the alternative scene will never really die."

Breaking down the stories that matter.

The Digest...



The Times ©

RAF bombs Islamic State

Britain has launched air strikes on IS following Parliament's decision to take action against the group last week.

The MoD reported a heavy weapons post and a vehicle with a mounted machine gun were destroyed in the attacks on Tuesday.

Parliament voted last Friday to conduct air strikes against the extremists. 524 MPs voted in favour and 43 MPs voted against.

The majority of opposition came from Labour backbenchers, although Labour Leader, Ed Miliband supported the appeal for action.

The US has launched airstrikes in Syria, as well as Iraq, but it remains unclear whether David Cameron will commit to such action in the future.

Danny Anderson



Simon Lewis Photography ©

Parkinson Tower goes gold for Child Cancer Awareness Month

The Parkinson building's tower was illuminated gold on the 25th September in support of Child Cancer Awareness Month. The display was part of CLIC Sargent's 'Light it Up Gold' campaign. Other iconic buildings across the country such as Blackpool Tower and the National Theatre in London have also lit up to mark their support. The president of LUU Cancer Awareness Society said: 'this campaign will raise awareness for a multitude of cancer charities in the local area and nationally, and the incredible work they do day to day.'

Notably, the tower also lights up purple every February in support of LGBT Awareness month.

Robert Cohen



RFT ©

Hong Kong students protest

Protests in Hong Kong escalated over the weekend. Demonstrators are protesting against China's decision to allow only those vetted by the Chinese Communist Party to stand in Hong Kong's upcoming Election.

Protests began last Monday when students boycotted classes and took to the streets. Since then they have been joined by Hong Kong's Occupy Central movement, with a following of 60,000 people in total.

Protests have quickly intensified, with tear gas and water-cannons being used, leaving 34 people hospitalised.

Over 70 students have been arrested and many homes searched, as tensions continue to build.

Greg Whitaker



Gawker ©

Urban Outfitters apologises for controversial sweater

Urban Outfitters removed a controversial sweater from its website after an online backlash.

The sweater referenced the events at Kent State University in 1970, when the National Guard opened fire on students protesting the Vietnam War, killing four and injuring nine.

The garment, which displayed a 'Kent State' logo on the front, appeared to be blood-stained.

This is not the first time Urban Outfitters has caused offence. The popular brand has had a number of controversial garments in the past. Their spokesperson said "It was never our intention to allude to the tragic events that took place at Kent State."

Hugh Baillie-Lane



Richard Mayne: a life



Jake Hookem
News Editor

Richard Mayne died in July 2014 at the age of 20. He was amongst the victims of the MH17 incident over Eastern Ukraine.

Mr Mayne grew up in Leicestershire and had previously attended Market Bosworth High School, later attending Dixie Grammar School, also in Market Bosworth. Richard was deputy head boy at the Dixie Grammar School, and earned himself a place at the University of Leeds to study Maths and Finance, where he was performing well.

Richard was an avid rugby player, and had been for many years. He played for his school and for the Market Bosworth Rugby Club, for whom he made more than 200 appearances, lifting the RFU Under-17 National Cup in 2011.

Richard also represented Leeds University's Gryphons, and in July the University of Leeds Rugby Union Club tweeted:

"Hearts go out to the friends & family of Richard Mayne, a popular clubman taken from us too soon. We pay tribute to an honest and kind man."

Richard's former Head Teacher John Wood said in a statement in July: "All of us in The Dixie Grammar School community are devastated to hear the tragic news of Richard Mayne's death on the Malaysian Airlines flight.

He said Mr Mayne was a "great all-rounder, good academically and also a keen sportsman", being part of the school's successful rugby team.

"Richard was an extremely pleasant and thoughtful young man who gave his time generously for everyone," he said.

Paying his respects, David Shaft, Market Bosworth Rugby Club chairman, said:

"Passionate about his rugby, he was looking forward to playing in Australia

where he was heading to continue his studies."

"His last game for us was in a charity match, which was so typical of his good nature, he was so willing to participate and help wherever he could".

Richard Mayne had also been an active member of Leeds RAG, and in March had travelled to the Everest base camp, raising money for charity Kidasha. Kidasha is a UK-based charity for impoverished children in Nepal, and it is thought Mayne chose them because they are combatting diabetes in children in the area, a condition from which Richard suffered.

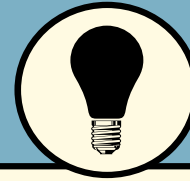
The Leeds RAG committee said in a statement:

"At Leeds RAG we were extremely saddened by the tragic loss of Richard. We greatly appreciated his contributions to and achievements with Leeds RAG and the charities we support. Our Everest Base Camp participants hold precious memories of their time together and speak of the huge impact Richard had throughout the trip. That so many people chose to donate to his Just Giving page is a real testament to his generous and charitable nature and something for which we are immeasurably grateful".

At the Varsity grand-final, RAG had 25 volunteers bucket-shaking in aid of the Richard Mayne Foundation and Marie Curie Cancer Care. In total £665.13 was raised, to be split evenly between the two. A one minute applause was also held in his honour.

The Richard Mayne Foundation was established by the family and friends of Richard. The foundation provides funding for diabetes sufferers to experience some of the same adventurous and exciting things Richard Mayne did in his life.

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS



So you have an idea for making the Union, University and city of Leeds better for students?

Submit them online anytime at LUU.org.uk

After your idea is submitted, Reps gather student feedback. The idea is then debated at one of three forums



Better Union Forum



Better University Forum



Better Leeds Forum

Ideas are discussed and voted on by the panel of 16 random students



Above 75% Yes
Idea becomes Union policy



Below 75% Yes/No
Every student is asked to vote on the idea



Above 75% No
Idea fails



Majority Yes
Idea becomes Union policy



Majority No
Idea fails

Tom

Bradley

Gemma

fi

GEORGE

FREYA

The Student Exec start working on the new idea



Fighting the Establishment: An interview with Owen Jones

Ruby Lott-Lavigna

Owen Jones definitely did not have time for this interview. Having just published *The Establishment*, a book that looks to challenge unquestioned power, whilst also being the BBC's token 'lefty' to go to for all media coverage ever, Owen had been rushing around the country, publicising his novel, doing talks, covering the news, as well as apparently staying up all night to comment on the Scottish referendum (he tells me, as we meet on the day Scotland are voting). None the less, in-between his busy schedule, Owen fits me in after insisting that it wasn't a problem, and that if I needed anything else I should just email him. I think he might be the nicest human ever.

The fact that we don't have much time before he has to go and catch a train allows him to get to the point with his answers. To start things off I ask him if he enjoyed writing the book. 'No. I hate writing. I think writing's awful. I hate it. I like meeting people, I like chatting to people. Writing a book is horrible, boring, full of solitude, tedious - no, there's nothing fun about writing, but finishing it off's good! Talking to people's good and I like chatting to people and chatting over ideas, but I didn't want to be a writer so it's kind of weird that I've ended up doing that... whoops.'

I wonder if Owen Jones had ever thought of being a politician. Talking to him, you get the sense that he probably should be. After this point in the conversation, and bar the moment where he almost spills apple juice over my laptop (the scene resembles a microcosm of taking down capitalism, one Apple product at a time) his tone becomes almost rehearsed. Every time I ask him a question, he seems to know the answer, and can reel off a well contained paragraph with a few well thought-out examples, a lot of 'for me...s and a Tony Benn quote here and there. I like him, but he seriously is a man of sound bites.

Having been born in Sheffield, and grown up in Manchester, Jones is a controversial figure when it comes to lefty politics, even if his answers are almost too squeaky clean. Even though he seems, for a popular and famous public figure, to be unnecessarily nice in person, people really dislike him. He's famous for getting slated on twitter and is happy to engage (or fight) with people via the medium. He is also pretty vehement in his dislike of New Labour - which means if you're not to the left of the Labour Party, then Owen is going to strike you as a caricature of the left. His book, *The Establishment, and how they get away*



“We're the sixth richest country on the face of the earth and we have one million people depending on food banks to feed themselves....we'll look back at that one day as completely monstrous that we allowed it ever to happen.”

with it, as you could probably guess, is not a rave review of those in power. Instead, it looks at the media, politicians, bankers and the 'shadowy and labyrinthine system that dominates our lives', insisting that we don't just lie down and take it, but get up and fight back.

'Writers have a role in pointing to injustice, and for me, the point of a book like [*The Establishment*], is to get a debate going, and to get people

to look at how unjust and irrational our system is, and to change it and to challenge it. When I go around doing all the talks, that's my message: whether you read the book or not is kind of by the by, because in this case I wanted to redirect people's anger away from immigrants, unemployed people, benefit claimers, public sector workers and redirect people's anger at the powerful. Even if people disagree with me, it doesn't really matter -



because as long as I've got people talking about the powerful rather than their neighbours, then I've kind of won that one. I'm an activist – and for me everything I do is within that context of being with other people, and being another activist like them, and my writing comes out of that.'

Often, those in the public mainstream on the left are part of the left wing intelligentsia; well-off Southerners who have a lot of white middle class guilt. Owen isn't, and definitely wants to be on the side of the campaigners, activists, strikers, unions, and not just someone who wrote a few books and churns out an article every week for a lefty broadsheet. After studying at Oxford, which he described as 'a culture shock to say the least' and 'very disorientating' he went on to work for a trade union lobbyist and a parliamentary researcher for the Labour Party. He now writes for The Guardian, having previously been at The Independent, and is frequently on the telly fighting the socialist fight.

