



theboar

Student Publication of the Year 2013



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Wednesday 2nd October, 2013

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To game, or not to game at uni

Fresh anxiety: no room on campus

- 200 undergraduates asked to share rooms on campus at the start of term due to course oversubscription
- Some postgraduates have been put up in University conference facilities and in a hotel in Coventry
- The Students' Union has accused the University of putting potentially vulnerable students at risk

FULL



» A number of students are being made to share permanent accommodation in Sherbourne, Benefactors and Rootes, and temporary rooms in Westwood. Photo: Sian Elvin

George Ryan

A shortage of bedrooms on campus has left many students arriving at the University this week finding out that they are sharing a room.

Over 340 students have been asked to share rooms on campus. Around 140 have been allocated permanent twin bedrooms in Sherbourne, Benefactors and Rootes and 200 are temporarily sharing a room in Westwood.

Many postgraduate students have been left without a permanent room on campus and are tempo-

rarily being put up in Felden, part of the University's conference facilities.

Others are being housed in a hotel in Coventry.

This year the rules around the clearing process changed, which allowed universities to take on unlimited numbers of students who achieved AAB or higher in their A Levels.

Peter Dunn, the University's head of communications, acknowledged that there are more students at Warwick this year than in previous years, but the University is unable to give a clear figure until later in the term once it is known how

many students will complete their first term.

Mr Dunn stated: "It is because we appeared to be an outstanding popular choice in clearing this year we actually had to pull out of clearing after just 12 hours of operating our clearing hotline."

Cat Turhan, welfare and campaigns officer at Warwick Students' Union (SU), has expressed concern about the situation: "We are deeply concerned about this development, particularly as we feel these arrangements put vulnerable students at risk."

"We believe that this has arisen because the departments within

the University have overreached on places and have not accounted for the impact that this has on student welfare during the crucial first term, and year, of study at Warwick.

"This is a grave oversight, and is especially worrying for international postgraduates who do not have the support network in this country to overcome the practical and emotional difficulties this situation is likely to carry with it."

Ms Turhan added that postgraduate students who are being temporarily housed in conference facilities and a hotel are being asked to move out in three weeks.

"They are expected to have made

friends in that time and find a privately owned house independently within that time.

"This is not an easy task given the lack of private accommodation now available so soon to the start of term.

"Students have already resorted to signing risky and costly contracts for houses advertised on the internet."

Shatarupa Saham, a first-year student who will be sharing a bedroom in Westwood, is pleased by the situation: "I'm actually quite happy about the room-mate situation."

Continued on page 5

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warwick arts centre

Coventry University: league table adversity

Former polytechnic is quickly climbing national and international league tables



» The University has gone from strength to strength in recent years photo: Flickr/ Herry

Rosanna Hiscock

Both the University of Warwick and Coventry University have been ranked highly in the QS World University Rankings 2013.

The University of Warwick re-

45th

Coventry's ranking in UK-wide Times Good University Guide

tains its high academic status as one of the top ten universities in the UK, and the top West Midlands university in the newly combined Times and Sunday Times Guide.

It has been the sixteenth year running that the University has topped the Times and Sunday Times university rankings for the Midlands region.

The Times and Sunday Times said of the University: "The University of Warwick is still the top dog in the West Midlands.

"The most successful of the baby boomer universities of the 1960s, Warwick has never been outside of the top ten in the Sunday Times or the Times university league tables – a feat it has managed to maintain in the new combined guide.

"It also ranks third globally in the new top 50 universities aged under 50 list in the QS World University Rankings."

Coventry University has also recently been voted the UK's best modern university. The Times Guide ranked Coventry University as 45th in the UK, making it

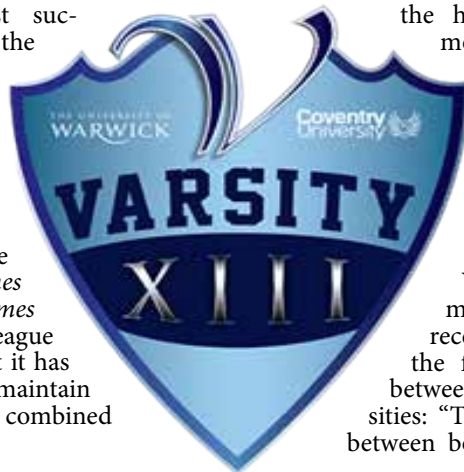
the highest ranking modern university established since 1992.

One second-year English Literature student at Warwick commented on the recent figures and the friendly rivalry between both universities: "The competition between both universities

is all a bit of fun... This certainly shows that Coventry [isn't] afraid of catching up with Warwickers!"

The universities are often seen to compete in sporting and social events such as the annual Varsity sporting competition during the Spring term.

