



Controversial rugby society social causes chaos

● Headingley Taps 'trashed'

● 'They act like they're untouchable'



Jasmine Andersson

EXCLUSIVE

Editor-In-Chief

Members of Leeds University Union's Rugby Union society have taken part in a controversial social that saw them cause havoc across the city.

An army gear-clad group of the society's members took part in an Otley Run on Wednesday night, which saw them 'cover' the Headingley Taps in eggs, smash a window of Storm Jameson halls, and excrete in front of Charles Morris residences.

A manager of The Headingley Taps said: 'They trashed the place.'

'They were fine when they were getting their drinks, but once they got what they wanted, they turned.'

'They began jumping up and down on furniture, and some tried to rip down our licensing signs. I told them off, and they just ignored everything I said.'

'By the end of it, the walls were coated in egg. They had thrown them. The cartons were left on the floor for the staff to pick up.'

Concerned by the group's behaviour, the public house rang other bars in the area to warn them of their antics. The Original Oak also served the society members, saying that they 'did what they wanted.'

One staff member said: 'We've dealt with their behaviour before, and we're one of the only places that will. They don't have any common courtesy. They constantly try to urinate in our pint glasses, and leave us to clean it up. It's beyond a joke.'

'They act like they're untouchable. No other society behaves like that here. I have not once heard them say thank you. They don't understand that we're actually doing them the favour.'

The sportsmen then proceeded to set off several smoke bombs in Devonshire Halls, resulting in several fire alarms ringing around the site.

Devonshire's warden, Darron Dixon-Hardy, said:

'The incident that happened was dealt with by the duty Sub-Warden and Night Porters and I am acting on their reports to ensure a proper investigation can take place and the correct action taken.'

Reportedly leaving a trail off eggs in the Hyde Park corner area, the group later emerged on campus, defecating in front of Charles Morris Halls.

One member of the party then broke a window on the seventh floor of the Storm Jameson residences, leading him to sever his achilles tendon to the bone. The person in question is currently hos-



pitalised.

Charles Morris Halls refused to comment on the incident.

The society is also under fire for their recent conduct at Varsity, which saw some members throw drinks at international students as they tried to enter part of the stadium, leading them to run off after some of the group chanted 'no girls allowed'.

It has been reported that the society's behaviour is under strict review. Allegedly, the group's conduct will be reassessed over the Christmas period.



14.11.14

Weather

		HI	LO
Friday	rain	11	6
Saturday	cloudy	9	8
Sunday	rain	10	8

Tweet of the Week

Thank you to those who are now speaking out & to the other patrons of Sheffield United for recognising their responsibility to the community

-Charlie Webster, TV presenter, on resigning as Patron of Sheffield United

Contents

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

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Editor's Letter

With just six weeks left until Christmas, the annual showcase of cynical marketing has returned to the nation's television screens. From the same old Coke ad to the Famous Grouse's familiar strut, every commercial break is now jam-packed full of gift ideas and retailers' pleas for the viewer's custom.

John Lewis, the flag bearer for tear inducing cynicism, has gone down the same pulling-at-the-heartstrings route as usual with the story of a young boy and his favourite toy penguin, Monty. The penguin becomes lovesick – his jealous stare aimed at various couples enjoying the build up to the holidays – and so the child receives a female companion for his favourite toy on Christmas Day, Mable. Tears a-plenty follow for the viewer, and for the unsuspecting real life parents too, who now face the inevitable begging for a toy Monty/Mable/both for Christmas.

(Un)fortunately for them, John Lewis has gone all out in 2014 with an accompanying gift set, consisting of 41 Monty and Mable themed stocking fillers for the entire family. Cuddly penguins will set you back at £35 each, and that's before the two are joined under the tree by the storybook Monty's Christmas (£8.99) and the pyjamas (from £16). That's the kids' christmas sorted then, but there's also cufflinks, a onesie and slippers for the older Monty fan in your life. Remarkably, John Lewis has created a money-sapping brand based on a television advert, just in time for another Christmas in the era of austerity.

Perhaps even more remarkable though is that this ploy isn't the most grossly cynical advert on the box this year. That accolade goes to Sainsbury's. The supermarket giant is cashing in on the centenary of the First World War – a tragedy that ended the lives and devastated the families of over 16 million soldiers – with its rendition of the 1914 Christmas Truce. The advert was made with the support of the Royal Legion, a point made at the end of the three minute epic, but it appears as an afterthought to prevent this type of criticism.

Rather than promoting peace or supporting our troops, the message is one about giving gifts (in the ad, the British soldier donates his Sainsbury's branded chocolate bar to a German). The sentiment leaves a bad taste in the mouth – one worse than own-brand confectionary – as the viewer realises the purpose of the advert is the same as any other. It seems the cynical marketing bandwagon has no limits, and companies will use any tool possible to get customers to part with their cash at this time of year.

Ste Topping
Associate Editor

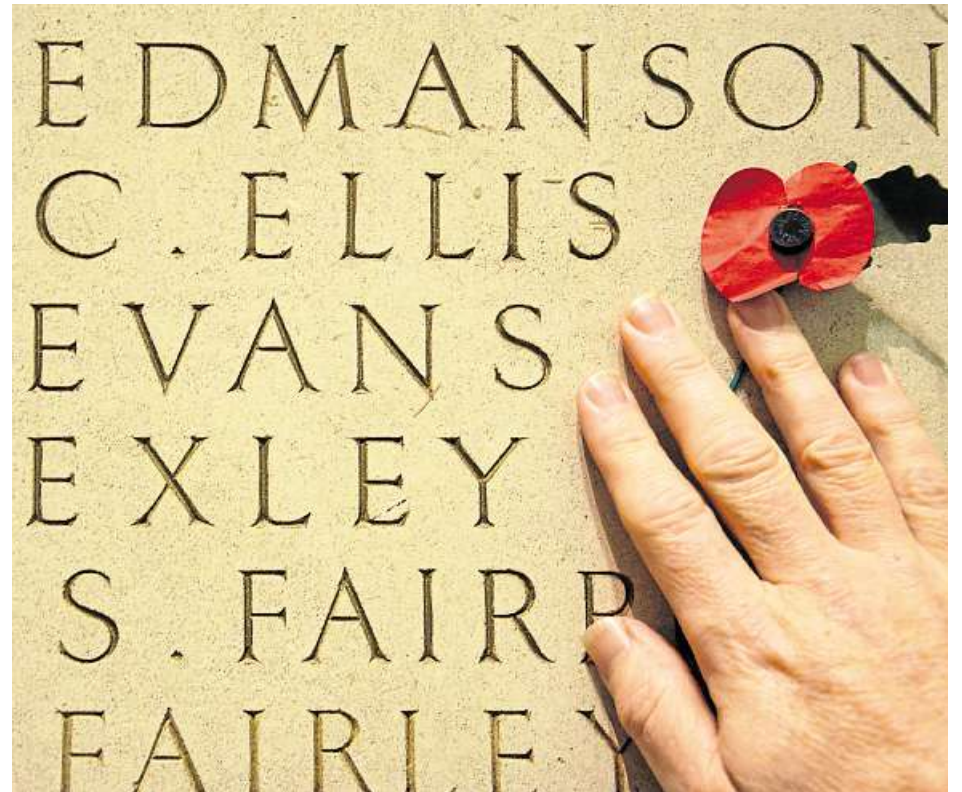


Photo of the Week – Sam Broadley

The University of Leeds commemorates its former students who lost their lives fighting for their country.

tariqs
EXPRESS
FAST DELIVERY

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2750011

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- Burgers
- Donners
- Currys

Have You Try It? **Monster Donner**

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Voted "Restaurant Of The Month"
By Absolute Leeds

Curry Meal Deal

2 Courses:

- Any Starter &
- Any Main Curry Dish

Served with Either Rice or Naan

Available Tuesday to Sunday
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FOOD HYGIENE RATING 5



Eddy B takes a leak



Suhail Dhanji

Students in the Edward Boyle Library were disrupted by a water leak last Friday.

The water damage occurred at around 1:30pm on Friday 7th November, near the lifts on the first floor level, level 10.

A student using the library at the time described witnessing a 'large gush of water which came pouring from the ceiling, just above the lifts'.

Library staff hurried to fetch buckets and anything capable of containing the 'heavy flow' of water.

Izzy Bourne, 19, a first-year Fashion Design student, witnessed the leak whilst in the library and recalled the staff 'rushing about, trying to find anything to hold the water in.'

The leak was caused by a damaged cistern in one of the toilets. It was fixed within an hour of being reported.

A University spokesperson told *The Gryphon*,

'Apologies to those students whose work was interrupted by the leak in the Edward Boyle Library. The incident was caused by a problem with the plumbing, but this has now been rectified.'

University Challenged

Valeria Popa

More than fifty brainboxes have gone head to head for the chance to represent Leeds in the next series of University Challenge.

Students were questioned on subjects as diverse as chemistry, politics and ancient mythology.

First-year Philosophy student Maddy Watt said, 'The tryouts were really interesting and a lot more relaxed than I originally thought. The questions were hard but that was to be expected'.

Union Affairs Officer Bradley Escorpio told *The Gryphon*, 'It's great to see so

many students jumping at the chance to represent Leeds on the UK's biggest quiz show. It will be a tough job narrowing them down to the final team but I'm excited to see how far they go in the competition!'

The highest scoring five will go to the second round likely to be held next week. It is hoped they will then be invited to audition for the TV show.

Leeds last appeared on the academic quiz show in 2011.

The forty-fourth series of University Challenge will air next April on BBC Two.

Dapper Laughs pulled

Jasmine Andersson

Editor-in-Chief

Greg Whitaker

Online News Editor

Leeds University Union's Socialist Students found themselves at the forefront of popular opinion as it was announced that the UK Tour of ITV2's controversial presenter, Daniel O'Reilly, has been cancelled.

Mary Finch, the coordinator of the Rape Is No Joke Campaign started an online petition earlier this week, asking the O2 Academy in Leeds to cancel O'Reilly's upcoming stand up show 'The Full Length Tour', which was due to take place in February of next year. This is on the back of Mr. O'Reilly's controversial ITV dating advice show 'Dapper Laughs:

On The Pull', which was said to trivialise rape.

The petition, which had already accumulated over 80 signatures before the official nationwide cancellation was announced, argued that O'Reilly's TV show 'featured him sexually harassing women in public, as if this is acceptable, and even funny'.

The news comes just days after Cardiff University's Student Union became the first venue to ban the controversial ITV personality, after a petition was set up in response to his derogative attitude towards women and accusations of glorifying rape.

Mr O'Reilly appeared on Newsnight to apologise for his actions on the show, citing that his 'attempt to push the boundaries' and he got 'carried away'.

Campus Watch

News from campuses around the world

Stephen Sutton honoured by Coventry

Teenage cancer fundraiser Stephen Sutton is to be awarded an honorary degree by Coventry University.

The 19-year-old student, who died from cancer in May, raised over £5m for Teenage Cancer Trust.

The award recognises his outstanding contribution to highlighting cancer in young people. Stephen's mother Jane collected an MBE on his behalf this week.

Charlotte Mason

Aberdeen to buy castle for homeless

Students at Aberdeen University have launched a campaign to buy a £6m mansion to house asylum seekers.

They argue that the 38-bedroom Scottish castle should not 'become another playground for the mega rich' and they want to see the building go to good use.

The group hopes to raise the money on a crowdfunding site by Christmas.

Charlotte Wilson

Harvard secretly photograph students

Harvard University is facing backlash after secretly photographing students in lectures.

The footage was taken as part of an experiment to measure attendance. Researchers did not inform staff and students, claiming this would have caused biased results. Harvard professor Harry Lake said it should not have been done without the consent of students.

Charlotte Wilson

Topshop mannequins criticised

A Hull University student sparked a Twitter campaign calling on Topshop to use more diverse mannequins.

Becky Hopper posted a photo, which has been re-tweeted over 10,000 times, comparing the legs of her size ten friend to those of a supposedly size ten Topshop mannequin. The photo was accompanied by the hashtags of #poorbodyimage and #irresponsible.

Elli Pugh

Lecturers risk pay cuts over boycott

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The University has warned lecturers taking part in the ongoing marking boycott that they could face pay deductions, as industrial action against proposed pension cuts continues.

Staff and employers have failed to reach an agreement since discussions began last Thursday.

President of Leeds University's University and College Union (UCU) Mark Taylor-Batty told *The Gryphon*, 'The University has threatened to remove 25% of the salary of any member of staff participating in the boycott, which members of staff are seeing as a punitive measure'.

In a statement, a University spokesperson said, 'Any decision on pay deduction will be informed by the impact of the industrial action on the work of the University, in particular its impact on students. We are keeping the position under review, but we hope that we won't

need to deduct pay.

The news comes as several universities across the country threaten to dock the pay of staff taking part in industrial action, some up to 100%.

Members have agreed to move to a new, proposed scheme on the condition that staff receive a more generous monthly benefit after retirement. However, tensions continue as employers want to impose a salary cap on this allowance.

It was confirmed this week that December graduations should proceed as planned, despite UCU claims that 'thousands of submitted essays are now stalled'.

The University statement concluded, 'We are monitoring the impact of the action closely and will intervene as necessary to protect student interests and to maintain our reputation for high standards in student education'.