Talking to Owen gives you a real feel for activism. He knows what the problems are, he knows how to provoke outrage, and he can tie it all together then give one big conclusion that leaves you feeling like armchair activism might just not be enough for today. We talk about the classic topics: private education, lack of representation in Parliament, media and boardrooms, the living wage, the Tories etc. Whilst his rhetoric may be a bit well-worn, he often tries to offer solutions, which certainly answers the 'that's all well and good, but what do we actually do about it?' tribe.

'Seven percent of the population go to private

school but at Oxford [the percentage of private school students] is about half of the people there, and even the state school contingent are disproportionately grammar schools. So the number of people from non-selective comps is very limited. My view is that Oxford and Cambridge should automatically enroll the brightest working class

I wanted to redirect people's anger away from immigrants, unemployed people, benefit claimers, public sector workers and redirect people's anger at the powerful.

kids. If you grew up in a mining village and you get one A and three Bs you've done infinitely better than someone who went to Eton and got four A's at A level. I'd automatically enroll people like that.' Lifting his smoking rifle from Oxbridge, warm with the flame of injustice, he directs it now towards the the wealthy. 'I want to do things that are very radical, like I want to take on private education, unpaid internships, expensive post-graduate qualifications, things that people can't afford to do unless they're rich or prosperous. To deal with those sorts of issues, to make sure the media, politics, aren't closed shop for people

from privileged backgrounds. It's a case of making society equal and far more equal than it is today, and abolishing poverty and hardship and suffering. It's inexcusable, we're the sixth richest country on the face of the earth and we have one million people depending on food banks to feed themselves. That's absurd, and we'll look back at that one day as completely monstrous that we allowed it ever to happen.' And thus with one final swing of the blade (I've forgotten which metaphor I was using), Owen defeats the Establishment.

But what can we, lowly victims of the capitalist regime, do? 'In a plea to young people, you really can change things, and if you look throughout our history, people took on what seemed like insurmountable odds, [like] the Tolpuddle Martyrs, who got transported to Australia for trying to organise trade unions. The early trade unionists who fought for the dignity and rights of the working people, the suffragettes who fought for the rights of women – demonised, reviled, locked up in prisons, force fed, smeared as anarchists and terrorists. Those who fought against racism, and sexism and homophobia, spat at in the streets, spat at by police officers, all vindicated by history. If we look at those who built the welfare state, workers' rights, the NHS, all confronting power and winning. We stand on the shoulders of giants. That is our history.'

Bloody hell. Owen continues, 'I look at UK Uncut [a UK based protest group], with predominantly young people involved, who occupy shops and businesses avoiding tax. They force tax avoidance onto the agenda. I go to sixth forms and schools a lot and I'm always struck by how bright and sharp young people are, how aware they are of the world around them, and how angry they are... join a trade union. On campus, work with people fighting for a living wage for cleaning and other university workers, try and break down the barriers between students and university workers. Get involved in campaigns, whether it be on the environment, defending the NHS, all the rest of it. With all these sorts of issue, it's a case of uniting together, having a sense that an injury to one is an injury to all, that your power is greater when you unite with other people, that strength together. That's what we'll do. It's my plea to young people, if not now then when? Don't let this unjust society that is robbing all of you of your futures, don't let it last. Do something you're proud of. You'll be proud of yourself, to think that I was part of building a different sort of society, not one run in the interest of those at the top, but one run in the interest of people of keep society ticking.'

There's a pause. I look up at him not entirely sure where to go from here. He looks back at me. 'Everything'll be alright in the end anyway.'

Images: Dan Dennison/Getty Images Europe





'There was a list of people who were dead, and my name was on it.'

13 years on, the events surrounding the attacks on the World Trade Center still affect us. The Gryphon spoke to Ian Robb, Leeds Graduate and 9/11 survivor, about his experience.

Abla Klau and Brigitte Phillips

On the evening of September 10, 2001, Robb was enjoying a meal with colleagues in the city, but the dinner didn't finish until fairly late. He fell asleep in the taxi home to New Jersey, and didn't get home until 1.30am. 'I set the alarm, it went off in the morning and I had slept right through it,' said Ian Robb. 'I was always very fussy about getting to the office early, I'd like to get there at around 7.30am.'

After the late start, and a delayed train, Robb arrived at the World Trade Center over an hour later than usual. He narrowly missed catching an elevator to the 99th floor of the North Tower, where he worked at the time; this saved his life. 'I waited for the next one and about six of us got into it, the doors closed and that's when everything started to happen. There was a tremendous vibration, the whole lift was shaking wildly and there was a rushing of wind sound all around us.

'I am not to let the terrorists think they've won.'

'We were all pretty terrified,' said Robb, 'I thought it was the end of the world, that's what it felt like. It stopped after what seemed like 10 minutes but was probably no more than 15 seconds. We were all down on the floor cowering at that point wondering what was going to happen next. We could hear things dropping onto the lift, and dust was coming in through the doors. After it stopped, we dusted ourselves off and could hear the alarm bells ringing, some of us thought there was something wrong with the lift. The passengers tried unsuccessfully to reach someone from the outside world. 'We waited and waited, we kept yelling and banging on the door and pressing buttons but nothing happened at all.

'After an hour or so, the noise above was increasing. We could still hear all this rubble falling. As we were banging, rubble started falling from the top of the door and it seemed to be jamming the door mechanism, because we were able to get our fingers inbetween the doors and pull them apart. We were in the lobby again, we had no idea how we got there.

We may have gone up or gone down, we'll never know.'

The elevator passengers were told by security that there had been a terrorist attack, and that they had to evacuate the building immediately. 'We had to run across the lobby to an escalator that took us up to the Plaza level. The plaza level was between the two towers, probably four or five storeys of marble and glass, quite a beautiful place. The windows were all red, I hadn't realized that the red was blood. The outside was just a battlefield; bits of bodies, bits of everything lying around. We ran out of the building and heard this huge roar. I looked up. It came from the fire on the top of the building where my office was.

'Then the South tower began to collapse. There was a dreadful rumble, dust and rubble falling everywhere so we ran. I was on my own, I didn't know where everyone was at that point. I ran towards the ferry and jumped on just as it was leaving the dock. It pulled out into the river and I just watched this tower collapse behind us. Later I managed to watch it on television and think, "my goodness, that was where I was".

'I lost a lot of friends and acquaintances, something like 360 people from the company that I was with, killed. Everybody above where the planes hit at around the 93rd floor was killed, including all the people who worked on my floor who were in the office that day. One of the fellows who I'd been out with for dinner the night before was also lost. I think about them still, I think about them rather than the incident, because they were very close friends and colleagues.

'The next day, I managed to get a hold of people in the main office, which was in midtown Manhattan, and they thought I was lost. I got to the office and there was a whole list of people who were dead, and my name was on it.'

When asked about the biggest change in post-9/11 America, Ian Robb had this to say, 'The most lasting change has been much tighter security, on planes in particular. The events since have increased animosity towards those who might be likely to be terrorist. Immediately afterwards there was a dreadful

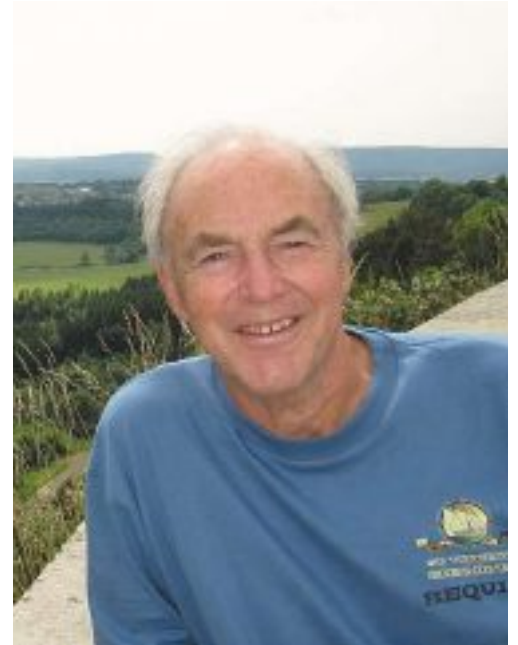


Image: Ian Robb

backlash against Muslims which really irritated me, but I suppose people were just lashing out. But in New York itself, oddly enough, it was a great city to be in the weeks afterwards. People's attitudes towards one another were ones of helpfulness, graciousness.

We asked Robb who he thought was to blame for the rise in Islamophobia after 9/11, the media, politicians or the general public? 'I think the answer is yes to all those. My personal view for what it's worth, I think if America and probably the West as a whole has been a little more forceful about trying to engage some of the more fractious Islamic countries in dialogue, it might not have come to that.'

Despite all he went through, Ian doesn't see life any differently after escaping death, 'I'm a spiritual person but not a religious person. I put my escape down to good fortune, but I don't think it's changed at all. In fact, one of my immediate responses to the tragedy was one of determination not to be negatively affected. People say to me 'oh you probably won't go on a plane again', I say 'I'll go on a plane as soon as possible. I'll go in a lift as soon as possible. I am not to let the terrorists think they've won.'



'Yes' can't take 'No' for an answer

Rachel Megan Barker
4th Year Politics and
Parliamentary Studies



On the 18th September 2014, 55% of the Scottish people, in an election which had a huge turnout, voted that Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom.

While a 10% margin of victory isn't huge, it's not tiny either.