Coventry student Tom Greene said: "I think that Coventry being awarded this accolade will certainly raise the profile of both the University and the city, and encourage even more people to want to come and study here. Maybe Warwick won't be as smug now and will take Coventry more seriously."



Is Coventry Uni really catching up with Warwick? Tell us on Facebook

Warwick opens new £5 million Phytobiology facility

Robin James Kerrison

Warwick University's latest state-of-the-art Phytobiology facility opened on main campus earlier this month.

The Phytobiology Facility represents a £5 million investment from the University into food security research and is operated by the School of Life Sciences.

The two-storey building consists of a 'GroDome' located above 'controlled environment chambers'. The futuristic GroDome, developed by Unigro, is designed to be four times more energy-efficient than traditional glasshouses.

Features of the GroDome include a heating and cooling system through which temperature is controlled entirely by manipulating airflow and a polycarbonate roof which insulates better than glass.

The new facility complements the School of Life Science's existing Warwick Crop Centre based at

Wellesbourne, which has a more traditional glasshouse.

The research conducted by School of Life Sciences in the GroDome and the controlled environment chambers will look to develop sustainable food sources in the light of the planet's burgeoning population.

Professor Brian Thomas, deputy head of the School of Life Sciences, told the Boar that the new facility is "probably more suited to some of the research projects where you perhaps better temperature control in the glasshouse than you would get at Wellesbourne."

On the importance of integration with other departments, he said: "The idea was to move the plant scientists to main campus because nowadays plant science is very multidisciplinary."

One potential goal of the research conducted in the Phytobiology Facility is to lead scientists "to understand plants' natural defences against diseases and how we can use plant genetics in particular to

get plants which have resistance to diseases," Professor Thomas added.

Vice-Chancellor Nigel Thrift has also stressed the importance of research into sustainable food production and the elimination of

world hunger: "As a University we intend to rise to our part of that challenge.

"This £5 million investment sends a clear signal of how serious we are about this."



» The Phytobiology facility opposite Claycroft. Photo: Sian Elvin

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theboar

Student Publication of the Year 2013



Welcome Meetings

Wednesday - Weeks 2 & 3

in H0.52 | 14.00 - 15.00

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*your student newspaper***



Leam club 'evolves' into Neon

The nightclub Evolve has been given a make-over and new name

Flo Forster

The popular Leamington nightclub Evolve has been renovated, and relaunched itself as Neon on Saturday September 21.

Although the club organisers refused to comment on the exact changes, the *Boar* has learned that the club is equipped with a new light and soundsystem, as well as a dramatically different interior decor.

The biggest student event at the club will still be Jagermonster on a Friday night, running in Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The new club will showcase new student DJs in the front room and the main room will still be playing house/commercial music.

Warwick students had mixed responses to the renovations.

Some agreed that Evolve had been in need of revamp.

One criticised the bathrooms and smoking area.

Pascale Dorey, a second-year Politics, Philosophy and Economics student said:

"I would say that Evolve is probably the biggest nightclub in Leamington, so they could definitely invest in better and bigger bathrooms, bars and smoking area".

Some students also dislike how sweaty and cramped the main room was in busy periods.

"It gets a bit uncomfortable some nights, so a new layout could help

solve that problem" said Luke Cohen, a third year Maths student.

On the club's official Facebook page, locals and students had questioned whether the the poles in the upstairs room would be continue to be a permanent fixture – but club organisers declined to comment.

"I think they should keep them [the poles]," said Luke, "It makes a nice change from the normal dancing in the other part of the club, and it's entertaining."

One second-year EPAIS student who did not want to be named, welcomed the renovations, commenting that the former club lacked "soul and style".

There were also questions raised over the new name. Abi Awojobi

a third-year currently on Erasmus in Berlin said: "The name Neon just suggests the nights are going to be even more gaudy and tasteless. Evolve indicated a possibility for change.

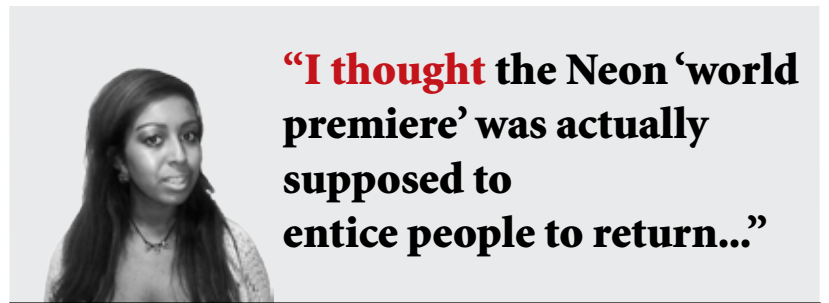
"That said, if I were in Leamington this year I would go to the launch night to check it out. It might surprise us all."