David Miller case closed in Thailand



Emily Willson

British detectives investigating the murder of Leeds student David Miller and friend Hannah Witheridge in Thailand are to return to the UK, having completed their work 'as far as possible'. Police flew out last month following concerns about Thai authorities' handling of the case.

David Miller, a Civil Engineering student at the University, and Ms Witheridge were found dead on the Thai island of Koh Tao in September. A post-mortem examination found they had died from head wounds, with Mr Miller also having

suffered drowning.

It is thought Metropolitan Police officers were concerned about the verification of DNA evidence of suspects and allegations of mistreatment.

A Metropolitan Police report said, 'Detectives from the UK who are currently in Thailand reviewing the investigation into the murders of Hannah Witheridge and David Miller have completed their work, as far as possible.'

'They will now be returning to the UK to compile their findings. The police team wish to thank the Thai authorities for facilitating the visit'.

Two Burmese migrant workers allegedly confessed to the killings, although Thai police have denied rumours that the men have since withdrawn their confessions. They could face the death penalty if found guilty.

Officers will now compile a report into their review of the case.

Undergraduate success rate rises

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Undergraduates are performing better in their degrees than recent alumni.

The percentage of students achieving a first-class degree has risen steadily from 15% to 22% over the past five years.

Students who graduated this year achieved more First and 2:1 degrees on average than five years ago. The number of Thirds has also fallen.

A Freedom of Information Request by *The Gryphon* found that the percentage of students achieving a first-class degree has risen steadily from 15% to 22% over

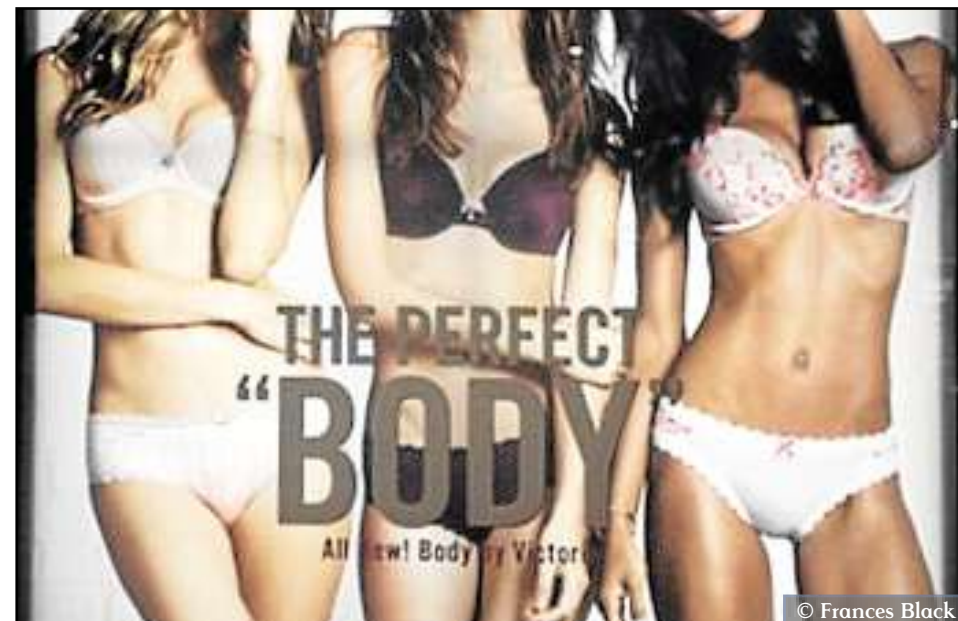
the past five years.

Over 58% of students graduated with a 2:1 this year, the highest percentage in recent times. Less than 1% of students achieved a Third.

It is thought the changes reflect a national improvement in degree classification, as Russell Group universities such as Leeds aim to recruit students with higher A-level grades.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency claims that the number of students achieving a first-class degree has risen from 11% in 2005/6 to 19% last year.

Victoria's Secret petition goes global



© Frances Black

Abla Klaa
News Editor

A campaign led by three Leeds students against Victoria's Secret's controversial advert 'The Perfect Body' has attracted global media recognition since its start up last month.

Students Frances Black, Gabriella Kountourides and Laura Ferris formed a petition calling on the world's leading lingerie brand 'to apologise and take responsibility for its unhealthy and damaging message'. The petition has successfully amassed over 32,000 signatures worldwide since.

The campaign's success has drawn much attention to debates around women's image and gained coverage from

international medias such as France24 and US Today.

In an update to the petition site, the students wrote, 'Victoria's Secret have changed the wording on their website from 'The Perfect Body' to 'A Body For Every Body'. This is amazing news! We were not notified by Victoria's Secret or the press about this, we found it out ourselves.'

Despite this, Victoria's Secret have not contacted the students or issued an apology. Frances Black said, 'We find this disappointing and (personally) I think it's rather shameful and embarrassing of VS to not engage with a topic that has had so much world wide press coverage and support'.



Sex attack suspect revealed on CCTV



©WYP

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

An investigation has been launched into the serious sexual assault of a student who was targeted after a night-out in the Union last Friday.

Police have released CCTV images of two men they want to trace in connection with the incident, which took place in a house in the local area.

The 19-year-old woman had met the men in the Union after becoming separated from friends in the early hours of Saturday morning. The three went to a nearby house, where she was subjected

to a serious sexual assault.

Detective Constable Tony Thewlis of Leeds District CID, said, 'We urgently need to identify these men and I would urge anyone who recognises them to contact us immediately'.

A Union spokesperson said they hoped someone would recognise one of the men from his distinctive t-shirt printed with the words 'Brooklyn'.

The Union has not been able to disclose further details about the incident as an investigation is ongoing.

Officers are urging anyone with information to contact DC Thewlis at Elland Road via 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Trolleybus could 'make cycling dangerous'

Emily Willson
Charlotte Mason
News Editor

The Union has agreed to support concerns that the trolleybus scheme 'could make cycling in Leeds dangerous'.

A Better Union forum last month pledged to back opposition from the Leeds Cycling Campaign on the grounds that the project does not take cyclists' needs into account. A public inquiry into the proposed £250m trolley bus scheme ended this fortnight.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, the Union's Community Officer George Bradley explained, 'If the scheme is put in place, the Leeds Cycling campaign thinks that cycling sharing a bus lane would be more dangerous than what's currently in place'.

However, the Union has no official stance on the project and will 'lobby to get the best deal for students'.

If approved, a segregated roadway would be built to accommodate the total nine miles of track along Otley Road, joining the city centre to Headingley and leading to a park-and-ride site at Bodington.

Leeds City Council claims the trolley-bus scheme would reduce journey times, support the local economy and

provide a quieter alternative to other forms of transport.

However, Leeds Cycling Campaign told the recent inquiry, 'Not all cyclists will be happy sharing their space with NGT, which will be a very quiet articulated vehicle'.

The Campaign added that the trolleybus may block an access lane to Moorland Road and Woodhouse Moor, with students cycling to and from University required to use an alternative route for turning manoeuvres.

Leeds City Council spokesperson Colin Dickson told this newspaper, 'Where cyclists will share lane with NGT and/or buses, the lanes are designed to be at least 4.2m wide. This width is sufficient to allow vehicles to overtake cyclists without passing into other lanes'.

Second-year French and German student Emily Bagshaw said, 'As a cyclist, I would feel intimidated if I had to share a bus lane'.

A Union statement described the project as 'one of the biggest changes to transport Leeds will see in coming years'.

The trolleybus scheme has now been put forward for consideration by the transport secretary. If approved, construction is due to begin February 2017.

Dentist investigated over student death

Charlotte Mason
News Editor

Police are investigating whether a Leeds graduate who died last year was the victim of a dentist now suspended for allegedly breaching hygiene standards.

Amy Duffield died in August last year, the same month she received treatment from Desmond D'Mello at his dental practice in Nottingham.

Around 22,000 former patients of Mr D'Mello have been advised to take blood tests for HIV and hepatitis because the alleged lack of hygiene may put them at risk of infection. It is said to be the biggest NHS patient recall in history.

The General Dental Council is looking into claims by a whistle-blower who secretly recorded apparent medical malpractice. The footage is believed to show

Mr D'Mello failing to wash his hands between patients, reusing disposable gloves and failing to sterilise equipment.

A spokesperson for Nottinghamshire Police said, 'We are making further enquiries, on behalf of the Coroner, into the death of a woman in August 2013. The 23-year-old had received treatment at the former Daybrook Dental Surgery earlier that month. Detectives are now working to establish if there are any links between the death and the dental treatment she received'.

Former Leeds student Amy Duffield was admitted to hospital with flu-like symptoms and heart palpitations in August 2013. She later died of viral acute myocarditis.

Amy had recently graduated in International Relations from the University.

Police have conducted enquiries into

the death of another woman who also died in August last year after visiting Mr D'Mello's surgery. No evidence was found which related her death to the treatment she received there.

A Care Quality Commission inspection in July, which was prompted by the whistle-blower's footage, found that Mr D'Mello also stored equipment in a staff toilet.

The report said, 'This posed a risk of these items coming into contact with body fluids which may be contaminated. This risk had not been identified by staff at the dental surgery and no action had been taken to minimise it'.

Questions are now being asked as to why authorities took four months to act on the inspection's findings.

In a statement, Amy's mother Sharon said, 'I have nothing but admiration



© Telegraph

for the superb care given to Amy by the NHS in the last days of her life. They did their very best to save her, but it wasn't to be. We will of course be interested in the findings of the investigation, whatever the outcome, but it won't bring Amy back'.

Desmond D'Mello has been suspended for 18 months while a full investigation takes place into the allegations.



©Sam Broadley

12th November 2014 Memorial Service for Trisha Lad

Students gathered in memory of Trisha Lad, second-year Biochemistry student at Leeds who died tragically last month. The service in the Union foyer was led by Leeds University Chaplain Rev'd Kim Chan.

Breaking down the stories that matter.

The Digest.



©theguardian

Life for pupil who murdered teacher

Sixteen-year-old Will Cornick has been handed a life sentence for the murder of his teacher Ann Maguire in Leeds. The student admitted stabbing her seven times in the back and neck at Corpus Christi Catholic College in April. The court heard that the teenager, who was 15 at the time, killed Mrs Maguire before returning to his seat and commenting, 'good times'. He must serve at least twenty years in prison. The judge chose to waive Cornick's previous right to anonymity due to his age, stating that it was in the public interest for his identity to be revealed.

Emily Willson



©HuffingtonPost

Arrests made over plot to kill Queen

Four men have been arrested for involvement in an alleged terror plot to kill the Queen. Officers believed the men planned to attack the 88-year-old monarch on Remembrance Sunday when she appeared at the Albert Hall. Last Friday, counter-terror police detained the men, aged between 19 and 27.

The conspiracy was reportedly uncovered following suspicions raised during routine surveillance. Earlier this month, senior MPs and police officers said there was likely to be increased security at the Remembrance Sunday commemorations amidst fears of a terror attack on British soil.

Emily Willson



©Radio Sweden

Cameron backs EU referendum plan

Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged to continue with plans for an EU referendum, rejecting claims that a vote would harm the UK economy. At a recent conference, Cameron announced plans to secure investment in the British economy, despite fears a referendum would be bad for business. He also said he would tighten immigration controls. It is feared that the prospect of a referendum could deter companies from seeking to expand. Both Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Labour leader Ed Miliband argued that the UK would be better off remaining in the European Union. A referendum is due to take place in 2017.

Emily Willson



©nydailynews

Kidnapping of students lead to riots

Members of a drug gang responsible for the kidnapping of 43 students in Iguala, Mexico have allegedly admitted to killing dozens of students, according to reports. Outrage has erupted across the country following allegations of the town's Mayor Jose Luis Abarca links to organized crime.

It is believed that four Leeds students are currently on their year abroad in Mexico. The University told *The Gryphon*, 'We are in contact with the institutions and will, of course, be in direct contact with our students should the situation develop further.'

Abla Klau



Lecturer to MP: 'It's been at the back of my mind for a long time'

The Gryphon spoke to Pharmacology lecturer, Dr Steve Clapcote who is campaigning to become MP for Shipley



©Charlotte Mason

Hugh Baillie-Lane

Why are you running to be an MP?

It's been in the back of my mind for a long time. Having been interested in politics since a young age, it's not necessarily a big change for me. People may be surprised but I think as a lecturer, you have to be comfortable talking to a big room of people and being the centre of attention so I think there are some skills that I can transfer to being a politician. People entering Parliament are getting younger and younger so if I'm going to do it, then I should go for it this time and see what happens!

"I want a fair society where there's an equal opportunity for people to get on in life, no matter what their background is"

Do you have any experience in politics?

When I was at Liverpool University, I was a member of Labour students

and we helped on the successful Wirral south by-election. The party after was so exhilarating that I kind of caught the bug! Apart from a five-year break working in Canada, I've been a Labour member since I was fifteen. I'm running for Shipley because I know it reasonably well, and I feel that it's quite a winnable seat. If I don't get elected, I think I would probably want to stand again in 2020.

What do your students think about you running?

I don't think many of them know yet! I hope they'd be please that someone in a relatively normal job is running, as far as being a science lecturer can be classed as a normal job! I feel that you don't need to be a solicitor or a trade unionist or labour party official to become an MP.

How will your background in science help you as an MP?