While a large number of people did want Scotland to become an independent country, many more did not. So that's the end of the story, because that's how democracy works, right? Well, not quite.

There are a lot of people on the 'Yes' side who it can't quite take 'No' for an answer. The "45" Twitter ribbon has been circulating the social network as part of an attempt to keep the movement for Independence alive, showing the percentage that lost them the referendum.

These folks will say anything from accusations of vote rigging to demanding that independence be taken by force.

Slightly more concerning than a few fanatics on Twitter was the SNP's recent suggestion that, if they won a majority in the next Scottish Parliamentary election, they would take it as a mandate to simply declare independence, despite the fact that the majority of the Scottish people voted against it.

This is fairly typical of the SNP and the Yes campaign's patronising attitude towards No voters; Salmond declared during the campaign that No voters were actually "deferred Yes voters".

There is such a sense of righteousness among some Yes supporters that they are simply unable to believe that someone could, with both a good understanding of the issue and complete courage in their convictions, chose to vote no. In-

stead they must have been "duped by Westminster", or just too afraid because of No campaign "scaremongering".

Although the public outcry that would likely ensue from the SNP declaring independence despite the majority No vote, not to mention the fact that the UK Government would simply not allow it, what does seem

This is typical of the SNP's patronising attitude towards 'No' voters

tangible, should the SNP win a majority vote, is the possibility of another referendum. Nicola Sturgeon, the probable next leader of the SNP, has said she has no plans for another vote "soon" (although what soon means is rather vague) but has

had admitted that the SNP's party membership (which is growing) are hungry for another referendum.

The only way we can be certain another referendum will not go ahead is if the SNP do not win a majority, and are forced to govern with a minority, or if Labour, the only real challenge to the SNP, win the election.

Whatever your views on independence, this referendum was so damaging, so divisive, turning friends and neighbours and even families against each other, with stories of voter intimidation rife, it is hard to argue that Scotland should not be allowed time to heal, time to rebuild broken connections between people and enable Scotland to move forward as a united society, rather than be launched straight into another bitter referendum campaign.

But there still remains a chance this will be exactly what happens, if the SNP find themselves on top.

Are 'real women' a real problem?

Sophie Bell
2nd Year English
ed12s24b@leeds.ac.uk



The term 'real woman' is something that has been regularly uttered in recent years to describe the curvaceous, attractive figure of a woman, and to combat the ever-increasing presence of an unachievably slim body in the media.

However, currently, it seems that this term is unfairly stigmatising those women who are naturally slim or skinny.

In Nicki Minaj's latest release, 'Anaconda', one of the lines is 'F*** those skinny bitches in the club I wanna see all the big fat ass bitches in the motherf***ing club, f*** you if you skinny bitches.' I'm not sure when Nicki Minaj thought it would be okay to start discriminating against size, when her own body has been created by a plastic surgeon, but I also highly doubt these 'real women' would appreciate being

called a 'fat ass bitch'. According to Nicki, whether you're fat or skinny, you're a 'bitch', and the fewer clothes you wear to show these 'curves' off, even if they are artificially created for sizeable price, the better (see the Anaconda video for more life lessons from Nicki?) Aside from the clear and prominent objec-

Why do these 'real women' have to be plus size? Why can't a smaller woman also be 'real'?

tification of women that happens in Minaj's Anaconda video, this discrimination of a woman's size, which therefore makes her 'real' or 'skinny' is prominent in other aspects of the media.

Kelly Brook recently released a line of clothing for plus size clothing company 'Simply Be'. Though she claims this line is designed for

'women with curves', and uses this concept of a 'real woman' as the target audience for her products, this line starts at a size 10.

Size 10 is one of the smallest sizes available in most high street shops, begging the question: why should this be labelled plus size? And why can't a woman who is smaller than a size 10 be real?

This dictatorial attitude of what we should and shouldn't be penetrates so many aspects of our lives, that it now feels almost second nature.

Furthermore, the hashtag 'fatkini' has found recent popularity on Instagram.

The premise of this hashtag was a positive one, attempting to shed the notion that every woman should have a toned, tanned 'bikini body' in time for the summer, but that actually to get a bikini body is to simply put a bikini on, while simultaneously subverting the meaning of the word 'fat', making it a compliment, rather than an insult.

The idea was to show 'real women' in bikinis, but why do these 'real people have to be plus size?

Isn't this making naturally slim people feel isolated in the same way that seeing an unrealistically thin body plastered throughout the media makes larger women feel negatively towards themselves?

The long and short of it remains that the whole idea of 'real women' has become obsessive and demeaning, causing unnecessary contempt; surely there is enough conflict involving race, religion, sexuality and gender, without the creation of petty grievances involving something as foolish as size?

The involvement of the media in our perception of ourselves and the widespread obsession with how we look is ridiculous. By shaming different body types for different things, the media is creating a generation of women who will never be satisfied with their body.



The unheard plight of Xinjiang

Tim van Gardingen

1st Year German and Chinese
tim.vangardingeng@gmail.com



The question of Tibetan independence from Mainland China is relatively well known to the West, with a substantial amount of campaigning to declare it its own country.

The culture of native Tibetans has slowly been chipped away at, and this, as well as limitations of religious and political freedom, has led naturally to heavy unrest.

What makes its way into the public eye much less often are the similar problems that are taking place in the autonomous Xinjiang province of China.

Clashes between Han Chinese and the Uighur minority have been common for a number of years in recent times, caused by strikingly similar reasons to Tibet and resulting in similar problems.

The official line on relations be-

tween the ethnic groups of Xinjiang is that each lives in perfect harmony, all striving together for a better China.

Considering some of the blatant discrimination towards Uighurs, this claim is more than questionable. In some towns, Uighurs are attacked simply for being Uighur.

As a Muslim minority, the rules imposed to ban Muslim dress were

In some towns, Uighurs are attacked simply for being a Uighur

most likely aimed at Uighurs.

This discrimination, alongside the gradual disappearance of the native culture, has resulted in extreme unrest. In 2009, riots broke out in the regions capital, Urumqi.

Official numbers claim 200 deaths and nearly 2000 injured in the violence. Even this week, a

bomb killed 50 in Luntai county.

Whether this violence is justified is a difficult question. Although peaceful protest should be the answer to solving the misunderstandings, this isn't much of an option in China.

Illham Tohti, a leading Uighur scholar from Beijing's Minzu University has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment for voicing the plight of the Uighurs, and accused of being involved with underground activist groups.

If a respected, leading scholar in Beijing has no voice, then what chance do the people of Xinjiang have?

Many Uighur people want independence from China and wish for the region to be declared 'East Turkistan'. The Uighurs have no country of their own, so if their culture is wiped out in Xinjiang, it will be gone completely.

The government dismisses the violence as 'Muslim extremism', when the desperate unrest is en-

tirely a helpless, hopeless attempted defence of the Uighur way of life.

The authority's response to current violence has been to increase the military presence in Xinjiang (Urumqi is now dotted with soldiers and tanks, many of which point permanently towards Uighur public buildings).

Anti-terror propaganda is being placed around cities and over Chinese social media. A year-long crackdown on 'terrorism' is now in effect across Xinjiang.

The problems in Xinjiang do, unfortunately, appear to be escalating, with many more major incidents being reported this year. As the problems worsen, tensions between ethnic groups also are becoming more electrified. It is difficult to predict what will happen in Xinjiang's foreseeable future, but one thing which is certain is that it's current road is not a comfortable one.

Should you have beef with the meat industry?

Phillipa Williams

2nd Year English and History
phillipawilliamst@gmail.com



Britain is notorious for its love of meat. Whether it be the classic full English breakfast, or the bacon butty that is just the perfect hang-over cure, meat is a part of British culture. But how much thought do you give to where it comes from, and how it is produced? The horse meat scandal last year is merely the tip of the iceberg, in a much larger, murky picture of animal cruelty and exploitation.

Although there are some regulations in place in the UK that ensure a certain level of animal welfare, this is not enough. There are still horror stories in the media, detailing how pigs are kept in pens that are nowhere near big enough for them to move; chickens crammed into sheds in their hundreds, genetically engineered to ensure unnatural rapid growth, that results in severe deformities, and early death.

It doesn't just stop at the rearing of animals, either. The actual act of slaughter, while obviously fairly gruesome, is carried out in the most horrific ways possible, with animals sometimes still fighting for life even as they are strung up and skinned. The notion that the 'stunning' method prevents any suffering is very much a myth—animals are often still completely aware of their surroundings and able to feel pain, even when stunned.

Choosing to eat meat is an acceptance that you are eating life

While this is horrendous enough, a significant amount of meat that is consumed in Britain is imported from overseas EU countries, where animal rights hold far less meaning.

In 2010, it was estimated that over a quarter of all meat on sale in the UK was imported from countries where animals are kept in appalling

conditions.

There are many people that are fully aware of the brutalities of the meat industry, and endeavour to buy from sustainable farms with acceptable living conditions—however, the meat used by restaurants, pubs and catering outlets is a cause for concern, especially as these industries account for half of the money spent on food in the UK.

Not only does this perpetuate international animal cruelty, but also does damage to British farmers, who are attempting to raise the standards of animal welfare, which is made more difficult by the ready availability of cheaper products.

Danish Crown Corporation, one of the largest meat companies in the world, offers tours around one of its many slaughter houses in Horsens, Denmark; this policy of complete transparency is in stark contrast to that of many of its global counterparts.