Second-year Politics Philosophy and Economics student Raphael Levy is also pessimistic: "Clubs are sweaty, cramped, alcohol filled places that should all be outlawed" he said.

"Frankly, renaming it doesn't change the fact that it is sweaty, cramped and alcohol filled nor mean that it shouldn't be outlawed."



» Evolve has been refurbished and is now Neon. Photo: Michael Allen



Georgina Lawton

"I thought the Neon 'world premiere' was actually supposed to entice people to return..."

Neon's grand opening night on Saturday September 21 cemented the club's position as the most memorable student haunt in Leamington Spa.

Indeed there is something quite unforgettable about the iced-up overpriced drinks, Euro-house playlist on repeat, and congested cattle-mart like dance floor in the main room.

It almost feels as if I have been here before. In fact, it is almost as if there has been no marked changed-from Evolve whatsoever.

Apart from replacing the wall in the front room with a glass panel (presumably so you can witness how unbearably sweaty the main dance area is before condemning yourself to an evening elbowing past the side-steppers), removing the dancing poles upstairs, and plastering the bathrooms with the gaudy, Vice-Citiesque 'Neon' logo – it is pretty much the same soulless nightclub.

To avoid public outcry the club has been adorned with a plethora of tacky lights – to match their name, geddit?

Lights that would not look out of place at a Laser Quest branch, or

maybe an 80s strip club.

Presumably that is the theme the owners were trying to emulate when they chose to illuminate the phrase "you make my cock hard" in purple lights on the far left wall.

And what kind of club has a launch night with no drinks deals? If anything, prices seem to have gone up, along with the number of ice cubes per drink.

Maybe that's my fault for expecting to pay anything less than £3 for a vodka mixer on a Saturday night, but I thought the Neon "world premiere" was actually supposed to entice people to return.

Even one of the bouncers commented: "It's exactly the same club, innit."

However, in a somewhat egalitarian move, Neon has stated on their facebook page that "there will be no more VIP bollocks". It's nice to know that at least we're all being collectively mugged off now.

What do you think of Neon?



Tweet: @BoarNews
#NeonLeamington

PAIS students complain that exam feedback is unacceptable

Many have said that the feedback was delivered late, not at all, had marks changed or had spelling mistakes

Sian Elvin

Students who took modules in the Politics and International Studies (PAIS) department last year have complained about the quality of their exam feedback.

Many students believe that the department has failed to deliver acceptable feedback, with some receiving it late or not at all.

The module Introduction to Politics, or PO107, generated the most negative response from disgruntled students, particularly those who were in their second year at the time of taking the exam.

One of these students was a Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) undergraduate, who anonymously told the *Boar*: "I've contacted the PPE and the PAIS office in person and by email, but have received very vague responses.

"Someone told me that I should not expect to receive feedback until October, which is unacceptable. Imagine if I'd been someone who had to re-sit and I couldn't access

feedback before that! The PAIS department have a deadline which they've set themselves, and this has already passed.

"In my opinion, all students should receive feedback on the same day, and if they haven't got it for all, they should release it for none. PO107 is not an enormously popular module and there is no excuse for this."

Another second-year student said he received immediate feedback for the World Politics module, but nothing about PO107 for weeks.

The *Boar* contacted the PAIS department about the issue. Chris Hughes, the head of department, Andrew Reeve, the director of learning, teaching and assessment, and Justin Greave, the director of student experience and progression, responded saying that the department had actually met the deadline for the return of second-year marks, which was the week beginning July 15.

The department said that a number of students had misinterpreted the deadline date, and had thought that the deadline was July 15 itself.

They claimed that others wrongly assumed that exam feedback is covered by the University's 20 working day turnaround policy: "Finally, we only release marks and then feedback close together – when the marks have completed their journey through the internal and external moderation processes – as we consider this best practice.

"All students should receive feedback on the same day."

PAIS undergraduate

"This may be a little later than other departments that issue feedback with either no mark or unconfirmed provisional marks.

"This means that if students are given PAIS marks earlier by other departments' systems they can only be provisional."

They insisted that if anyone did not receive feedback on time and had contacted the department about the issue, it was rectified immediately.

However, others complained that the problem was not only about the

timing of feedback, but that marks had been changed in many cases, and some of the comments contained spelling mistakes or were completely illegible.

Another student who has taken a module in the department said: "The feedback was given quite late, and the department didn't provide any precise information before that.

"Most of the marks that were initially given to outside students through their own departments at the end of June were later changed – it is the case for me and two friends of mine, but I have also seen PPE students complaining about it on Facebook.

"Personally I was more bothered by the change of mark than by the delay."