It depends on whether I get elected! But during the campaign, I will focus on the NHS and how it shouldn't face further privatisation. If I entered Parliament, I would focus a lot on science. I think a lot of MPs have to

vote on scientific issues such as fracking without having any prior knowledge and science is entering public debate a lot more, especially around health. I'd also speak up for more money for research, especially in the north.

"The parties often tend to have very conventional ways of doing things that... it can all be quite boring"

What do you make of the current relationship between politics and students?

People aren't really members of political parties any more, not in the numbers they used to be. It's tended to become the people who are really interested in politics who still join, rather than becoming a normal thing that a lot of people do. I think part of it is the parties often tend to have very conventional ways of doing things that aren't all attractive to people. It can all be quite boring. When I was a student, there was political apathy and it certainly wasn't cool to be a member of a mainstream political party like Labour. However, the Scottish referendum

showed that if there's an issue that really engages people, then different age groups get involved and they'll vote.

What do you think are the main issues facing students at the moment?

At the moment, it's not clear what Labour's policy is. Ed Miliband has talked about a graduate tax but there's no official announcement. The Lib Dems promised they would scrap tuition fees and they've gone up so they've lost their credibility. I would say that you cannot trust the Lib Dems as they let you down last time though.

How are you planning to attract voters?

I'd ask them what kind of country they want to live in – do you want fair taxes and investment in public services or do you want to live in a country where there are tax cuts for the richest and cuts in public services? I want a fair society where there's an equal opportunity for people to get on in life, no matter what their background is.



Zwarte Piet: Santa's Dutch, Black Slaves

*The Dutch national holiday Sinterklaas is now under international scrutiny. St Nicholas, an old white saint who hands out presents, has a servant by the name of Zwarte Piet. Despite obvious connotations with the slave trade, many traditionalists are striving to keep the character alive. **The Gryphon** examines the controversy of 'Black Pete' in a multicultural Netherlands.*

Loren Snel

For many Dutch Antillean or Surinamese people, the Dutch holiday of St Nicholas can be problematic. As every school, retailer, and television channel indulges in the festivities, you will find St Nicholas and Black Pete everywhere. Any parents or children wishing to avoid the tradition, wishing to escape it, will surely fail.

Black Pete features heavily in the 'Entry of St Nicholas', a festival occurring in Mid November, which features Sinterklaas (St Nicholas) and his various Petes arriving into town on a boat, and then parading through the streets giving candy to children. The entry of St Nicholas signifies the day he arrives by boat from Spain together with his Black Petes. Every Black Pete has a certain 'characteristic', with Petes such as Presents Pete, Finding The Way Pete, and Reading Pete.

Dutch author Robert Vuijsje told newspaper *Trouw* about how he asked his only black primary school classmate whether he had been called Black Pete and what he thought about the festival of St Nicholas. The answer was negative. 'I was bullied at school,' said a participant in a Black Pete survey performed by news service *Een Vandaag*. 'I was called Black Pete and slave. No one showed any understanding when I objected.'

Comedian Quinsy Gario also mentioned on his Tumblr about his mother being greeted at work with 'we wondered where our Black Pete was hiding'. It is these remarks and incidents that makes the festival of St Nicholas not a holiday but a horror to many. Gario was a salient instigator of the anti-Black Pete campaigns that sparked the current national debate.

Accusations regarding the holiday's racist character and reference to the Dutch slave trade are however not new. In 1982, as a response to the addition of red lips and golden earrings to the look of Black Pete, the Dutch Surinam community began campaigning for a Sinterklaas celebration without reference to slavery. In 2011, Gario demonstrated against the holiday during the entry of St Nicholas in Dordrecht, wearing a t-shirt reading 'Zwarte Pete is Racisme' (Black Pete is racism). His campaign attracted many followers, including Dutch celebrities, with many of them now wearing his t-shirt.

Black Pete was also met with an international slating. Last year, UN officer Verene Sheperd labelled the tradition as a return to slavery. A UN investigation into the nature of the holiday in July of this year deemed the festival of St Nicholas racist, outdated, and recommended that Dutch education had to actively pursue teaching the Dutch colonial history. 'Ignorance feeds

hate, we have seen that in the past,' said Shepherd.

2014 seems to have gone down as the most successful year for the Black Pete opposition. Official plans have been made to change Black Pete's skin into a variety of bright colours, and to modify his subservient character as well as the lyrics of some traditional Sinterklaas songs. Yet ignorance, or whatever other forces are at work, does indeed seem to be feeding hate. Many Dutch people object to the 'slander' of their tradition. 'It knows such a long history after all,' said an older woman to *Een Vandaag* upon hearing that the Dutch supermarket *Albert Heijn* would remove Black Pete from their television adverts. 'People from outside shouldn't be bothered by it.'

According to a survey by *Een Vandaag* in which 28,000 people participated, 83% of the Dutch are opposed to changing Black Pete's looks. For many Dutch people, Black Pete has nothing to do with racism, and is instead a beloved children's character. 'Why would you remove such a piece of cultural heritage?' asks one woman to *Een Vandaag*. To fight its removal, the festival of St Nicholas has been

placed on the National Inventory Intellectual Cultural Heritage. 'We want to prove Black Pete is not a stereotype in its current form,' said a spokesperson of the Dutch Centre of Culture and Intellectual Heritage, 'Placing it on the Inventory is a supporting argument to us.'

An argument put forward by lawyer Jan Visser in newspaper *de Volkskrant* stated that the Black Pete debate is encouraging racism rather than fighting it. 'If Black Pete were prohibited, it would make sense for the vast majority of Dutch people who have no problem whatsoever with the tradition to once again turn against the Dutch people of colour,' said Visser, a state-

ment which insulted Dutch ethnic minorities, and ignored the many of them who do not find Black Pete offensive. Visser said it would mean no

Dutch person would be able to look at a Surinamese person and not think of how they 'ruined the party'.

Vuijsje compares the Black Pete struggle with an unhealthy relationship. 'A wife asking her husband to stop doing something because it hurts, and her husband answers by saying "What I do is not hurting you

“Ignorance feeds hate, we have seen that in the past”



Tumblr: Zwarte Piet Is Racisme ©

Quinsy Gario and Kno'ledge Cesare wearing a T-shirt with 'Zwarte Piet is racism'



Wikimedia Commons ©

and I don't care what you think of it, I will continue"; an analogy that seems apt in light of other Dutch racial issues. When the Dutch version of chocolate marshmallows known as Negerzoenen (negro kisses) was rebranded Kisses.

Many objected, saying there was no offense in an old confectionery name. When Dutch glossy

magazine *Jackie* described pop star Rihanna's style as 'Niggabitch', the formal apology stated that it had been 'a bad joke' and that the magazine had meant no harm.

Luckily, a growing 13% of mainly young and highly educated Dutch people understand the offence and would like to make a change to the appearance of the Black Pete character.

Popular Dutch website *Geen Stijl* wrote an article titled 'Of Course Black Pete is Racism', and many Dutch journalists and politicians have openly supported change. The official entry of St Nicholas in Gouda will feature both Cheese and

Cookie Petes.

Vuijsje is hopeful and believes that the Dutch people are at the brink of a monumental turn in Dutch history. 'For the first time,

white Dutch people realise they live in a country with fellow countrymen who come from a different background, who have different opinions and feelings and look at things in a completely different way.' After talking to his former classmate, Vuijsje realised that it was not the way he experienced certain things that matters, but the way that black people do. ■

“I was bullied at school. I was called Black Pete and slave. No one showed any understanding when I objected.”

A Brief History of Zwarte Piet

- 1850 Teacher Jan Schenkman (1806–1863) creates Black Pete, a black young man and squire-like assistant of St Nicholas. Before this time, St Nicholas was celebrated without him.
- 1859 Black Pete is now being referred to as Peter and looks older.
- 1885 Initially Black Pete is not portrayed as child friendly. He owns a birch rod and threatens to stuff naughty children in his gunny sack.
- 1930 St Nicholas still has only one squire. Black Pete still owns a rod, but also hands out candy to children. He does not have an afro nor golden earrings.
- 1934 During the first official entry of St Nicholas, six Spanish nobleman and six Black Petes are present on the steamship. In reality, the Black Pete men are Surinamese sailors from another ship in the same harbour. The story goes that they were cold and asked St Nicholas whether they could join in on the entry. Ever since St Nicholas has had multiple Black Petes.
- 1949 Mid-twentieth century, Black Pete's angry disposition disappears and he gradually becomes a child-lover. Scaring children was considered irresponsible from an educational point of view. Black Pete becomes a funny and happy servant. He owns a gunny sack, but is filled with candy. Some of them now have afros.
- 1982 In the 80s, Black Pete's way of dressing becomes more vibrant. Some of them wear golden earrings and red lipstick. The Dutch-Surinam community criticise the celebrations for its 'racist characteristics'. The community starts campaigning for a St Nicholas celebration without Black Pete.
- 2004 St Nicholas now owns a huge number of Black Petes. A lot of them have their own separate tasks. There is a Buying Pete, a Warehouse Pete, a Wrapping Pete, a Show the way Pete and a Head Pete. Their looks remain the same.
- 2011 Comedian Quinsy Gario demonstrates against the what he considers racist character of Black Pete during the entry of St Nicholas in the town of Dordrecht.
- 2013 VN-researcher Verene Sheperd calls Black Pete racist. Because of this, the Black Petes do not wear golden earrings anymore, as they would refer to the slave trade.
- 2014 The mayor of Amsterdam announces more changes to the look of Black Pete. A quarter of them will be white with soot-stained cheeks. His subservient character changes; he will be a 'CEO' to St Nicholas. During the entry in Gouda there will be eight Cheese- and Cookie Petes.



We meat again: vague-etarianism

Editor *Jasmine Andersson* talks returning to meat after seven years of being a staunch veggie

'And you're going to do it for the rest of your life?' asked my friend.

'What?' I said, slightly baffled.

'You're going to be a vegetarian for the rest of your life?' he said.

'I hope so. That's all I can hope for, isn't it?'

The rest of my life seemed like a very long time.

Stoic and assured that giving up meat was the right option for a multitude of reasons, the entire journey began on a less moralistic note. When my Head of Year wielded a notepad to collate yet another meal list for the prom, he started asking if I had any 'funny' dietary requirements. Funny sat oddly with me. Spending my teen life as an awkward and gangly individual operating in a sports college with the worst GCSE PE grade the school had ever had, laughs came my way more often than most. It was with that in mind that I decided to be absolutely hilarious and inform him that I was a vegetarian.

In reality, there were several valid reasons to stop eating meat. As someone who would never be prepared to slaughter an innocent creature, it was somewhat hypocritical of me to purchase beef mince in a nicely packaged tray without thinking of the

and in slaughterhouses around the world. These figures do not even include fish and other sea creatures whose deaths are so great they are only measured in tonnes. These statistics alone would make the most hardened carnivore curl up in a ball, never mind a character who cries at some of the more petty thefts displayed on Crimewatch. Although I felt powerless in the face of such a systematic operation of brutality, I was assured that at least I was doing my part in say-

Although it can veer into the anecdotal, it is worth noting the social pressures of opting to be just that little bit 'funny'. Adam Richardson of 8 Out Of Ten Cats fame once said, 'Yeah I'm a vegetarian. People don't like it. Do you know why? Because people think that being moral is a way of saying that you're better than them.' Every single day, without fail, someone had something to say about a decision that was made by me, for me. Endless 'jokes' became echo chambers

myself with a chicken salad meal deal in my hands three times during the fiery torrents of campaigning. I never once made it to the till. The sentiment alone was enough.

Once these sentiments were consolidated with graduate life, I found myself entering a zone in which consistency of any kind was a mere byline in an old yearbook. As friends come and go, cities change, and the people you love move away, an arduous transitional process

is made that means that sometimes, you just have to be a little bit less hard on yourself. Lost in the gulf of the process known as 'growing up', testing the waters became an affair of self-affirmation; a quest to track down what pieces of yourself really are relevant.

So, if you ask me whether I'm going to eat meat for the rest of my life, the answer is uncertain as the one above. Attaching ourselves to an ideology is an impressive feat that takes courage and conviction, and we should aim to support what we believe is right. However, sometimes it is okay to

test the waters. Humans are humans, not bastions of ideology. This period, that



The Simpsons ©

“I slowly began to ascertain that being a vegetarian itself wasn't exhausting – it was the attitudes that came with it”

consequences. Over 56 billion farmed animals are killed every year by humans. More than 3,000 animals die every sec-

ing no to something that was so oddly status-quo.

Midnight visits to the fridge were not made. Drunken kebab stopouts were not my thing. Gelatine was a dour note on a sweet packet, and even certain tooth-pastes had to be avoided. Everything and anything contained an element of meat. Relatives would buy me leather satchels for Christmas. I had an existential crisis when an ex-boyfriend bought me my first pair of Dr Martens. Others would forget to mention goose-fat swimming potatoes that they were feeding me, and one friend thought it would be hilarious to throw a piece of meat at me every time we went in for our weekly Subway lunch. I slowly began to ascertain that being a vegetarian itself wasn't exhausting – it was the attitudes that came with it.

of eyeball rolling, passing my ear, never to be processed. 'Ethical reasons' became a precursor to an essay for every keen passerby who wanted to know a little bit more about the person who said no to the bacon, regardless of my apparent social behaviours that said there couldn't be anything less I wanted to talk about.