While there is no way to romanticise the act of killing animals for consumption, the company has

policies to make sure the animals experience as little trauma as possible; for example, wearing blue aprons rather than white, so as to not remind the animals of predators teeth, allowing the pigs to walk into the building of their own accord, rather than forcing them in using electric prods, causing unnecessary stress.

Moreover, the public is free to see the whole process, from start to finish. This openness ensures a high standard is maintained, while also allowing people to see exactly where their meat comes from, something, I believe, is crucial.

Choosing to eat meat is an acceptance that you are eating life: while it is easy to separate the meat on your plate from the animal it came from, you should not bury your head. Meat-eaters have a responsibility to make sure that what they are consuming is from a sustainable, cruelty-free background, and it is only then that animal welfare will begin to improve.



LUU Elections: Wasteful, undemocratic and improper

Jamie Taylor
3rd Year Politics



Every March, six University of Leeds students are elected as LUU exec officers for the next academic year.

The hotly contested elections provide the successful individuals with an opportunity to determine the direction of one of the biggest and best student unions in the whole country.

As the public faces of an organisation with the potential to improve the lives of 30,000 students in Leeds, it's fair to say that the stakes are incredibly high.

It should be a given then, one would assume, that the elections would be carried out with integrity. After all, LUU's Code of Practice states that the Appointed Officer will ensure that the elec-

tions are 'conducted fairly and properly and in accordance with the Union's Constitution.' Unfortunately, this year's elections didn't fully tick all the boxes on those fronts. Any election during which students were 'encouraged' to vote in the election in exchange for free meals doesn't scream 'proper' at me and it certainly seems ludicrous to suggest that that particular promotional esca-

LUU are kidding themselves if they think, in its current form, that the process of electing the Exec is working.

pade promoted integrity. Not only that but the election

process was further undermined elsewhere. The Union's obsessive focus on garnering as many votes as possible to 'break records' and 'beat Sheffield' made a mockery of hard campaigning that the candidates put in.

The elections surely aren't about getting one up on our South Yorkshire rivals but instead about real students who want to make a real difference.

The list goes on. Some potential voters, in an obvious waste of Union resources, won tickets for Leeds Ball by taking selfies with the undeniably excessive Lead LUU advertisements.

Add that to the fact that you can't buy bottled water in Essentials for environmental reasons and yet LUU endorses the wasting of thousands of sheets of paper and it all looks like one big mess.

LUU are kidding themselves if they think, in its current form,

that the process of electing the Exec is working. There are obvious gaps in its integrity and to describe the elections as 'proper' would be misleading when some electoral and environmental ideals being forgotten about and money is being wasted. We, as students, need to step up and demand the change that is required.

It's time that we took a progressive approach on electing our Union's officers and blazed a trail for others to follow. If we want to continue to stay at the front, we need to come up with innovative solutions to the problems we face. It's time to eradicate the over-use of paper for campaigning, it's time to remove the incentivising of voting and it's time to engage students with the debates that matter.

Male bisexuality: why the stigma?

Ella Healing
3rd Year English
ella.healing@gmail.com



The concept of sexuality should be very simple in this day and age. We're past the old buggery laws and discrimination in employment, and some amazing civil rights movements over the decades have taken place in the LGBT community in Britain. However, as far as attitudes are concerned, there is still a very long way to go. Sexuality isn't just a binary of gay or straight and it never has been: preferences are just as diverse as the human race itself. This much is clear, so why is bisexuality, especially male bisexuality, viewed as suspicious and irrelevant?

The answer is in the norms ingrained within the fabric of our society, and the way the sexuality of others is viewed. For instance: female sexuality is often fetishised for the pleasure of heterosexual

men. You only have to look on YouTube for the 'Real Lesbians React to Lesbian Porn' to see that there is a stark difference between 'lesbian porn' and porn made with lesbians in mind. 'Girl on girl' action, and

If your preferences don't tickle the fancy of a heterosexual man, you're considered irrelevant in some way

the idea that bisexual women are simply 'curious' has been branded as something 'sexy' in the media, i.e. something that appeals to men. Male bisexuality and even homosexuality often fetches the opposite reaction from the public, purely because it can't be fetishised for heterosexual men, and that says a lot about what is ingrained in our

society. If your preferences don't tickle the fancy of a straight man, you are considered irrelevant in some way. Even worse, if you want the option of both male and female partners, you are deviating against the 'heterosexual norm', and branded as 'greedy', or encouraged to 'just choose one'.

The stigma towards male bisexuality could also stem from the fact that same-sex relations between women has never been illegal, while same-sex relations between men wasn't decriminalised until the 1960s, with gay marriage only becoming legal this year, and is still met with a surprising amount of opposition. However, bisexuality is not a phenomenon or a new revelation to the masses, and is certainly not a state of being 'confused'; centuries of bisexuality has proved this. In Britain we have had several known bisexual Kings, and although attitudes towards sexuality have been different throughout history,

the differences in the desires of human beings have not changed. The Spartans saw homosexuality as something to be celebrated and revered, and in Ancient Rome, emperors were considered to be unnatural if they only slept with women, but now it seems as though the reverse is true, and a man sleeping with both genders is stigmatised.

As a population, we should stop telling bisexuals that they're 'confused' or 'greedy', regardless of their gender. Bisexuality, whether it be male or female, should not be dismissed as a 'choice' or an 'experiment'. Provided only legal, consenting adults are involved, nobody's sexuality is invalid. We're so obsessed with who people go to bed with that we're forgetting that it's none of our business.



Should the government cap jobseeker's allowance for 18–21 year olds?

At the recent Tory conference, David Cameron and George Osborne outlined measures to cut the jobseeker's allowance for 18–21 year olds, as well as capping housing benefits for young adults. The plans have been met with much controversy, and *Gryphon Debate* asks whether the government are justified in these plans.

No

Ella Griffiths
Third Year English

Once again, George Osborne has made a terrifying and harsh decision.

At the Conservative Party Conference last week, the Chancellor outlined his post-election plan, which would see 18–21 year olds have their benefits scrapped if they are unable to find work within six months.

As if this wasn't bad enough, young people also won't be able to claim housing benefits at all, forcing many to continue living with their parents.

This is fairly confusing, as it merely encourages another type of dependency: the bank of Mum and Dad.

The government would be saving on housing benefit, but giving parents less disposable income.

These plans are all in the name of saving the government cash, which of course, has to be done.

But what I can't get my head around is why Osborne is targeting young people in order to do this.

The savings will apparently be used to fund three million new apprenticeships.

This is all well and good, but is certainly no consolation to those young people forced into poverty when their benefits are cut.

I'm personally in favour of funding apprenticeships out of the pockets of millionaires rather than those who are desperately in need of them.

Osborne doesn't want to encourage a 'culture of dependency', but what he doesn't see is that without this vital lifeline, many young people won't even have a chance to raise themselves up in the world.

To encourage people to look for

work, you must first give them a safety net. They need to know that their government won't abandon them if they fail to succeed within a mere six months.

Also, the idea that young people will continue receiving their benefits if they take part in community projects is baffling. If someone hasn't managed to find a job in six months, what good is going to pick litter for free going to do? If anything, it's reducing the time that person has to look for a job. Even better, why not pay them to pick up litter and get people off benefits that way?

Yes, we don't want people living on the dole indefinitely. But let's give young people a chance to get going.



Yes

Phil Mann
Fourth Year Politics

While it may seem unfair on the surface, there could be a silver lining with the cap on jobseeker's allowance for 18–21 year olds.

Under new policies, young, childless people of this age bracket will have their jobseeker's allowance capped to 'encourage' them to either seek employment or go into higher education.

Incentivising people to pursue work is a vital part of reducing the amount of 'NEETS' - young people not in education or employment.

However, Cameron revealed at the Tory conference that the money saved from these cuts would be used to actively fund apprenticeships. Capping benefits for those with dis-

abilities and introducing that terrible bedroom tax has come proved hugely unpopular for the Conservatives, so Cameron must assuage the fears of the electorate that this latest policy will be another policy that generates headlines but not progress.

I am no Tory, but if the purpose of these cuts is to actively fund apprenticeships for young people, perhaps the coalition government can undo some of the damage done when they cut EMA and trebled tuition fees.

It will be a hard sell for Cameron to win over people on cutting vital benefits to young parents. However, for young, single people desperate for a job, more funding for apprenticeships means that they have more opportunities.

The Blairite fantasy of 50% of young people going to university has led to a woeful neglect of apprenticeships and work-based education.

A wholesale reintroduction of both into the mainstream curriculum would be a welcome addition, and forms a key part of revitalising our dynamism-light economy.

Labour's idea of using bankers' bonuses to fund youth employment initiatives is a scheme that sounds effective on the doorstep, but will fall short when it attempts to woo the city next May.

These initiatives will not end poverty and unemployment completely, and it will need careful management by Cameron and co. to ensure it is publicised effectively - but it may be the shot in the arm the education system and, finally, some prosperity for young people. They owe it to us.

Love an argument? Find yourself ranting to your housemates? Fancy yourself as a wordsmith? Why not write for Comment or Debate? We're always on the lookout for talented writers. Email comment@thegryphon.co.uk if you're interested.



Your views

Dear The Gryphon

Despite my advanced years I have never written to a newspaper before (as far as I can remember). I just thought to do so today because I picked up a copy of the Gryphon at the Edge earlier today and snuck a look at it just now. I think it's really stylish. I like the typeface and the layout, space usage and illustrations. The quick read I did pointed to excellent writing – in style and content.