The end came in an effete combo: exhaustion, popular opinion and existential apathy. I am incredibly irritated by the fact that I was an anaemic vegetarian. Every single time I informed someone that I was tired -- and I spent seven years of my life being tired -- I felt that biology had reigned triumphant, claiming me for instincts that my sickly constitution failed to properly handle. After taking the most perverted graduate option available and campaigning to be Editor of this beloved newspaper, I found

“I had an existential crisis when an ex-boyfriend bought me my first pair of Dr Martens”

I'm living in, right now, is just made that little bit easier through the presence of bacon and chorizo wrapped dates. ■



Comment

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Samuel Lewis looks at why alcoholic mothers should be given help, not a prison sentence

Dapper Laughs

Eleanor Pugh discusses why Dapper Laughs represents the growing UK 'lad' culture

Marking boycott

Rod Ardehali on how the marking boycott should stir up our support, not resentment

US midterm elections

Daniel Levy investigates what the midterm elections will mean for Obama's government

Alcoholic mothers need help, not prison

Samuel Lewis

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The responsibility of a mother for her unborn child seems to be an undisputed fact in our society, and, recently, a question has been posed as to whether the mother of a child born with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) can be punished by law for excessive alcohol intake whilst pregnant. The child in the case is now aged seven and living with a foster family, and the mother accused of a 'crime of violence' in court, for drinking up to 'half a bottle of Vodka and eight cans of strong lager a day' whilst pregnant.

The idea that 'if you drink, your baby drinks' is extremely emotive. The amount of alcohol consumed by the mother in this case is certainly shocking. However, building a legal case to prosecute her for her actions is not productive – the mother had for a long time suffered from alcoholism, something we accept as a disease, an addiction. This on its own is generally looked upon with sympathy and compassion, and is also generally thought that the addict is ultimately only hurting themselves. This is rarely the case.

Alcohol is, of course, a drug, and dependence upon it should not be viewed any differently to any other form of drug addiction. In this instance, sympathy is being drawn away from the mother, who normally would be seen as a victim, due to the fact that she was pregnant.

The responsibility that society attributes to mothers for their own child, particularly when in the womb, is thought of as a sort of common sense. It seems beyond doubt that the pregnant mother is ultimately responsible for the child's well-being – this appears to be the basis of the prosecution. If the mother is re-



sponsible for her own actions, and also the safety of her unborn child, then by drinking and harming her baby, she has, in effect, failed.

However, it is arguable that she cannot be attributed full responsibility for her actions if she was suffering from alcoholism. This, then, raises the question: who exactly is responsible?

The foetus itself has no legal rights as it cannot survive independently of the mother. Once the baby is born, however, it gains legal status as a person. A

“Alcohol is, of course, a drug, and dependence on it should not be viewed any differently to any other form of drug addiction”

baby can be taken away from an alcoholic mother's care, but a foetus cannot be removed from an alcoholic mother's womb. As the state has no power to

help the baby before it is born, the suggested solution to this in this case is to criminalise drinking whilst pregnant – if this were so, we are essentially accepting a dual responsibility for unborn foetuses between the state and the parent, with the judgement of the state able to override the judgement of the mother.

This is why bringing the law into this matter is so complex, messy and, ultimately, not the answer. Of course it is evocative to demand justice for the child, and to assure that no child needs to be born with FAS. It is another thing to suggest that pregnant women have different and diminished rights to other people; rights that can be so easily overruled by the state.

It would seem backwards and unnecessarily punitive to prosecute someone for being an alcoholic in any other circumstance. This case seems to give rise to a snowball of consequences. If we can prosecute for harm done to a child before it is born, what does that

mean for abortion laws? If we can prosecute a person for having a disease like alcoholism, do we then have grounds to prosecute someone for becoming pregnant who has a different disease?

Of course this is merely conjecture, but in a society where we consider addiction to be beyond an individual's control, it seems draconian to prosecute someone for it. Certainly, this case highlights that something has gone terribly wrong, but it is not with the justice system.

More needs to be done for people with any form of addiction, and treating them as criminals does not help. It is terrible that the child now has to live with FAS and the developmental issues that brings. Rather than devolve into knee-jerks of prosecution after the damage is done, more time and money ought to be invested with health workers and councils to help people with serious addiction, so that this kind of case never occurs again.



Dapper gets no Laughs at all

Elli Pugh

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On Monday 10th November, ITV released a statement announcing the axing of 'On the Pull', the show created by and starring 'comedian' Dapper Laughs – real name Daniel O'Reilly. Yet despite the numerous triumphant proclamations posted across a variety of social media, the axing does not actually mark any major successful development. It is instead signifies the mere removal of one single output of the 'lad culture' Britain is alarmingly openly accepting.

We have to question why our society is so open to sexist, degrading forms of intimidation; the reason lies behind the guise of 'banter', a term thrown about between 'lads' as a means to offend each other, and everyone else, for that matter. This is why the flip side of the Dapper Laughs debate baffles me: it simply stretches no further than sheer, narrow-minded idiocy. His innocence apparently lies behind the excuse of comedy. Yet why should the mere

triviality of entertainment justify the intimidation of women? Dapper Laughs has previously been filmed shouting "are you moist?" and "get your gash out" to female strangers on the street. He has also stated that "she's gagging for a rape", to a member of the audience at a stand-up show.

For anyone wanting to view the sexist abuse that Dapper Laughs encourages, look on Facebook or Twitter at the responses by his supporters to those who are arguing the same line that any intelligent human being would. A selection ranges from "Just another feminist student" and "Dappa is the man. Think you skets wanna calm down", to the more crude comments of "Fuck her right in the pussy dapper mate" and

"She must be on the blob". Most shockingly, some of these vile comments have racked up hundreds of likes, and support has even spilled over into day-to-day life. When Cardiff University student Vicky Chandler petitioned to cancel Dapper Laughs' performance at her SU, she was recognised on the street by men who shouted phrases such as "are you moist?" at her.

As for resistance, the mass anti-Dapper support is the only form of hope we have against 'laddism'. As well as Vicky Chandler's successful petition, 44 comedians have signed an open letter branding Dapper "entirely sexist". In addition, over 68,000 people signed the petition to remove Dapper Laughs from the platform allowing him to emit

his influence onto our screens. I do not deny that it is still a victory. The sheer amount of support in favour of the axing proves this is not a small minority of people without a sense of humour, but a genuine public outcry big enough to sway the decision of a body such as ITV. But the victory is small. ITV still made the decision to broadcast misogynistic 'comedy', and such broadcasting still influences and encourages the laddish culture that is disgustingly festering in the UK.

So thank you Dapper Laughs. Thank you ITV. Thank you for contributing yet another openly misogynistic form of encouragement to a society that already degrades women to humourless walking vaginas in the name of 'banter'. I am in quite a desperate state of hopefulness that the mass response to the issue has sparked an anti-misogynistic revolution, so the next time a sexist fool attempts to gain some limelight from devaluing one half of the world's population, such attempts will be quickly quashed.



Supporting boycott is supporting security

Rod Ardehali

Politics

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As we reach the middle of term and those bitter, cold Leeds nights greet us again, students everywhere are already fully immersed in essays, exams and the new John Lewis Christmas advert. This hectic time of year means that many may not have heard of a significant dispute being fought between vice-chancellor Sir Alan Langlands and Leeds University academics over a proposed change to their pension scheme.

Academics from Leeds have now joined York, Sheffield and Imperial amongst other 'pre-92' universities in initiating a university wide boycott which will directly affect the whole student populous. Lecturers are keen to stress that this is a boycott and not a strike. While lectures and seminars will continue as usual, members of the union will now cease marking or setting assignments until the dispute is resolved. The knock on effect is that midterms and submitted assessments will not be marked, and that familiar

game of 'What Do I Need For a 2.1?' will become even more clouded.

UUK intend to make significant changes to the pension scheme which according to the UCU (University and College Union), will lead to "the loss of thousands of pounds every year" – changes that have been described as "devastating". One lecturer, who asked to remain anonymous, stated that he hoped the action "stresses the seriousness of the situation we find ourselves in".

In response, a student wide email from

“It probably isn't the most glamorous job in the world, but that doesn't mean they don't deserve security”

Vivien Jones, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education, stated that she was "extremely disappointed that the UCU has decided to take industrial action".

And so here we are – stuck in the middle. The sole bargaining chip of panicked professors. We have unions and vice-chancellors locked in battle, as if trying to demonstrate modern Marxist theory

through avant-garde interactive teaching.

So whose side should we be on? Well it doesn't take a big leap of logic to realise that most academics aren't in it for the money. As someone who previously spent a short amount of time at a 'newer' university, whose lecturers could be described at best as lacklustre, here at Leeds we have at our disposal academics at the forefront of their fields, with students at the forefront of their concerns.

The University staff I've met are hard-working, engaging and passionate about their subject. That may not be the case for you, but it has been the case for me and many others across my programme. It probably isn't the most glamorous job, and not every lecturer has the Brian Cox 'star' quality to make the primetime TV crossover, but that doesn't mean they don't deserve security. To initiate such drastic actions offer a clear indication that our lecturers have been backed into a corner, and ultimately it is our responsibility to offer them our support. If paying 9k a year for our studies was bad enough, then just imagine if the standard of teaching then dropped too – leaving us deep in debt but without the justification of a world class

degree.

And that's exactly what our degree is – world class. The QS World University Rankings places Leeds in the Top 100 globally. We didn't get that place by having a top quality gym or by serving a range of local ales in Old Bar. We got there on the strength of the research our academics produce in their respective fields. Take that away and our global standing is weakened. Without satisfied staff, the entire institution of the University ceases to function as well.

Maybe I'm naive but I don't believe academics would stop doing a part of their job unless they felt they had no other choice. Whilst our Vice Chancellor received a reported salary of £313,000 in 2010/11, plus a 5.1 per cent increase in salary this year alone, it's fair to say not everyone is feeling the squeeze. So while it would be easy to direct our anger at our tutors, we need to offer them our collective support. The sooner they get the security they deserve, the sooner we can get back to complaining about their harsh marking and early office hours.



US elections mark new instability

Daniel Levy

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The inevitable has happened: in his final midterm election President Obama was reduced to lame duck status as the GOP took the Senate and added to their majority in the House of Representatives. These results are not unexpected but a fundamental question still stand: how will America be governed with a Democrat in the White House and Republican Congress?

For the most part we can expect America to look much as it did during George W. Bush's final years in office for the next two years: politically stagnant and unproductive. Then and now the US' economy was on shaky ground, the incumbent president's foreign policy was wildly unpopular and Congress was dominated by the opposition.

Although new Majority Leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, was quick to reach across the aisle and assure President Obama of his willingness to promote bipartisanship in the upper chamber, this is unlikely to achieve much of real substance. At 72, McConnell is a wise elder whose voice is likely to be drowned out by the younger upstarts within his party. Senators Ted Cruz and Rand Paul have been constant thorns in the Obama administration's side and there is no reason to suggest that they will cease being so. Both may have presidential ambitions for 2016, and although neither have formally announced their intentions to run, the extra publicity generated by noisy anti-administration grandstanding can hardly be of harm.

Likely to join them is Iowa's new Senator: Joni Ernst. An antidote to the GOP's alleged "war on women", Ms. Ernst ran on the platform of being a Midwest

farm girl who could be counted on to slash away Washington's excesses.

The star of this election, Ms. Ernst was until recently a virtually unknown State Senator in Iowa. How she will rise to the challenge of Federal representation remains to be seen. She could be another Ted Cruz: a reactionary whose knee-jerk response to any new proposed administration spending is righteous fury and filibustering. Alternatively, her unique combination of skills and life experience could feed into the Senate's business with President Obama ensuring that both her constituents in Iowa and America as a whole benefit from any new legislation. It should not be forgotten though that Ms. Ernst was backed by the Tea Party movement, whose candidates are not exactly well known

for their pragmatism or bipartisanship once elected.

For President Obama, the priority should not be on pushing through new reforms but protecting and entrenching those that are already in place. The Supreme Court will be crucial for this. Although somewhat conservatively inclined, the current Roberts Court has hardly been a major hindrance for social reforms such as Obama and a widening acceptance of gay marriage. As long as a liberal Associate Justice does not leave their office, then the current balance of power there is unlikely to change. The use of executive orders to circumvent a hostile Congress are also a possibility, and can be expected to become more common in the next two years than much of the previous six.

But having said all of that, all the above pales in comparison to the ongoing debate over the possibility of sending a second Clinton to the White House. Although as of now unannounced, Hillary's presidential ambitions certainly exist. Once they are announced, then this round of speculation can end and a new one will begin: this time, will she be able to capture the White House?



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1 in 3

women report drinking
when pregnant

68,000

people signed the
petition to have Dapper
Laughs' show axed

69

Senate seats lost by the
Democrats since coming
to power in 2008



Debate

Is society finally standing against street harassment?

The issue of street harassment has returned to the media's attention with a series of YouTube videos chronicling women's experiences in different cities. Responses have been mixed, some calling for change and others stating that catcalling is a 'compliment'. So do we still have a long way to go, or is society really beginning to take a stand against street harassment?

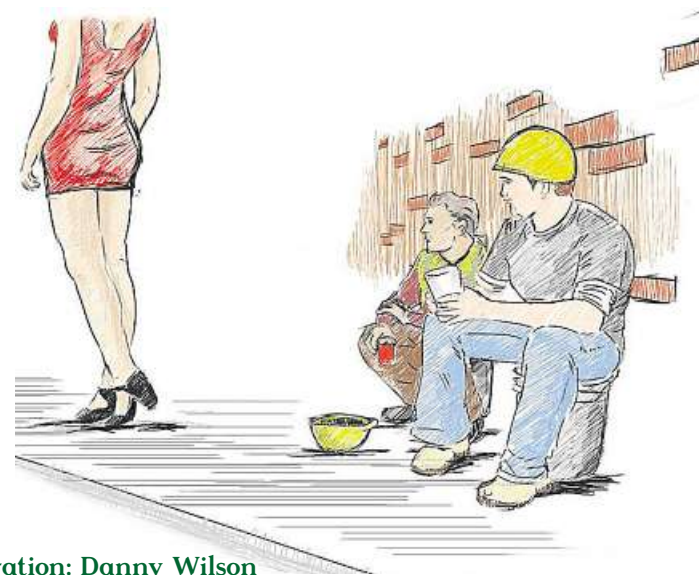


Illustration: Danny Wilson

Yes

I remember the first time my friends and I were catcalled on the street. We were walking home in our school uniforms when a lorry driver honked his horn loudly at us.

This experience was terrifying, but what was inspiring was the fact that my male friend walking with us shouted and cursed after the driver, demanding to know how they dare treat his friends that way.

Since then, I've seen countless men and women stand up for each other, and themselves, when faced with street harassment. The matter is debated on national TV when we would have once cast the matter to one side and disregarded it.

As recently as the 1980s, adverts perpetuated a myth that being whistled at on the street was the ultimate compliment for a woman, a sign that you had succeeded in becoming the pinnacle of

feminine beauty. Today, no advert like that would survive on our screens. The number of complaints from an increasingly attentive and engaged audience would ensure it was removed as soon as it had been aired.

There is still a long way to go, the fact that violence and harassment against women is being met with such outcry is a positive change. So-called comedian Dapper Laughs has had his ITV show cancelled after complaints about rape apology, and it is becoming the norm now to speak out against misogyny, rather than make excuses for it.

Women are now being taught to stand against street harassment, when years ago they would have been told to 'take it as a compliment'. Men are also being recruited as allies in this, and many give their voices willingly.

However, we must not ignore those

who still claim that street harassment is merely intended to 'compliment' women, and that misogyny is a big, laddy joke

“The fact that violence and harassment against women is being met with such an outcry is a positive change.”

rather than blatant misogyny.

There is still much work to be done. The violence that can ensue when a woman dares to turn a man down, or stand up to her harassers is symptomatic of a culture of aggression that 'innocent' catcalling perpetuates.

Women have been murdered for refusing the advances of men, meaning many will live in fear of being catcalled. A woman's experience with harassment often depends on where she lives in the

world and is still not her fault or responsibility. The recent YouTube videos showing women's experiences in New York and Auckland show a marked societal difference between certain cities.

We must celebrate the fact that women are finally free to walk some streets without harassment, but not ignore the places in which women are most at risk. If we can create a culture as adverse to street harassment as New Zealand, then we can drive for the same attitudes elsewhere in the world.

Women are still catcalled on the street every day, but thanks to a change in our attitudes and the drive for better treatment of women, the whole culture of street harassment is becoming completely unacceptable, rather than something to 'shrug off'.

Eleanor Healing

No

Catcalling has been in the news this week after a video documenting a woman's experience of street harassment on a single day in New York went viral.

Numerous news shows and websites have posed the question of whether it's a form of sexual harassment or if women really enjoy getting positive attention on the streets.

Many have tried to claim that when they comment on a woman's appearance, they are simply trying to be nice. Maybe some are. Nonetheless, they are playing into a social norm which objectifies and often intimidates women.

Catcalling is not about compliments, it is about expressing power. If telling a woman to smile is just a random act of kindness, why don't men do it to other men? What it really is to tell a woman to smile is to tell her that she is not perform-

ing her role in society well enough – she is not being attractive, available, and cheerfully able to 'take a compliment'.

If it isn't about power, why do men often get so aggressive when women reject them? In the video, the woman ignores a man telling her that she's being "acknowledged for being beautiful" and is told "you should say thank you more"

“In Detroit this year, a woman rejected a man's request for her phone number. As a result, he shot her.”

It's not enough to have your personal appearance and demeanour commented on by a total stranger when you're just minding your own business – you have to be grateful for it too. At another point, a man asks her if they "cant be friends... nothing?". But it clearly isn't about friend-

ship. Why would you want to make friends with a stranger who is purposefully ignoring you?

Steve Satagati, the author of 'Code of Honour' and 'The MANual' tried to claim this week that women wouldn't mind if all of the compliments came from attractive men, and that if women felt intimidated by catcalling then they should carry a gun.

Others have also taken the fact that women often politely smile at people who approach them to be proof that women really like catcalling. But in a society where women can be attacked or even killed for rejecting men's advances, is it any surprise that women sometimes feign appreciation?

In Detroit this year, a woman called Mary Spears rejected a man's request for her phone number. As a result, he shot her. In Oxford last year a student named

Jeanne Marie Ryan was punched in the face seven times for trying to stop a man groping her.

Women are conditioned to be cautious of male attention because you never know when a polite 'no' could lead to verbal or physical intimidation and abuse.

There's a time and a place for compliments. Obviously it can be nice to be told, politely and by someone you know, that you look nice today. But being told it by random people in the street, often in an aggressive or sexual way, reinforces the feeling that women are there to be looked at, not appreciated as people.

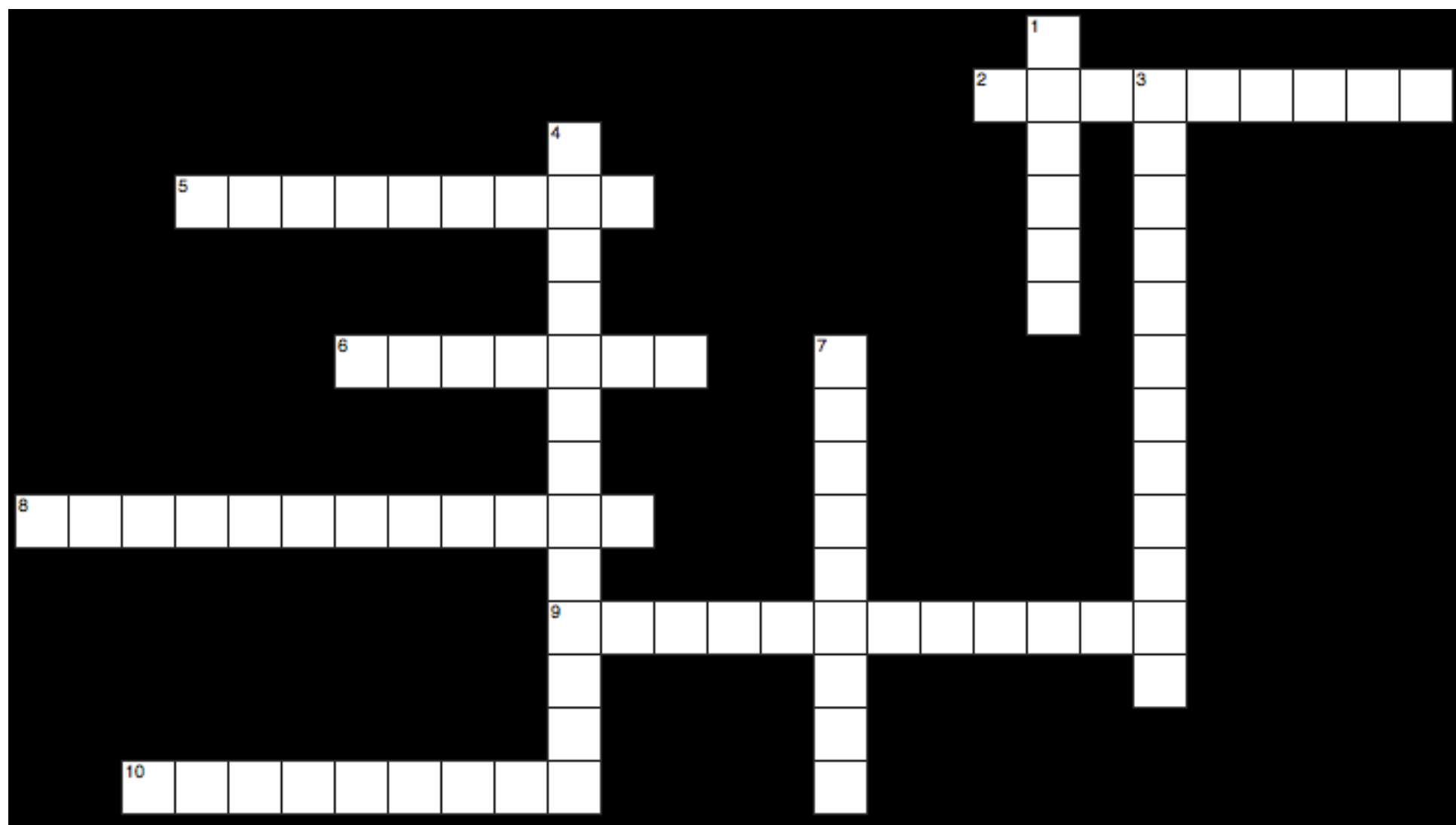
As Jessica Williams argued on *The Daily Show*, 'since going to work is not a performance, we're not looking for applause'.

Becky Shortt



Current Affairs crossword

The week's affairs in black and white squares



As glamorous as ever, just follow the clues below

ACROSS:

2. Convicted rapist at centre of footballing controversy
5. Retailer which released its much-awaited Christmas ad this week
6. European Arrest _____- MPs furious over deal to vote on this
8. David Moyes' new football club
9. Inquest into this 1989 tragedy reached its 100th day this week
10. Former Newsnight Economics editor who ranted about banks

DOWN:

1. Comet landing robot
3. Controversial comedian axed by ITV
4. Bared (nearly) all this week for cover of *Paper* magazine
7. Jazz musician whose funeral was held this week

Last issue's answers are available online

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Space tourism: a magnifying glass on the growing inequality inflicting society



© Business Insider

Evan Canwell

Last week saw the tragic crash of Virgin Galactic test plane SpaceShipTwo, a commercial vehicle designed to fly passengers to the edge of space. The plane broke up over the Mojave Desert when the aerobrake system activated too early, killing co-pilot Michael Alsbury and seriously injuring the pilot, Peter Siebold. *The Gryphon* honours the memory of Michael Alsbury by taking a closer look at the space tourism industry, wishing Peter Siebold a healthy recovery.

'Space tourism' is a modern term, coined to assist ambitious companies with future plans to offer commercial flights into Earth's orbit for a hefty fee. There are several companies such as Boeing, XCOR Aerospace and SpaceX currently working on space tourism projects, but Virgin Galactic remains the most famous.

Virgin Galactic is a British commercial spaceflight company within the Virgin Group, founded in 2004 by Richard Branson and Burt Rutan. The company hopes to provide suborbital spaceflights to space tourists, suborbital launches for space science missions, and orbital launches of small satellites. While the idea behind viable space flight is an admirable one, it is hard to be as supportive when viewed from a social perspective.

Virgin Galactic tickets cost up to £150,000, with the company having collected over £50 million in deposits so

far. After the accident, 20 of the 700 ticket holders cancelled their flights but there is still high demand with a waiting list boasting the likes of Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga. Looking at Virgin Galactic's star-studded waiting list of the super-rich begs the question: could space tourism become a social divider?

The ticket price alone is enough to ensure that only those with a high level of disposable income can afford one. Of course, the cost of space travel will decrease with time, but unfortunately space flights still – and always will – require a hefty amount of fuel, meaning there is a limit to how far those costs can fall.