I used to look at the predecessor LS from time to time; I think it was certainly time for a re-launch and that you have made a first class first step here. That's why I've dropped you this note. Very well done.

Regards
– David

@Jumbo Records: big thanks to @_TheGryphon for putting our ugly mugs in the paper, there are some great articles about Leeds Music & more! go check it out!

@AlexJohnW: (This week in Comment: 'I love Emma Watson... but I didn't love her UN speech) Most people argue feminism is a movement for everyone, one men and women should both be working towards. Then you get individuals like this.

@jonnymcguigan: Great news @UniversityLeeds #1 for Media Grads! Well done to @LeedsUniMedia @LeedsStudentTV @ThisIsLSR @_theGryphon

@giovannicosta: @_TheGryphon is doing a great job with their Varsity coverage this year.

@leedsocstu: #leeds #solidarity protest with #UmbrellaRevolution in #hongkong @socialiststudents @_TheGryphon #UmbrellaMovement

@suhail_ayy: Officially a member of @_TheGryphon, and I have a news article to write already!

@barnettolivia: why thanks for the pic, sam broadley, you're a great photographer

Want to drop us a line? Email editor@thegryphon.co.uk

NEW AT THE EDGE THIS YEAR

YOUR NEW BIGGER FITNESS SUITE

- An increase of 50 stations - Now a huge 250 station gym!
- Very latest Technogym ARTIS equipment - fully web connected

INCREASED OPENING HOURS

- Open until 9pm on Saturdays and Sundays

FREE FITNESS WORKSHOPS

- Delivered by our team of fitness experts

leeds.ac.uk/theedge

the
EDGE
FITNESS | SPORT | WELLBEING



the
**EARLY
BIRD
WINS...**



£600 WORTH OF PRIZES

**JOIN NOW AND YOU COULD
WIN AN ADIDAS VOUCHER WORTH £500**
5 RUNNERS UP WILL EACH RECEIVE £20 ADIDAS VOUCHERS.

Students join or upgrade online before 10.10.2014.
Not only will you be entered into our prize draw,
you will also save money on your membership.

leeds.ac.uk/theedge



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS





Reaching the Summit: United in Combating Climate Change?

Dougie Phillips

As Leonardo DiCaprio took centre stage at last week's United Nations Climate Summit in New York, you could be forgiven for envisaging him as one of the many characters he has portrayed. This was not, however, Leonardo DiCaprio the actor, but Leonardo DiCaprio the Climate Change activist.

'This body, perhaps more than any other gathering in human history, now faces this difficult but achievable task. I beg of you to face it with courage. You can make history or be vilified by it.'

Designated as the 'UN Messenger of Peace' by Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, DiCaprio's speech delivered an underlying message of change, heavy in rhetoric, urging his audience to take urgent decisive action.

However, DiCaprio's involvement in last week's proceedings was ultimately that of a supporting role when considering the underlying intentions of the Climate Summit. With more than 100 Heads of State and Government in attendance, together with a further 800 leaders of business and finance, the main purpose of the Summit was to prompt political awareness and create momentum to be taken into next year's Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Although no defining Climate Change agreements were made, this was never the fundamental purpose of the assembly. Undeniably, the success of the Summit should be instead judged by the levels of enthusiasm and support created during, and perhaps more significantly, in the wake of the Climate summit.

Of the world leaders in attendance, surprisingly, it was US president Barack Obama whose speech to the assembled delegates epitomised the stance of unity, stating 'We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about.' This admission, coupled with recent announcements that US power plants will have CO₂ regulations imposed, would suggest that the tide is turning



Image: UN

with regard to the universal acceptance and governance of climate change.

Progressive pledges could easily become empty promises without action.

The summit resulted in many political leaders agreeing to attempt constraining temperature rises within 2 degrees, by making significant cuts to emissions worldwide and ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions peak before 2020. This was strengthened by China, the world's single biggest emitter of CO₂, pledging to cut the carbon intensity of their rapidly growing economy by 45%. In addition, the European Union's commitment to a 40% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2030.

A stand out feature that emerged

from the summit was the united support for financing low carbon and climate-resilient development, with an excess of \$200 billion of funds proposed. This included the backing of the Green Climate Fund, a mechanism used to distribute money amongst developing countries for projects combating climate change. Although the Green Climate Fund initial pledges totalled a measly \$2.3 billion, the EU has also committed a further \$18 billion to be delivered between 2014 and 2020. Furthermore, additional market based proposals included the introduction of a carbon price, which was supported by more than half of the delegates in attendance.

This willingness of government and business leaders to make funding pledges is telling of the growing consensus amongst policy makers that the issue of climate change is not one to be ignored. When drawing initial conclusions on the success

of last week's UN Climate Summit, the underlying message displayed is one of positivity based upon an apparent desire to work together towards a singular long-term goal.

Alas, actions are of course louder than words. Progressive pledges could easily become empty promises without decisive action being taken at next year's conference in Paris. To quote the UN Messenger of Peace in one of his more conventional roles, 'Gentlemen, you had my curiosity. But now you have my attention.'

As the focus turns to Paris 2015, we are left to wonder if the progress and unity reported shall be built upon or will instead, ultimately, fall by the wayside. Was there an enthusiastic togetherness displayed last week by our world leaders? Yes. Will this result in a clear and definite move towards unified action against climate change? Only time will tell.



Leeds Light Night – LightTAG: when science and art collide

Holly Edwards

If you're looking for some 'light' relief after the first week of lectures then Leeds Light Night is for you. Every year the city centre is illuminated with a mix of theatre, film, dance, music and exhibitions. Leeds plays host to the UK's largest Light Night, stemming from Nuit Blanche which started in Paris in 2002.

This event carries an important message: arts and science are not mutually exclusive.

This year's Light Night offers events such as Cat Choir, Cloud Collectors Apprentices, Juggling Inferno, Python and Weezell's Pop Up Pet Shop and Pool by Simon Ringe, which sees a life size car swim in and out of an aquatic world.

Whilst much of what is on offer focuses on the arts, an event called LightTAG looks to combine art with the science of light. Organised by the Ogden Trust with the University of Leeds School of Physics and Astronomy, the event is a relaxed way for all ages to learn about light and have fun whilst doing so.

Firstly step into the LightTAG stu-

dio to create some "light painting". This uses long exposure photography and LED lights in a dark room to create patterns or even a photo combining your face and an LED outfit. Photos will be available to download and will be projected in the LightTAG market next door.

The market consists of eight interactive stalls looking at different aspects of light. Learn what quantum dots are, take a selfie and see how it is displayed in pixels, or compete to win at laser tag and win glow sticks at the end.

Facts to be acquired include how the gin and tonic came to be. Quinine is a naturally occurring fluorescent compound. It was originally added to carbonated water in South Asia and Africa to prevent malaria. As it had a bitter taste, the British population decided to add gin to it, thus creating the gin and tonic. If you ever find yourself under a UV light with some tonic water you can still see the fluorescent effect today.

This event not only offers a fun way to learn about light, it also carries an important message: arts and science are not mutually exclusive. In a world where we are often defined by whether we are a BSc or a BA this is a refreshing reminder that we don't have to pick a side. Erin McNeil, the Ogden Science Officer running the event sees this as an important part of the event,

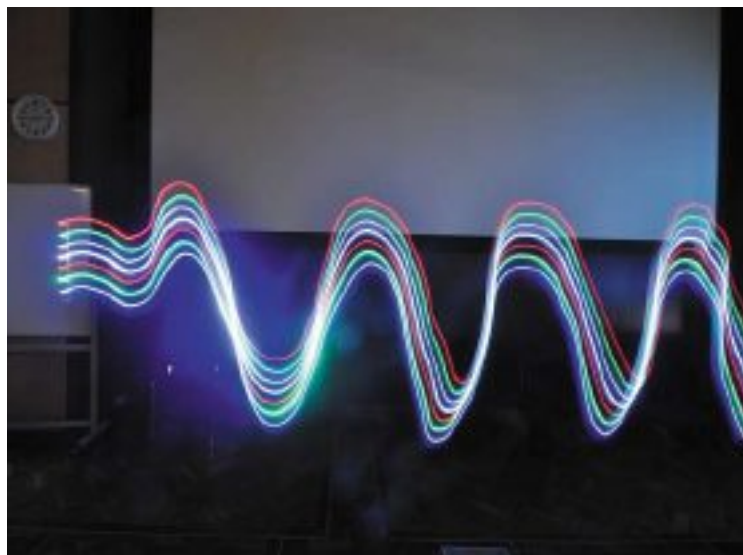


Image: STEM University of Leeds

commenting "STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) should really become STEAM to incorporate arts with these subjects".

This can ultimately lead to more creativity in both areas, and this can be seen through some of the most famous people in history. Albert Einstein is most remembered for his breakthroughs in physics but he also had a great love for music. Leonardo Da Vinci is known as being one of the greatest artists to have lived, but he also filled journals with artwork of scientific observations from the world around him.

There is even evidence that artistic training can lead to more success in the study of science. For example there are links between playing music and the ability to manipulate data and skills in geometry, training in acting can lead to memory improvement, and learning to dance leads to more effective observational learning.

Even though there is still work to do in promoting more integration between arts and science, progress is being made. For example, Superposition is a collaboration of scientists, artists and makers based in Leeds creating incredible pieces of artwork combining all three.