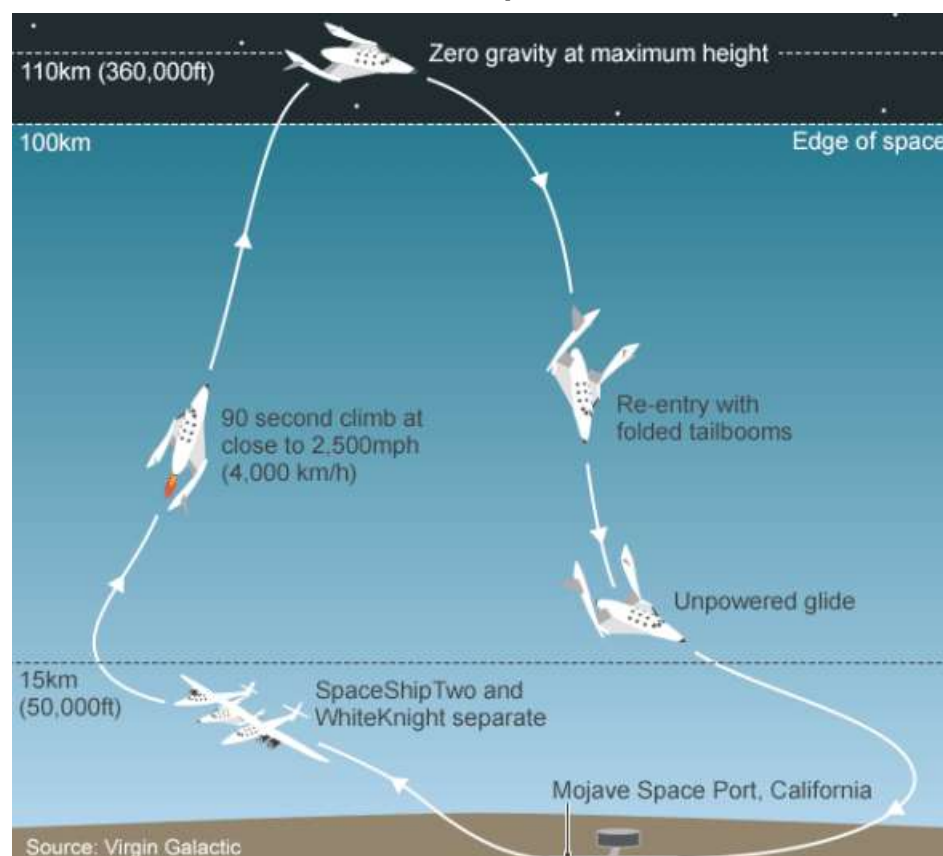
Consider the recent blockbuster 'Elysium', which saw the upper echelons of society living high above the Earth in a Utopian space environment with the rest of the population left behind on the surface of the planet. While this situation was exaggerated for the purposes of Hollywood, it now doesn't seem so far-fetched to claim that space above our planet is in danger of becoming the private playground of a very select few, living (literally and figuratively) above and beyond the rest of society.

Virgin Galactic has also drawn attention from environmental agencies which criticise the implications of space flights regularly burning up large amounts of rocket fuel in the atmosphere. Aeroplanes already produce large amounts

of gases which contribute to climate change so the introduction of another fuel-hungry, greenhouse gas emitting form of transport can't be defended from an environmental standpoint.

Since the incident, Richard Branson has pledged to find the cause of the crash and remains dedicated to carrying on the progress towards viable space flights. This endeavour has already claimed the life of one pilot and seriously injured another, therefore this is

a decision not taken lightly. However it is a decision that will ultimately benefit the human race; the world would be a different place if the pioneers of flight had cancelled the development of the aeroplane because they saw it as a form of transport that was too risky. Persevering with the development of projects like Virgin Galactic brings humanity ever closer to the prospect of exploration of the stars and other worlds – a pertinent journey for the future generations of our planet. ■



Source: Virgin Galactic

SpaceShipTwo Flight Plan



Botox: All fill and no thrill

Hilary Robinson

Cosmetic surgery is a very hot topic in the news at the moment – whether it concerns the almost unrecognisable Renee Zellweger, Kyle Jenner's ever expanding lips or Kim Kardashian's infamous rear-end. Most articles superficially focus on the moral dilemmas implicated with surgery – i.e. these celebrities are supposedly among the most beautiful and successful people in the world, but are still made to feel as though they aren't quite good enough in the public eye, resulting in undergoing painful (and sometimes risky) procedures to feel confident. However, the science behind the procedures, and the scientific implications, are rarely touched upon.

Botox, as of 2013, is the most popular cosmetic procedure worldwide. It is derived from the neurotoxin Botulinum, produced by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*. There are 7 types of botulinum toxins produced: A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. Despite the toxin being lethal, minute quantities of several different types of toxins (Type A: Botox, Dysport and Xeomin, and type B: MyoBlock) can be used cosmetically. The toxins are used to paralyse the muscles in an individual's face, reducing the appearance of wrinkles.

The facial paralysis occurs due to the injection of Botox into the neuromuscular synaptic cleft (the extracellular space between two neurons), where the neurotoxin is

absorbed into the neurone. Once it has entered the neurone, it cleaves a protein known as SNAP-25, which normally enables vesicles to release the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. This neurotransmitter would usually diffuse across the cleft, bind to post synaptic receptors, and stimulate contraction of the muscles. The cutting of SNAP-25 prevents acetylcholine release, and therefore prevents muscle contraction.

However, it has recently been acknowledged that – whilst many say Botox increases their confidence in their appearance – certain unconsidered psychological effects may occur. In 1884, William James and Carl Lange derived the theory that 'motion is emotion'. Common sense suggests that the physical display of our moods (e.g. smiling, frowning, crying) is a result of our emotion. For example, if we see a wild bear we feel afraid, so our heartbeat rises and we look scared.

However, James and Lange suggest that these events occur in a different order: we see a bear, our heart rate rises, our face looks scared, and it is this that tells our brain that we should feel afraid. Scientifically, an external stimulus evokes a physiological response, which causes you to feel an appropriate emotion. Whilst the theory has been criticised many times, it is extremely difficult to disprove.

How does this theory link to Botox? Well, if the feeling of emotion is caused by physiological changes, then the

reduction of these changes in the facial muscles may possibly dampen the feelings of emotion. Plastic surgeons would argue that this is a good thing – the lack of ability to frown will reduce feelings of disappointment or depression.

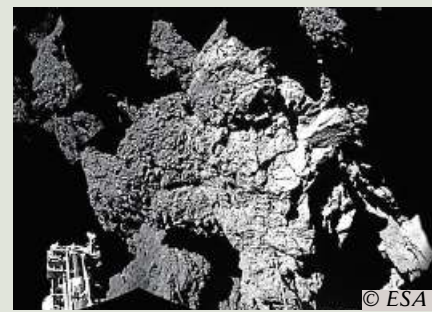
This theory can be extended to suggest that 'Botoxed' individuals may struggle to empathise. Empathy is often considered to be displayed by two people's micro expressions mimicking one another: these are our brief, involuntary expressions which show our unconscious emotions. The mimicry carried out by the listener stimulates a signal to feel similar emotions to the teller of the story, allowing empathy.

A recent study carried out by Drs. David Neal and Tanya Chartrand for Social Psychological and Personality Science compared the identification of emotions by an experimental group (16 recent Botox patients) and a control group (individuals who had not undergone Botox). This occurred by the viewing of 36 different photographs, and the selection of the emotion being conveyed by the photograph, out of four options. On average, the experimental group got 70% of answers correct, whilst the control group got 77%. Whilst this is not an overwhelming difference, it does support the idea that Botox impairs emotion recognition, which this study generalised through the ability to empathise. ■



©The SugarHub

Philae Probe Landing



The surface of the comet, seen from Philae

Alice Hargreaves Jones
Science Editor

On Wednesday humanity made history as Philae landed on the surface of comet 67P.

The robot probe is now stable and sending pictures, however there remains concerns about its battery life.

Upon landing, the solar-powered probe bounced around 1km back into space before settling back on the surface of the comet. Unfortunately, this landing was 1km from its intended target site, sitting in the shadow of a cliff.

Philae arrived at the icy comet on the back of Esa's Rosetta satellite after a 10-year, 6.4 billion-km (4bn-mile) journey, which reached its climax on Wednesday afternoon (GMT) with a seven-hour drop to the surface.

Pictures taken by Philae show it is pressed up against some form of a hard wall. The telemetry received from the probe indicated it is sat on a slope, or perhaps even on its side. Certainly, one of its three feet isn't in contact with the surface.

Due to its current position, the probe is receiving around 1.5 hours of illumination per 12-hour rotation of the comet. It is believed Philae will not have sufficient battery power to operate in its present state beyond Saturday.

Team engineers are now examining methods to re-orientate the robot to gain maximum light exposure, however the current priority is to acquire as much information as possible about the comet.

Regardless of what happens in the next few days, the mission is already assured of its place in history.

England fall short in autumn international

James Candler
Rugby Union

In some respects it was a weekend of unexpected upsets and in others one of 'same old same old' as the 2014 autumn internationals kicked off last Saturday.

Whilst Ireland and Scotland were able to upset the odds with impressive wins against South Africa and Argentina respectively, both Wales' southern hemisphere frustration and England's ensuing battle to once again beat the All Blacks continued.

England began strongly, with their aggressive rush defence right from the off acting as a statement of intent for the rest of the match and a blistering try from wing Johnny May with only five minutes on the clock. These positive displays were shortly followed by another attacking threat in the ninth minute, which failed when Mike Brown failed to take a fine pass from an impressive looking Kyle Eastmond.

New Zealand made the most of their let off as Aaron Cruden was somewhat dubiously awarded a try, which

possessed more than a subtle whiff of a double movement. Despite Courtney Lawes being subbed due to concussion halfway through the first half England remained physical for the remainder of the half and were able to maintain an impressive physicality which saw them hold a 14-11 lead at half time.

Following a promising start the second half seemed all too familiar for England fans as New Zealand tore the defence to shreds just five minutes into the second stanza, leading to a well worked try from man of the match, Richie McCaw, who continued to prove his invaluable worth as the game progressed.

The uncanny resemblance to past England defeats against the All Blacks was added to by some poor positional kicking from Danny Care, who despite undeniable pace and tenacity, was somewhat agreeably substituted for Ben Youngs with 20 minutes to play. After an unexploited 10 minute sin-bin period, which saw New Zealand dominate possession and territory, Charlie Faumuina scored a pivotal try in the 71st minute and seemingly took

the game away from England, as their aggressive rush defence was penetrated with frustrating ease.

Despite this, England demonstrated encouraging resurgence, grinding out a penalty try in the dying moments of a match which had, until then, seen England as the worryingly ill-disciplined side.

The mood to adopt it seems, is one of cautious optimism; England appear to be very nearly 'there' and certainly capable of competing at the

very highest level. This week certainly promises to be exciting for rugby fans, as Scotland look to build upon Saturday's impressive performance by testing themselves against the All Blacks and Wales will no doubt wish to end a period of Southern hemisphere woe by beating a dangerous Fijian side. However, perhaps most tantalisingly both England and South Africa will both be hoping to put their defeats behind them in what is sure to be a bruising, breath-taking encounter.



The Guardian ©

Marquez eases to MotoGP championship

Tom King
MotoGP

Sunday's race at Valencia was the final round of the 2014 MotoGP championship season, and what a season it has been for 21-year old Marc Marquez, who secured victory three weeks ago in Japan.

Back at the start of the year doubts were raised as to whether Marquez could retain the title he won in his rookie year in 2013, especially when he broke his right leg in a crash six weeks before the season started. This meant that he had virtually no time to test the new Repsol Honda machine he would be riding.

These doubts were soon put to one side however; with a pole position and race victory in the first race in Qatar, it was clear that Marquez had lost none of his blistering pace from

his winter crash. No one foresaw that this pace would continue for as long as it did. By the end of Round 10 in Indianapolis, Marquez had achieved an astonishing 10 consecutive race victories, eight of these starting from pole position, and

leaving the rest of the field struggling to keep him in sight.

A fourth place in Brno ended the young Spaniard's historic winning streak however, and with the realisation that

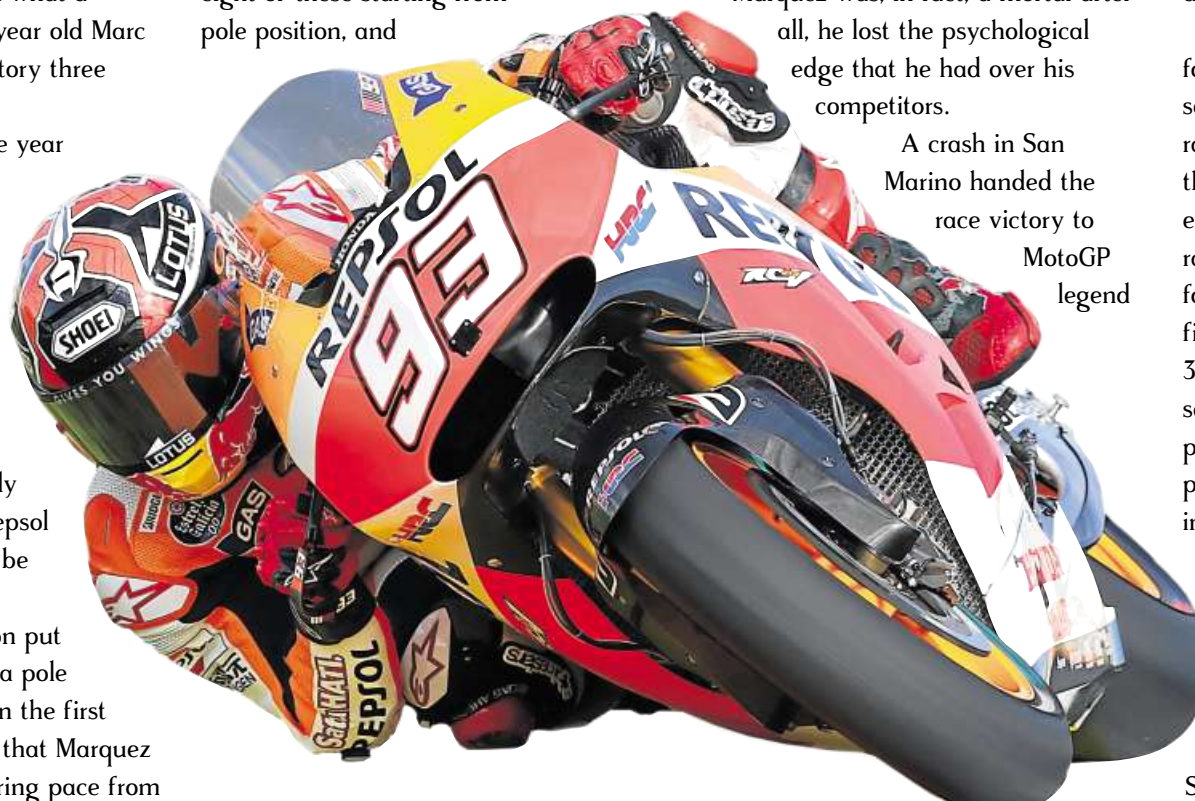
Marquez was, in fact, a mortal after all, he lost the psychological edge that he had over his competitors.