Artwork is also being used as a more accessible way to learn

about science. One such project is the graphic novel *Dreams of a Low Carbon Future* produced by the University's DTC in Low Carbon Technologies, which communicates ideas about climate change and energy. w

Hopefully nights such as these will continue this trend. Leeds Light Night is now in its 10th year and it is a great way to see the city in a different light, both metaphorically and literally. It runs from 5pm to 10pm on Friday October 3rd and LightTAG can be found in the Michael Sadler Building on campus. For more information visit www.lightnightleeds.co.uk.

Our Top Picks:

- LightTAG – Michael Sadler Building 5pm – 10pm
- Theatre of Illumination – Leeds Civic Hall 7.30pm – 10pm
- Hackspace Cubed – Leeds City Museum 6pm – 10pm
- Leeds at Night – West Yorkshire Playhouse 6pm – 8pm
- March of the Robots – Victoria Gardens 5pm – 10pm
- Zombies in Trinity – Trinity Kitchen 5pm – 10pm



Image: STEM University of Leeds



PRINT & COPY BUREAU

EXPRESS PRINTING SERVICES

WE ARE A **ONE STOP SHOP**
FOR ALL PRINTING, BINDING
AND ARTWORK PREPARATION



Colour and B&W printing

Thesis Binding



Photo-copying

Large poster printing

Flyers



Invitations

Canvas Prints



Artwork Mounting

Fax Service

*Located
on Campus*

www.leeds.ac.uk/pcb

Opening hours:
8.30am to 5.00pm
Monday to Friday

Centrally Located in the
Roger Stevens Building, Level 6



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Hockey heroes claim victory

Peter White
Women's Hockey
 Leeds Uni 2s 3-2 Leeds Beckett 2s

The women's hockey 2nd team earned the University of Leeds a vital point in Varsity 2014 with a 3-2 win over a competitive Leeds Beckett side at Weetwood.

Perhaps due to the occasion, the game started at a relatively high tempo and both teams enjoyed spells of possession; however Uni grew into the game and gradually took hold of the match. Emma Brown was at the centre of the action, pulling the strings in midfield as the Beckett defence succumbed to consistent Uni pressure. The home side finally got their reward midway through the first half when Captain Kirsten McCully rifled the ball into the net after previously being denied by the Beckett keeper.

The goal seemed to kick Beckett into gear and they proved that they weren't ready to lie down with some good battling across the field. Jess Hole was a key figure in the

Uni defence as they were called into action on numerous occasions and it took an extraordinary effort from an extremely tight angle for Beckett to equalise shortly before half-time.

Uni looked a determined side after the break and enjoyed a dominant spell before Beckett took the lead against the run of play. Yet, it didn't take long for the Gryphons to get back on level terms and McCully soon made it 3-2 after good work following a short corner. The skipper was now controlling the game and could have added a fourth on the counter attack, but the through ball was inches too long.

Despite Uni's dominance in the second period, Beckett once again came back at them and a string of fine saves by goalkeeper Tamara Bailey was required to keep the home side in front. With

Beckett looking to get back into the game,

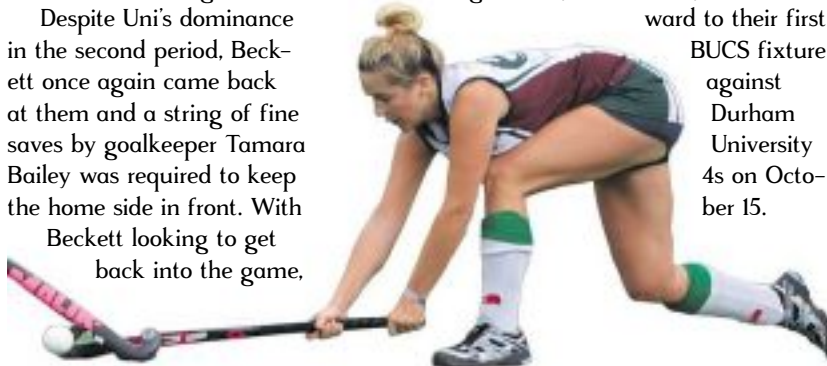


Image: Sam Broadley

the feistiness of the first half returned and a good effort from the edge of the shooting circle came within millimetres of drawing the game level after a Beckett player left the field with a head injury.

Uni managed to hold on for a good win against their biggest rivals and earn a valuable Varsity point. Stand-in Coach Jonathan Redfearn spoke of his delight after the game, 'This is a good, hardworking side and they deservedly won the battle in the end after a tough finish.' The girls will be hoping that the victory can springboard them to success in the league this year and they look forward to their first

BUCS fixture against Durham University 4s on October 15.

Beckett slam dunk Uni

Daniel Nixon
Men's Basketball
 Leeds Uni 2s 44-69 Leeds Beckett 2s

A decent sized crowd built up in The Edge ahead of the men's basketball 2nd team Varsity match. The tip off was won by Leeds Beckett but they couldn't make their early possession pay, as a well-timed interception by Uni left the Beckett defence flat footed and brought about the first points of the game. However, Beckett found their rhythm after a wasteful few minutes and a score of 8-20 at the end of the first quarter reflected Uni's difficulty to retain possession.

The second quarter began as a scrappy affair with neither team really getting anywhere. Eventually Beckett began to find the form they showed in the first quarter, adding a few points onto the board. Uni were left hoping for a few distance shots and struggled to put anything together within the danger area. The

score finished 13-34 at half time in Beckett's favour.

As play resumed Uni were off to a flyer, instantly scoring 2 points before a great move by the Uni number 5 resulted in the conversion of a free throw. The half was more even with Uni creating some impressive build up play, but they just couldn't find the finishing touches to get through an impressive Beckett defence. Beckett, however, ended the half strongly leading to an increase in their lead to 27-52 at the end of the third quarter.

The most Uni could hope for now was to win the last quarter which turned out to be an exciting period of end to end action. Every time Uni put a few points onto the board Beckett responded and did the same. Beckett scored arguably the best basket of



Image: Sam Lewis

the game with a terrific team goal late on as both teams tired. There was no way Uni were making up the difference in the score, and the final result ended as 44-69.

Uni's impressive display against a team in a higher league will give the side confidence going into the new season. Leeds Beckett will be thankful they were able to fight off any chance of an upset that Leeds Uni might have caused. After the game the Beckett coach spoke highly of his team's defensive display and said that he enjoyed the occasion as a whole.

Uni serve up a win

Adam LeRoux
Mens Volleyball
 Leeds Uni 1s 3-1 Leeds Beckett 1s

A terrific all round performance from the men's volleyball team saw the Gryphons see off Leeds Beckett in this scintillating Varsity clash.

Things weren't always plain sailing for the hosts as they got off to a sluggish start, losing each of the first eight points. Poor spikes and sets blighted the Gryphons' game which left them with a mountain to climb in the first set. Uni were having to work hard for their points, whereas Beckett were gifted points by poor play from their opponents to keep their lead intact as they saw the first set out 25-20.

A complete reversal came in the second set though, as Beckett began to lose composure and Uni gained control in the match. The visitors couldn't find an answer to the ferocious serve of Savvas Anthis. Five consecutive unreturned bullet serves paved the way for a comfortable 25-13 score line in the second to level the scores.

The third set started equally with both sides performing strongly; the spikes from both sides were doing the business with Mark Elgar giving a master class for the Gryphons. With the score line locked at nine apiece, Beckett looked to be putting up a fight for the local bragging rights but Nigel Sibanda's strong performance blocking at the net put an end to their hopes. The once dangerous looking Beckett attack soon fizzled out and became sloppy and riddled with mistakes which ultimately cost them the third set 25-14.

By the time the fourth set came about the attitude of the visitors had declined greatly; the body language of the Beckett players was evidence enough of their impending fate. Uni dominated in every single area and capitalised on their opponents' weaknesses to stroll to a 25-11 fourth set victory. With performances like this the volleyball team could well be in with a chance of glory this season; the team could well become a force to be reckoned with.



Uni suffer cruel defeat to strong Beckett side

Greg Whitaker
Men's Rugby League
Leeds Uni 1s 6-22 Leeds Beckett 1s

After what only can be described as a fantastic game of rugby, a score line of 22-6 in favour of Leeds Beckett will be a hard one to swallow for the University of Leeds rugby league 1sts.

Keith Sandhu's men matched their opponents in all areas of the pitch for long periods of the game, only to be punished for a number of mistakes made in the final phases of promising attacks.

An overcast, but dry Weetwood was the setting for this 10th anniversary Varsity game between the two rivals and it was Beckett, who have won the BUCS Championship for nine consecutive years, who got the game underway.

Uni had the better of the opening exchanges with the Gryphons' second row. Lawrence Chittil, breaking through Beckett's defence after

five minutes only to be denied by a last ditch tackle from Beckett's pacy fullback.

Minutes later, a crunching tackle made by Uni's Jack Blagbrough, resulting in a turnover, cemented Uni's dominating start and provoked this year's now traditional 26 man 'Varsity scrap'.

The last 10 minutes of the first half saw Beckett slowly edge into the game, forcing Uni to defend well. However, lapses in concentration on the wing led to a Beckett overlap, which they duly took advantage of to score the first try of the game. Minutes later, Beckett went over in the corner once again for an almost identical try, making the score at half time 10-0.

Uni fans were handed a glimmer of hope after ten minutes of the second half when prop George Lane scored under the posts after a brilliant offload from Jack Blagbrough. A successful conversion followed, making the score 10-6 to Beckett.



Image: Sam Broadley

Unfortunately, Uni's comeback never really materialised and despite Beckett having a man sent off in the last 10 minutes after a punch was thrown, they ran in two more tries past a tiring Uni defence.

Despite the result, Uni impressed many with the nature of their performance and hope this will act as

motivation for the season ahead.

Uni winger Harry Purnell said after the game: 'For the first 60 minutes we matched them man for man, and that's something we can be really proud of.'

Uni fall in handball

Adam LeRoux
Handball
Leeds Uni 17-29 Leeds Beckett

Leeds Beckett came out victorious in the inaugural Varsity handball match in what was a competitive encounter.

The match started frantically, which to anyone who has watched the sport before, is no surprise. Goals were going in at both ends, with Beckett leading narrowly 5-4 with 10 minutes gone. Kristin Smette Gulbrandsen was performing well in the centre of the court; her sharp movement caused problems for the opposing defence whilst also combining well with Nick Chilton to find a way through.

Goalkeeper Mikhail Kononovic made some crucial saves to keep the Gryphons in the tie, although he was helpless to prevent Beckett stretching their lead to five points. Captain Ben Jackson scored some sublime goals

as Uni struggled to keep in touch, and as the halftime whistle sounded Beckett held a 17-10 lead.

To their credit Uni kept their heads up and kept battling. Ellie Whitehead personified the spirit of the camp as she cut in from the left flank, broke through the physical Beckett defence, and thundered in an amazing effort.

The difference between the two teams was the clinical nature of the Beckett offence; Uni were often culpable of lacking a final killer pass, whereas their opponents broke quickly and effectively to devastating effect. Both teams deserve extra credit for excelling with makeshift mixed gender sides, as neither could field a women's team.

With quite a number in attendance it is clear to see why the sport has been given a Varsity slot, and after such an enthralling encounter it will surely be a staple sport for years to come.

Beckett battered

Freddie DeMelo
Men's Cricket
Leeds Uni 1s 121-32 Leeds Beckett 1s

The University of Leeds men's 1st team were in a celebratory mood on Wednesday as they comprehensively dismantled a shell-shocked Beckett side. There was a clear mismatch in quality between the teams as Uni won by 121-32 despite the game consisting of just eight overs each.

Uni batted first and had a clear and effective tactic of taking quick singles against the sides, utilising the indoor rule of the ball striking the side counting as one run. The pressure this put on the Beckett fielders also led to two big mistakes which cost them six and seven runs respectively. This tactic, although somewhat prosaic, was integral to Uni's eventual victory and saw Simmons retire on 25, just seven shy of Leeds Beckett's eventual score.

Finishing on 121, a highly impressive score, Uni could be forgiven for resting on their laurels. However, they were clinical in their bowling to the point where it was almost uncomfortable for the spectators.

A stand-out performance bowling-wise came from Ellis-Grewal who recorded figures of 5 for 12, getting three wickets in his first over. This single over effectively ended any chance of a Beckett victory. Although he was aided by some shoddy batting he varied his pace very well, never letting the batsmen get into a rhythm which paid dividends. Thanks to early wickets by Ellis-Grewal, the Beckett batsmen were forced into slovenly, mistimed shots aiming for boundaries, but resulting in several catches and wickets.

It was a truly remarkable performance from the Uni side and one that will hopefully be repeated in the new cricket season.



Gryphons gazumped in goalfest

Jack Fairs
Men's Hockey

Leeds Uni 1s 5-6 Leeds Beckett 1s

Leeds lost an eleven-goal thriller at Weetwood to round off what was an ultimately unsuccessful day for their men's hockey teams.

The contest started badly for the hosts, with Beckett taking an early lead. Uni's Max Evans - who was to be a threat all game long - then took to the field, levelling the scores with his first involvement. The forward escaped from his marker before firing a reverse-stick shot from a difficult angle into the far corner, where Josh Mailing will claim he provided the final touch into the net.

Beckett bounced back with a quick-fire brace before half-time; a dubiously awarded penalty flick was coolly dispatched, before the visitors converted a short corner to lead 3-1 at the break.

Uni, no strangers to a comeback after last season's cup heroics, started the second stanza strongly, pulling back an early goal. When George Bucknall tapped in the rebound from a short corner, the game was all square and the momentum seemed

firmly with the home side.

The Gryphons grabbed the lead in some style in what was the goal of the game, and most likely the goal of the day. Max Evans again used his pace to devastating effect on a mazy solo run down the left wing, before ghosting into the D, rounding the keeper and passing the ball into the empty net.

Ill discipline from the visitors followed and two yellow cards saw them temporarily reduced to nine men. With Uni pressing, an unlikely Beckett breakaway saw the scores levelled again at 4-4. This was followed by another yellow card apiece which reduced the contest to 10 v 8.

With 10 minutes to play, Uni cap-

italised on their numerical advantage. Will Kenney-Herbert put the Gryphons into a 5-4 lead in a near carbon copy of Bucknall's close range effort, leaving the home side hanging on to a narrow lead.

Alas, it was one they could not hold on to, in a late surge from the visitors two crucial chances were converted to snatch a dramatic 6-5 win. With Uni tiring, Beckett bundled their way through into the D, twice finding a free man who was able to divert the ball past Charlie Claisse in the Gryphons' goal.

This was a game of goals, but no glory for the Gryphons, but it is a promising start from a side with many new faces.



Image: Sam Broadley

Beckett beaten in badminton

Alex Bowmer
Men's Badminton

Leeds Uni 3s 5-3 Leeds Beckett 3s

The Edge was a hive of activity at Varsity and played host to the men's 3s as they went into their clash with the expectation that it was going to be a closely-fought contest.

Team captain David Steel kicked off proceedings with an excellent display of calmness and resolve, recovering from 16-13 down in the second game to reel off eight straight points to seal a well-deserved victory.

His team mate Patrice Wye also performed with assurance, but was just on the wrong side of a tight match. Both returned later on in the contest, and it was a similar story. Steel showcased his wide range of shots as he outthought his opponent

to claim a second victory. Wye continued to probe, but again could not quite find the breakthrough.

Meurig Phillips and Matthew Tang initially struggled to get going in their first encounter, as their Beckett counterparts dictated point after point. However, in the following game they began to impose themselves far more, and were fairly close to taking it to a decider.

When they returned to the court next, they began more positively, but this did not pay off in terms of games won, and their form begun to drop off, with Beckett recording a 21-15, 21-10 victory.

By contrast Alex Sheppard and Richard Harding formed an unbeaten partnership; they swatted away their opening opponents through a combination of stoic defending and clinical

attacking. They carried this form over to their second match, raising their game to even greater heights as they trounced Beckett's top-ranked duo 21-9, 21-9. Their contribution was an integral part of the Gryphons' victory as Uni triumphed 5-3 and took the spoils.

On a day of mixed fortunes for the University of Leeds' badminton sides, the 3s showed a lot of promise. The season which they are about to embark on could prove to be an exciting one.



Image: Alice Greenfield

Varsity Results

Athletics 104-172
Badminton 1s (M) 1-7
Badminton 2s (M) 0-8
Badminton 3s (M) 5-3
Badminton 1s (W) 6-2
Basketball 1s (M) 51-98
Basketball 2s (M) 44-69
Basketball 1s (W) 32-57
Biathlon (M) 1-0
Biathlon (W) 1-0
Cricket 1s (M) 121-32
Cricket 2s (M) 93-94
Cricket 1s (W) 93-57
Cross Country 1-0
Football 1s (M) 3-1
Football 2s (M) 3-1
Football 3s (M) 1-3
Football 4s (M) 1-4
Football 1s (W) 2-4
Football 2s (W) 0-10
Football 3s (W) 0-10
Golf 4-2
Handball 19-27
Hockey 1s (M) 5-6
Hockey 2s (M) 2-2 (Beckett in penalty flicks)
Hockey 3s (M) 2-4
Hockey 1s (W) 0-1
Hockey 2s (W) 3-2
Hockey 3s (W) 8-0
Indoor Rowing 2-1
Lacrosse 1s (M) 5-18
Lacrosse 1s (W) 22-6
Lacrosse 2s (W) 18-2
Netball 1s 12-36
Netball 2s 22-38
Netball 3s 22-45
Netball 4s 32-24
Rugby League 1s (M) 6-22
Rugby Union 1s (M) 30-46
Rugby Union 2s (M) 16-24
Rugby Union 3s (M) 25-35
Rugby Union 1s (W) 7-60
Squash 1s (M) 1-2
Squash 2s (M) 2-1
Squash 1s (W) 1-3
Swimming 183-73
Table Tennis 1s (M) 9-8
Tennis 1s (M) 0-6
Tennis 2s (M) 0-6
Tennis 1s (W) 2-4
Tennis 2s (W) 3-3 (Uni in Tie break)
Volleyball 1s (M) 3-1
Volleyball 1s (W) 3-1
Waterpolo 1s (M) 30-2
Waterpolo 2s (W) 25-18



Footballers fly to famous victory

Rhys Stevens
Men's Football

Leeds Uni 1s 3-1 Leeds Beckett 1s

Leeds University men's football 1st XI secured Varsity bragging rights with a convincing 3-1 victory over Leeds Beckett. The Uni side avenged the 8-0 drubbing they received last year and the fact a new look Beckett side are two divisions above Uni will give the first team a boost as they seek promotion in their BUCS league.

The match was a hugely competitive and cagey affair from the first whistle, with strong challenges flying in from both sides. Uni had the better of the early chances with a couple of headed opportunities that failed to trouble Beckett keeper Hargreen.