A crash in San Marino handed the race victory to
MotoGP legend

Valentino Rossi, a record 18 years after his first win in 1996. A poor decision to stay out on dry tyres at Aragon when rain began to fall highlighted his relative inexperience in premier class racing, despite his successes.

Second place in Japan was enough for Marquez to secure the title for a second consecutive season with three races remaining, and his victory at the final round in Valencia was the end of an incredible year for a young racer who looks to dominate the sport for many years to come. Other racers finished the season strongly, with the 35 year old veteran Rossi finishing second in the championship with 295 points to Marquez's 362. To put this into perspective, Rossi won the championship in 2004 with just 304 points, which goes some way to explain the consistency he has achieved.

Next year will be a season to watch, with riders knowing they will have to push themselves to the very limit in order to beat the young Spanish sensation.





Non-League sides provide FA Cup shocks

Nancy Gillen
Football

The FA Cup returned last weekend with the prospect of some potentially famous shocks.

Whilst the modern, corporate game can leave some fans feeling cold, the first round of fixtures provided supporters with moments of true FA Cup magic.

The weekend's opener produced a classic shock, as non-league Warrington (the lowest-ranked team in the competition) beat Exeter, a team 100 places above them. If that wasn't enough to reignite a sceptic's love of cup football, the scorer of the winning goal also works as a plasterer.

Other highlights of the round included Conference North side Worcester City beating Coventry City of League One 2-1, the team that had previously won the competition in 1987. Coventry manager Steven Pressley described the defeat as 'one of the worst in the club's history.'

Blyth Spartans from the Northern Premier League, the 7th tier of English football, also made it into the second round after comfortably beating Conference side Altrincham 4-1. The Spartans are

no stranger to an FA Cup run of course, after reaching the third round back in 2008/09 after victories over both Shrewsbury and Bournemouth and even went as far as the fifth round back in the 1970s.

League Two team Portsmouth, who lifted the trophy in 2008, were nine minutes from suffering an upset against Conference club Aldershot before Danny Hollands managed to nod home an equaliser to force a replay and spare the blushes of the Portsmouth players.

Other teams

through to the second round of the cup include Bradford City – who came from behind to secure their place against Yorkshire rivals Halifax – Scunthorpe United, Chesterfield, Colchester, Gateshead and Wrexham. Maidstone United and Stevenage will play again after a 0-0 draw, with the same score line in the Notts County and Accrington Stanley match also producing a replay.

The draw for the second round has produced some tough fixtures for the lower league teams. Underdogs Warrington and Worcester face Gateshead and Scunthorpe United respectively, both away from home. Their fans can only hope for even more thrills and surprises, the type of which you can only get in the FA Cup.



All Blacks hunting Four Nations glory

Peter White
Rugby League

The rugby league season comes to a close on Saturday with defending champions Australia and their arch-rivals New Zealand facing a bruising encounter in search for the 2014 Four Nations title.

New Zealand enter the final stage unbeaten in their three games so far in the competition and they will be confident that they can claim their second Four Nations trophy after they comfortably beat the Kangaroos 30-12 in Brisbane at the end of October. However, the Kiwis will be wary of the world champions and will certainly not be

getting carried away after just scraping past England last weekend.

Despite some commanding performances in their three games, there is no place for Steve McNamara's men in Wellington. After their controversial defeat to Australia earlier this month in which a last-gasp Ryan Hall try was cruelly ruled out, they pushed New Zealand all the way last Saturday but fell just short despite a late flurry.

McNamara has since vented his frustration about coming so close to glory, but throughout the tournament there have been vastly encouraging signs about this young England side. Leeds Rhinos winger Ryan Hall extended his

record try haul to 24 in just 23 appearances, while an exciting, explosive brand of rugby has been present throughout the campaign. With some exciting talent such as Dan Sarginson and Joe Burgess coming through the ranks, England's future certainly looks bright.

While our boys prepare for the long journey home, the attention



of the rugby league world now turns to the final between the two highest ranked teams in the sport. New Zealand skipper Thomas Leuluai is set to miss out with a shoulder injury and will be replaced by Issac Luke in the side's only change, while Australia coach Tim Sheens has stuck with the XIII that thumped Samoa 44-18 last Sunday. While a

breath-taking match is anticipated, it is hoped that the game befits the occasion that will mark the last rugby league action of 2014.

England looking to past Slovenian test

Daniel Nixon
Football

Having cruised through their group so far, England play host to a high flying Slovenia side on Saturday.

Following their victory over Switzerland last month, the Slovenians pose potentially the greatest threat to England's hopes of clinching top spot. They sit a rosy second in group E with six points – three behind England. The Three Lions, however, will certainly be hoping for a victory that would take their record in the campaign to four wins on the trot.

Despite the importance of the game,

pre-match build up has once again concentrated on the condition of the Wembley pitch. Last week's American football match seems to have left the field in an unacceptable state. England coach Roy Hodgson has expressed his disagreement with the timing of the game and has stated that he is angered by FA officials. However, if England can't roll the Slovenian team over comfortably at home, something is surely significantly worse than the condition of the pitch.

Captain Wayne Rooney is set to make his 100th cap for England – something which has flown round in

a blink of an eye. There may also be a start for new boy Saido Berahino. The Baggie has been in supreme form this season and after having scored seven goals so far this year, he has truly earned his England call-up. In fact, so far this season the

young starlet has scored more goals than Rooney, Danny Welbeck and Rickie Lambert combined.

After disappointing attendances at the last



two home games against Norway and San Marino, FA officials claim a crowd of over 80,000 will be present this time out, a statement that seems hard to believe after the disappointment of the summer's World Cup. Perhaps the top-of-the-table clash is just too tempting for the country's population.

England head into the match as strong favourites as they look to keep their handsome qualification run alive, within which they have not yet conceded. A win would see the home side sit six points clear at the top of group E, which even at this early stage would all but seal qualification to the 2016 European Championships.



Snowriders shine in season opener



Andrew Ness
Leeds Snowriders

Last weekend 40 Leeds Snowriders made the journey up to Edinburgh for the British University Dry Slope Championships (BUDS), the first national competition of the year. The

Championships proved to be the most successful competition in the club's recent history, with the squad taking home more BUCS points from this one event than they have done in the last five years combined.

Friday saw strong performances from Chris Debonnaire, Lucy Plenderleith,

Amy Young, Emily Pocock, Pete Wyatt, Chris Rushton and Simon Venn in the individual slalom events. The team's first success came in the board team slalom, where Leeds claimed fourth place following good work from Gillian Finnerty, Ben Cosway, Jake Hauser and Rowan Hargreaves. Finnerty and Cosway

then went on to qualify for the final of the slopestyle.

Day two kicked off with the giant slalom. Again, Leeds' skiers produced some great results with Finnerty and Jake Hauser progressing to the finals of the big air.

In the ski dual slaloms, the second team were knocked out quickly by a very strong team who eventually made it to the top four. Leeds' first team made it all the way to the final eight, but were knocked out by Manchester in a hard fought and very close race. Both teams are showing huge potential for the rest of the year with several big race competitions coming up.

The close of the competition on Saturday night saw some big results from the freestyle team. Hauser finished 11th in the big air, Cosway finished 10th in the slopestyle and Finnerty ran away from the competition to take home gold in both competitions.

This great performance demonstrates that things are looking really good this year for both the racers and freestylers.

Try something new with *Adam LeRoux*

In a week that puts sport into perspective, as thoughts turn to those who died in battle to protect their country rather than the celebrity icons we look up to today, I tested my arm at Krav Maga.

Krav Maga in itself offers up a new perspective to sport; whereas some sports might be joyous in celebration of victory and others may be great as part of a team, Krav offers something more – Krav has the ability to save your life.

With 810 crimes reported within Hyde Park and Headingley in September alone, skills picked up in Krav sessions could well be what saves you if you ever have to deal with an attack. The art of self-defence is something everybody should do given the chance, as the manoeuvres learnt will stay with you for life.

Take the first drill as an example; a simple exercise hitting pads it may look like, but learning to position yourself effectively to catch your opponent off-guard makes it a more testing practice. If you go in with the 'gunslinger'

approach – as I was said to have – you won't be as effective as if you strike your attacker more accurately.

Although it tests you physically, it's worth it, and it really makes you think about scenarios you may face when you aren't in the comfort of a sports hall in The Edge. Learning to escape a headlock was another challenge in the session, something that could happen to anyone after a few too many Jägerbombs in Fruity or an argument with a neighbour. Within four easy steps you've escaped the headlock and can get yourself out of the situation; a turn of the head to stop the choke, turn of the body to stop the attacker moving, a hit to the crown jewels to loosen their grip and finish off by pushing

your opponent's momentum back by pushing their head back by the nose.

From there you may be

thinking you now finish off the attacker, but Krav isn't like your other martial arts where you try to defeat your opponent with violence. The aim is, in instructor James Walker's own words, 'to make a bad situation less bad'. So after the quick fire moves stun your opponent you can scarper, because you never know if your attacker has a weapon or mates lurking round the corner.

Compared to other sports I've tried, there is a huge feeling of accomplishment after completing a Krav Maga session. Not only had I tested myself physically and gained fitness, it was confidence boosting knowing you can protect yourself if there was ever a situation that required it. If you get the chance, get yourself along to a session on Thursday nights 8-9pm at The Edge, I couldn't recommend it enough.



Got a sport for Adam? Email sports@thegryphon.co.uk



Leeds' fightback squashes Bristol's hopes

Sara Merchant
Women's Squash
Leeds Uni 1s 3-2 Bristol 1s

Wednesday at the Gryphon Centre saw the women's squash 1s play their most important match of the season so far against the University of Bristol to determine whether they would be placed in the top or bottom half of the Premiership division. Some fantastic squash saw Leeds narrowly beat their opponents 3-2, meaning that they are now ranked as one of the top four university squash teams nationally.

Anna Davies kicked off the day with her 1st team debut against Sophia Keen and her strong serve took her to an easy 11-0 win in the first game. She continued to play with precision, dictating the match and achieving two more quick wins 11-2 and 11-0 respectively.

On court two Charlotte Humfrey fought well in her match with Rachael Hamp, despite losing 3-0. Hamp was a strong and accurate player, and Humfrey battled well with some close rallies. Next, Joelle Fry had a similar match with her opponent Kimran Bajwa. Fry played some strong and well-placed shots but Bajwa was also playing well, moving Joelle around the court and leading Bristol to a win which gave them a 2-1 advantage.

The atmosphere was tense as Leeds' number 1 Sam Ward went on court with the team 2-1 down and number 2 Jess Watson being held 1-1 in a close battle. Watson held the pressure brilliantly - her volley boasts and precise drives put her opponent Katie Lloyd under stress and despite losing the third game, she fought back tirelessly to win the fourth and fifth games to take the overall score to 2-2.

It was now all down to team captain



Sam Broadley ©

Sam Ward to bring home a Leeds win. Ward played confidently, taking control of the T and achieving a well-deserved 3-0 win. This meant that Leeds won 3-2 and

now find themselves in the top half of the Premiership division. This was a great result and a truly fantastic performance from all five players.

Cup heartache at hands of arch rivals

Kayley Dickinson
Women's Football
Leeds Uni 2s 2-5 Leeds Beckett 3s

A thrilling local derby saw University of Leeds 2s knocked out of the Cup by Leeds Beckett 3s after extra time.

Uni dominated the opening 20 minutes of the game, but couldn't convert any of their chances. They went on to rue this as Beckett then opened the scoring ten minutes later with a goal that came completely against the run of play. Uni heads consequently dropped and they struggled to regain

the form that they had shown in the opening periods of the match.

The Gryphons went into half-time 1-0 down, and the frustration was evident amongst the players, who knew that they had been the better team in the opening half. The beginning of the second half mirrored the end of the first as Beckett came out firing, looking to extend their lead, and they duly did so on 50 minutes. Uni keeper and captain Gaby Noe pulled off some wonderful saves to keep her side in the game, and the rest of the team seemed inspired by her performance. They got a goal back

on 65 minutes through a superb lob over Beckett's keeper from the edge of the box. This seemed to lift Uni's spirits as they continued to push forward. They began forcing Beckett into more mistakes as the match wore on, and took advantage of one of these on the 75th minute to draw level.

Following this, Uni were the better team and had several opportunities to put the game to bed. They failed to capitalise however, and a thrilling game went to extra time. At this point, the fatigue of both teams was evident, but they continued to battle hard for

each other, with neither side willing to give up. Early on in extra time, Beckett scored with a superb strike from the edge of the box. Following this, they adopted a more defensive formation, which paid off as Uni's chances were limited. The game continued to be end-to-end, but Beckett were now in the ascendancy and scored two late goals to put the game beyond a wonderful Uni team. Captain Gaby Noe spoke after the match of how proud her players had made her feel from start to finish; this sense of pride was fully justified by the performance.