Beckett began to venture forward, with their forward players looking dangerous. However, Leeds Uni's quick breakaway and a sloppy defensive header from Beckett put in pacey striker Dan Cunningham to give Uni the lead on 16 minutes with a sublime side-footed lob over

Hargreen.

This livened up Uni and the side had an excellent spell of pressure which led to a great chance to increase their lead from a set-piece, but after a goalmouth scramble the shot from the Uni striker blazed over the bar. Shortly afterwards, captain Mike Stockdale also had a powerful shot well saved by the keeper.

Uni didn't have to wait long to double their lead. On the stroke of half-time, skipper Stockdale's shot from an acute angle hit the post and the resultant rebound forced a great save from Hargreen, but he could do nothing about midfielder Archie Christie's close range header into an empty net.

Beckett seemed to be increasingly frustrated and it became a challenging match to referee, with the crowd also making their feelings heard.

Beckett responded brightly in the second half, but were nearly undone by a Uni counter-attack early on. Some erratic goalkeeping from Hargreen presented Archie Christie

an opportunity for his brace, but his lob from 35 yards just missed the target. As both defences strengthened and proved hard to penetrate, both sides had a succession of long range efforts that failed to find the target.

In the last twenty minutes a Beckett striker was bundled over in the area and the referee pointed to the spot. Midfielder Dan Tings stepped up and dispatched the spot-kick to give Beckett a glimmer of hope.

But the visitor's hopes were dashed when Stockdale sealed the victory for his side after the referee played a good advantage, sparking wild celebrations from students and



Image: Sam Broadley

players alike.

First Team Coach Stephen Grime told the Gryphon: 'It's really pleasing that they executed the plan that we have been working on in pre-season... Leeds Beckett are two leagues higher than us and in running out 3-1 winners in the end I can't be any happier.'

Daybell inspires table tennis triumph

Alex Bowmer

Mixed Table Tennis

Leeds Uni 9-8 Leeds Beckett

The University of Leeds won the mixed table tennis event in dramatic fashion at Cromer Terrace. This was one of the sports that Uni had earmarked to win and they certainly got



Image: Will Stanley

off to a fast start.

Star man Kim Daybell, who competed for Great Britain's para table tennis team at London 2012, illustrated why he is one of the world's top international players, making Charlotte Spencer do all the running as he secured a comfortable 3-0 triumph. Our second player Steve McLoughlin

then participated in arguably one of the most exciting matches of the contest as he beat his Beckett counterpart 3-2 in a seesaw encounter. The winning run continued as Bobby Crossley had too much for Jamie Walters. However, Beckett gained a foothold in the contest when Ash Palmer

overcame Harry Morris 3-0. Despite this defeat, Uni had their noses in front and were looking likely victors

Daybell was similarly imperious in his second match and was seemingly untroubled by anything that his opponents tried to throw at him, preserving his 100% record. Beckett refused to lie down however and came roaring back, with victories for Spencer, Walters and Palmer levelling the tie at 4-4.

It was clear at this point that Daybell and Spencer were the leading lights for their respective teams, and it was difficult to see either of them losing their remaining clashes. Sure enough, that proved to be the case, although Crossley did manage to take a game off Spencer. Once again McLoughlin's match went down to the wire, before pipping Palmer to the post in the fifth and decisive game. After Morris lost his next match, the scores were still level-pegging, and a deciding doubles rubber seemed likely.

Daybell and Spencer were a class apart and rounded off the competition with quality straight-sets victories. With Uni and Beckett claiming one win apiece from the remaining two matches, the contest went the distance.

Daybell and McLoughlin stepped up to the plate and faced off against Walters and Palmer. The Uni pair's superior understanding and Daybell's big-game experience paid dividends as they raced into the lead, keeping their unforced error count low and putting their opponents under relentless pressure. They wrapped up the match in double-quick time and therefore claimed overall victory.

Speaking after the match, McLoughlin stressed that although the match was expected to be close, with their full-strength team Uni would have won more comfortably. With this in mind, it promises to be an exciting season for the team when all their mainstays return.



Uni fall to heartbreaking defeat



Image: Sam Broadley

→ was starting attack after attack with his good distribution. The Gryphons soon had the ball over the line once again, but a Beckett player managed to hold the ball up well to prevent the five points. Jamie Guy's impeccable kicking was among the highlights of Uni's first half and he

soon added a well-worked drop goal to put his side within six points of Beckett's lead.

Beckett were clearly rocked by the spell of Uni pressure and the Gryphons could have been forgiven for wishing that half-time didn't

arrive. Uni went into the break 19-13 down but their opposition knew that they now had a real game on their hands. The second half was set up to be a truly fascinating encounter.

Indeed, the game continued at a blistering tempo, but with both teams eager to gain the upper hand the match became fairly scrappy and open. It wasn't long before Uni capitalised on a penalty conceded by Beckett. Jamie Guy's superb kicking was on show again and after making up great ground, the Gryphons forced a mistake. Ollie Roberts showed great initiative to take a quick tap and go over. Guy once again made no mistake from the conversion to give Uni the lead for the first time.

Uni were now firmly in the ascendancy and their previous frailties in set pieces were starting to look like a distant memory. Alex Miers was making some great tackles and Ben Gothorp made a great run through several Beckett players but just couldn't quite pull off the off-flood. Uni's lead was soon extended to 23-19 by an outstanding penalty kick from Guy which had looked almost out of range.

Despite their advantage, Uni weren't comfortably ahead and the contest remained relatively even. Beckett soon regained the lead after

two Will Cargill penalties punished Gryphons' ill-discipline. Both sides enjoyed possession before Guy released Tom Moncur who made some excellent ground before Luke Harris scored a try under the posts to put Uni back in front. Guy converted to stretch the lead to 30-25.

With not long remaining, Beckett came straight back at Uni and some last ditch defending was required to keep them at bay. However, they did eventually score; Courtney Raymond went over before Will Cargill added the conversion. Beckett were now 32-30 ahead with only minutes to spare.

Uni had no option but to go for it. Unfortunately, by throwing players forward, holes appeared in the Gryphons' defence and Keane Naylor and Alessandro Ricci capitalised with breakaway tries that meant the full-time scoreline of 46-30 truly flattered the victors.

Uni can hold their heads high after producing a dogged and determined display. In the end, the strength of the Beckett forwards coupled with the the Gryphons' ill discipline probably cost them the game but it really could have gone either way. The match was a great spectacle and a great way to end Varsity 2014.

Match Statistics

Uni		Beckett
3	Tries	6
3	Conversions	5
2	Penalties scored	3
1	Drop goals	0
4	Line breaks	5
3/6	Scrum won	7/8
7/12	Lineouts won	14/18
15	Penalties conceded	10
66	Tackles	64
6	Turnovers	3



Image: Will Stanley



Varsity 2014:
Kim Daybell
leads Uni to
badminton
success



Varsity 2014:
Uni storm
to victory in
women's hockey
2s



Varsity 2014:
Men's football
Is prevail with
scintillating
performance



Varsity 2014:
Men's basketball
2s succumb to
unfortunate defeat
against rivals



Image: Sam Broadley

Varsity victory slips out of Uni's hands

- Jamie Guy stands out for Uni
- Beckett take the win in dying moments
- Uni slump to back-to-back defeats

Peter White
Men's Rugby Union
Leeds Uni Is 30-46 Leeds Beckett Is

The Varsity finale ended in utter disappointment for the University of Leeds as the rugby union Is were cruelly undone at the death of a pulsating game. With it having been revealed that Leeds Beckett had already won the overall Varsity contest due to Wednesday's other results, Uni were playing for the pride of themselves and the thousands of supporters cheering them on from the stands. Nevertheless, with approximately 13,000 spectators in attendance at Headingley producing arguably the most ferocious atmosphere ever seen at a Leeds Varsity event, the players were

left in no doubt about the extent of this great occasion.

Beckett took an early stranglehold of the game and the strength of their forwards was evident after they dominated a series of scrums and mauls. They were soon in front when Josh Longson managed to squeeze the ball over the line following a penalty needlessly conceded by Uni.

Will Cargill added the extras to make it 7-0 to Beckett; exactly the start Uni didn't want or need.

Uni improved momentarily after their initial setback and were soon on the score sheet themselves. Fly-half Jamie Guy got his first three points of the evening as Uni profited from a penalty.

However, Beckett continued to dominate set pieces and Uni were lucky to escape further punishment on two occasions.

Had it not been for selfish play by a Beckett winger and Cargill letting the crowd get to him in front of the posts, Uni could have been in serious trouble before half-time.

Beckett's pressure finally told however and Luke Paynter scored a try after a cleverly worked short lineout. Cargill missed another kick but was on hand to convert Josh Longson's second try of the night after yet another Beckett-dominated maul.

Beckett were seemingly in control of the game and at 19-3 it started to look like it could be a long night for Uni.

The Gryphons were not ready to lie down however and the score line seemed to kick the boys into gear.

Ollie Roberts made a good block after kick-off and after a half of being dominated in lineouts, mauls and scrums, the tables had turned and Uni were exerting some real pressure. Club captain Louis Timpany went over for Uni's first try of the night and Guy made no mistake with the conversion; Uni were unmistakably back in the game with the score 19-10 to Beckett.

Uni continued to pile the pressure on Beckett as the game headed towards the interval. Jake Buckland was battling well and scrum-half Lewis Hall...

» continued page 23