BUCS review: Strong week for Gryphons

Adam LeRoux

This week saw many cup fixtures for the Uni sides, with mixed success across the board.

The rugby union 4s made the most of their weak opposition by strolling to a 60-10 victory against a poor Leeds Trinity side. A more difficult fixture was in store for the hockey 2s as they travelled to Hull to face their first team, and although the Gryphons haven't

mustered a victory in the league this year they came away from Humberside with a well-earned 3-2 victory.

In the league, the men's badminton 1s are still searching for their first win of the season after defeat to Liverpool 1s which leaves them rooted to the bottom of the table.

The women's lacrosse 1s are finding life similarly difficult after promotion to the Premier North division this year and an 18-1 defeat to league leaders Durham

compounded their misery.

Things couldn't be more different for the netball 2s, as they added to their three game winning streak in the league by thrashing Salford 1s 62-24 in the cup. Strong shooting performances by Clare Steele and Sarah Hayne saw the Gryphons ease comfortably into the next round.

The performance of the week has to go to the netball 5s after an amazing 85-0 victory against Teesside 3s; the

girls were superior in every single area of the pitch as they eased to victory.

Attention now turns to next week and the men's volleyball side will be looking to continue their unbeaten start to the season at home to Newcastle, whilst the men's fencing team will also be looking to remain undefeated in a tough clash with Liverpool 2s. Match of the week has to be the Varsity rematch in the rugby union as the Gryphons look to avenge their defeat at Headingley.



Leeds meet their match in netball

Charlotte Stones

Netball

Leeds Uni 1s 31-47 Manchester 1s

The University of Leeds netball 1s fell short against a tough Manchester side in a game that could have gone either way.

A high scoring match was on the cards from the off after Manchester's high speed saw the ball travel straight through to the semicircle and into the net within the opening seconds of the game. Leeds came straight back with three goals, unfazed by the intimidating height of their opponents' defence. Patience proved a successful technique for Leeds, winning them valuable space on court. However, stern Manchester pressure left little chance for goal defence Gray and goal keeper Potter as Manchester scored six goals in the closing minutes of the first quarter.

Leeds came out fighting at the start of the second quarter and started to focus properly. The Gryphons once again used their patience to their advantage, with dummy passes and long balls across the semi-circle

confusing Manchester's defence. Determination and high quality netball put Leeds ahead at half time with a score of 20-18. Falling just short of a win has been Leeds' downfall in recent weeks, yet another close score left everything to play for.

Leeds got off to a strong start in the third quarter with goal shooter Crosbie scoring in the opening minute. Clever passing in the semicircle between Crosbie and goal attack Horridge avoided the issue of Manchester's height advantage, with expertly timed passes bringing further goals.

Returning to the court for the final quarter, neither team was ready to give up. Leeds showed their fitness as they kept up with an unusually fast-paced game set by Manchester, but it was to their credit that they slowed the game when in possession of the ball. Playing high up the

court was a risky strategy for Leeds, as they pushed closer to Manchester's attacking third. Manchester began to look stronger and stronger and mistakes from the Gryphons gave them several chances to break away, bringing a final score of 47-31.

The result proved an unlucky

loss for Leeds, who looked like a well put-together team, remaining focused on their own performances despite aggressive play from their opponents. The side must now take these positives into their next match at home to Loughborough 1s as they look to get their season back on track.



Anne Wyman ©

Sunderland seen off in cup clash

Nancy Gillen

Men's Table Tennis

Leeds Uni 2s 12-5 Sunderland 1s

The Leeds 2s are through to the next round of the BUCS Northern Conference Cup after recording an impressive victory over Sunderland's 1st team in the table tennis, winning 12 games to Sunderland's five, and showing real skill in doing so.

The afternoon started off well for the Gryphons, when the Wearside outfit turned up with only three players instead of the required four, meaning that Leeds were already 4-0 up before the fixture had even started, providing the team with an extra boost of confidence.

The team of Bobby Crossley, Reza Kalantar, Harry Morris and Matt Hazelwood then went on to dominate proceedings in a calm and assured way to ensure their progression through to the next round. Crossley powered to

victory against all of his opponents and the other Leeds players all managed to win at least one of their games, with many notable victories in straight games occurring throughout the afternoon.

However, despite the initial forfeit which set them on the back foot, the Sunderland players did not give up and showed real perseverance to either run Uni close or win a game themselves and grab a point back for their team, which they managed several times. Nonetheless, the Leeds players' superiority still shone through and managed to mostly overcome this resistance.

The most closely-fought and entertaining contest came right at the end in the final game, when the fixture was rounded off with a doubles match. The Sunderland duo facing the Leeds pairing of Crossley and Hazelwood put up a good fight, and were determined to gain another point, but were beaten 3-2 in the end after an excellent encounter.

This topped off a brilliant afternoon for the University of Leeds 2s, and it is hoped that the team can bring that performance into the next round and

progress even further. For now, the team's attention will turn to next week's league fixture away to a competitive Salford 1s side.



Sam Broadley ©



Newcastle stay unbeaten as Leeds suffer heavy loss



Sam Lewis ©

Adam LeRoux
Women's Basketball
Leeds Uni Is 40-77 Newcastle Is

The women's basketball team's promotion dreams suffered a major setback this week, after a dominant display by visitors Newcastle saw the Gryphons fall to a 75-40 defeat.

Leeds' season had started brightly with two wins out of two, but defeat last week to Bangor and another here leaves the side in third, having played a game more than the two teams above them.

Newcastle came into the game unbeaten, and it was clear to see why; right from the off they put the pressure on Leeds, sinking a three-point attempt seconds after the tip-off. Within the first two minutes the visitors had established

an 11-4 lead, but an exceptional three-point attempt from Poppy Jenner kept the hosts within touching distance.

A Newcastle timeout followed, and from then on they never looked back. The Tyneside outfit were much more effective with the ball in their hands than their opponents, springing from one end of the court to the other within seconds. This fast-thinking approach was ultimately what led to Leeds' demise, as a hard-fought basket for the Gryphons would be cancelled out almost immediately.

Before the half-time hooter had even sounded the deficit was already 20 points, as the visitors capitalised on errors by the home side with clinical finishing.

Newcastle were moving the ball superbly once they reached the top of the key, with Kelly Robinson pulling the strings. To make a no-look pass seem so easy shows the immense talent she possesses, and Newcastle made the most of her quality, as a lot of the play seemed to go

through her. The Leeds defence were understandably drawn to Robinson, but her quick hands almost always managed to find a free teammate for a scoring attempt.

With the half-time score 37-19 the Gryphons weren't completely out of it, and a few early baskets from Sophie Jordan saw the home side close the lead. Leeds must have been hoping the small size of the Newcastle squad would work in their favour as the half went on, but despite only having two substitutes the visitors pushed on throughout the third and fourth quarter.

As the Gryphons got more desperate for points, it played right into their opponents' hands, as with each missed attempt they broke and added to the lead. Isobel Johns was instrumental in the game plan, as her excellent close dribble control would time and time again carve through the Leeds defence.

Some cheap baskets towards the end added a bit of gloss to the scoreline for Newcastle, although it is hard to say they didn't deserve their win here. Leeds, meanwhile, will be looking to regain their early-season form and get their campaign back on track when they face Lancaster next week. ■

Leeds	Stats	Newcastle
24	Defensive Rebounds	11
13	Offensive Rebounds	7
5/14	Free Throw Success	9/17

Results



Badminton 1s (M) 3-5 Liverpool 1s
Badminton 2s (M) 7-1 York 2s
Badminton 3s (M) 0-8 Sheffield 2s (Cup)
Badminton 1s (W) 2-6 Birmingham 1s
Badminton 2s (W) 6-2 Liverpool JM 1s (Cup)

Basketball (W) 40-77 Newcastle 1s

Fencing (W) 129-122 Manchester 1s

Football 1s (M) 3-0 Sheffield 3s (Cup)
Football 2s (M) 3-2 Huddersfield 1s
Football 4s (M) 3-2 YSJ 2s (Plate)
Football 2s (W) 2-5 (AET) Leeds Beckett 3s (Cup)

Hockey 1s (M) 0-5 Durham 1s
Hockey 2s (M) 3-2 Hull 1s (Cup)
Hockey 5s (M) 0-10 Northumbria 1s (Cup)
Hockey 1s (W) 0-3 Durham 1s
Hockey 5s (W) 3-2 MMU Cheshire 1s

Lacrosse 1s (W) 1-18 Durham 1s
Lacrosse 2s (W) 17-2 York 2s (Cup)

Netball 1s 31-47 Manchester 1s
Netball 2s 62-24 Salford 1s
Netball 3s 46-39 Keele 1s (Cup)
Netball 6s 85-0 Teesside 3s (Cup)

Rugby League 1s 48-18 Liverpool JM 1s

Rugby Union 2s (M) 36-8 Lancaster 1s
Rugby Union 4s (M) 60-10 Leeds Trinity 1s (Cup)

Squash 1s (M) 4-1 (12-6) York 1s
Squash 2s (M) 0-3 (4-9) Leeds Beckett 2s (Cup)
Squash 3s (M) 3-0 (9-1) Manchester Met 2s (Cup)
Squash 1s (W) 3-2 (14-8) Bristol 1s (Playoff)

Table Tennis 2s (M) 12-5 Sunderland 1s (Cup)

Tennis 1s (M) 12-0 Chester 1s
Tennis 2s (M) 12-0 Sheffield Hallam 2s (Cup)
Tennis 1s (W) 8-4 Manchester 1s
Tennis 2s (W) 4-8 Liverpool 1s (Cup)
Tennis 3s (W) 2-10 Durham 5s (Cup)

Volleyball (W) 3-1 Huddersfield 1st (Cup)

Waterpolo (M) 16-5 St Andrews 1s
Waterpolo (W) 8-14 Sheffield Hallam 1s



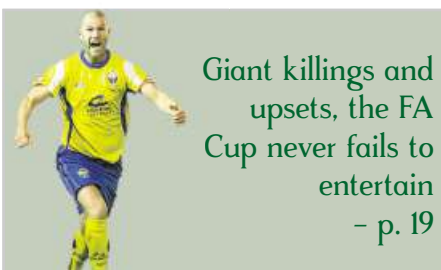
Could the netball
Is kickstart their
season against a
tough Manchester
side? – p. 22



The women's
basketball side
faced a stern test
when Newcastle
came to town
– p. 23



Giant killings and
upsets, the FA
Cup never fails to
entertain
– p. 19



England narrowly miss
out on final as
the Four Nations
comes to a close
on Saturday
– p. 19



Carlotta Grimaldi ©

Leeds progress after convincing Northern Conference Cup victory

● Danny Cunningham continues great goalscoring form ● Away trip to Bangor awaits for victorious Gryphons in last 16

Euan Cunningham
Men's Football
Leeds Uni 1s 3-0 Sheffield 2s

On a sunny autumn afternoon at Weetwood, Leeds football men's 1s fought their way past a dogged Sheffield 3s to progress to the next round of the Cup.

After a cagey start, with both teams solid at the back and cautiously testing each other's midfield, Leeds gradually began to take control after around 20 minutes. The midfield were regularly spraying the ball out to the wings, and striker Danny Cunningham was buzzing around up front, causing the Sheffield defence all sorts of problems. After two thumping Mike Stockdale headers from inswinging corners which just cleared the bar, Uni scored that all-important first

goal after 31 minutes.

A ball through midfield eventually fell to Cunningham around 35 yards from goal, with only the two centre-backs to beat. Accelerating into the penalty area, he twisted and turned past the defenders to find a yard of space before clipping a very neat finish past the Sheffield goalie, who had no chance.

Instead of then keeping it tight in the 15 minutes before half-time, Uni looked keen to go and get that second goal which would surely end the game as a contest. Stockdale, Cunningham and winger Archie Christie were all taking the game to Sheffield, but were just unable to produce that final pass or shot that was needed to double the lead. Half-time arrived with the score at 1-0, but with Uni well aware that a slip-up in the

second half could be fatal.

The Gryphons started the second half well, with the defence constantly taking the ball off the Sheffield forwards and then starting attacks, meaning the pressure was soon back on the ever-busy opposition rearguard.

It was ironic then that the vital second goal came from a Sheffield set-piece. After the cross was cleared out to a Leeds forward, a slick and pacy counter-attack brought the play right to the edge of the Sheffield box, where a neat through-ball from Stockdale sent Christie one-on-one with the keeper. A controlled, curling finish into the far corner did the rest and made it 2-0.

From here on Uni had the relatively simple task of seeing off a Sheffield attack that worked their socks off, but

failed to pose any serious problems to the Leeds defenders. Alex Davies was in good form at the heart of that backline, and they made sure that there were no late scares for the home side. The Gryphons were also looking good on the break, with several late substitutes combining with 10 minutes to go and setting up a late third goal. A ball across the six-yard box caused havoc amongst the Sheffield defence, and with the defender facing his own goal, an attempt at a sliding clearance went horribly wrong.

Although Uni perhaps lacked the fluency up front that they have displayed at various other points in the season, Leeds were easily good enough to beat a lower-league Sheffield 3s, and advance to the next round of the Cup.