An Economics, Politics and International Studies student commented: "I had some spelling mistakes in my PO107 feedback which was frustrating, as I feel that in subjects like Politics, being advanced in English is essential for grasping linguistic nuances in an essay."

The department did not comment on the changed marks or

spelling mistakes, but added: "We have been pursuing a policy of continuous improvement in the delivery of feedback.

"As part of the improvement strategy, we look forward to sharing their reports with the Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) and discussing further enhancements.

"We also look forward to discussions with the faculty representative about the outcomes of his recent survey of departmental practices."

Social Science Faculty SSLC Representative Miguel Costa Matos said: "The department's cluelessness about how many students had or had not received feedback is unacceptable.

"PAIS blames students for not communicating the issue, but the burden of making sure that feedback is sent is on the department, not students.

"While it's excellent that PAIS offers individual exam feedback, it needs to make sure they keep the standards expected of a world-class department.

"We, the students, will settle for no less."

Warwick transport cheaper than UK average

Nine out of ten respondents told the *Boar* that they spend between £200 and £300

Rachel Meehan

Four out of five full time undergraduate students live off campus and spend an average of £600 a year on their university commute, according to research from Santander Current Accounts.

Although this means that the average student spends around £50 a month on their commute, the research adds that 13 percent of off-campus students spend around double that amount.

However, research conducted by the *Boar* suggests that the average cost of commuting is far less for off-campus students at the University of Warwick.

Asked to calculate how much they spent last academic year on commuting to and from campus, nine out of every ten respondents gave the answer between £200 and £299.99.

The Warwick respondents included postgraduate as well as undergraduate students and most specified that they normally used the Stagecoach Bus services.

However, only around a third of Warwick respondents felt that the amount they paid to commute was "acceptable".

42.1 percent and 26.3 percent considered the amount to be "high" and "very high" respectively. Many

of the respondents felt that the buses were unreliable and frequently late.

The Santander research also found that the average off-campus student faces a 22-mile round trip to lectures.

13 percent of off-campus students travel more than 40 miles in a day to attend university, which may explain why some students spend over £100 per month on commuting.

Despite the cost and distances, 20 percent of students living away from home said they were considering accommodation further away from their university campus for this academic year to save money.

Hetal Parmar, Banking Head of Santander, commented: "Not all students can afford to live near their university and many face a time-consuming and costly commute."

"The cost of attending university puts most students under a great deal of financial pressure, so having to cover the rising cost of transport is likely to be a real burden."

Santander's findings are based on a recent YouthSight survey of 1,000 full time undergraduate students and 2010/11 Higher Education Statistics Agency data on the total number of these students in the UK.

Using that data, the report calculates that the collective cost of

student commuting is £640 million per year.

Santander is offering a four-year Railcard to full time students who open a student current account with them.

Their research also found that one in seven off-campus students now commute to university by train.



» Many off-campus students use the train. Photo: Flickr/ dichuhecho

Capacity of campus full

Continued from front page

"It's kind of American and I get a shot at having a 'best friend' for the first time ever, whatever that term entails. It's also half the rent."

Yaschal Rao, another first-year student sharing in Sherbourne, said: "At first I wasn't keen on the idea because I'm not the most sociable of people, but then saw it as a potential gift because at least that's one person I'll know immediately and I get a roommate for the first time."

Students sharing in Westwood will be offered the chance of moving to a single room as soon as they become available on campus. Stu-

"[I] saw it as a potential gift because at least that's one person I'll know immediately and I get a roommate for the first time."

Yaschal Rao, first-year student

dents in shared rooms also pay a reduced rate of rent.

Those who are in temporary accommodation have been allocated £75 on their 'Eating at Warwick' cards for each week that they have been affected.

Ben Sundell, president at Warwick SU, said: "Whilst I can understand the real difficulties of managing applications through clearing, the University needs to be a lot more stringent in making sure that it doesn't oversubscribe."

"If it does want to increase student numbers, it needs to find a much more robust way of ensuring enrolments are matched by adequate accommodation provision for first year undergraduates and international postgraduates."

A number of students have already been asking on the official Warwick Freshers' group if anyone wants to swap rooms.

Any students who wish to move accommodation must discuss the issue with their current residential tutor and fill out an online transfer request form.

This form will become available on the Warwick Accommodation website from Monday 14 October (Week 3 of Term 1).

There is a £35 transfer fee and transfers will only occur if a suitable room becomes available.

However, those who are in temporary shared accommodation, such as Westwood, will not have to pay this fee when a free room becomes available.

The SU suggests that anyone with serious concerns should visit their Advice Centre.

Grant given to Italian job

Samuel Lovett

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has awarded a £1.8 million grant to a project that will examine the development and influence of modern Italian cultures throughout the world.

Italian researchers at Warwick, Jennifer Burns and Loredana Polezzi, will be taking a central role in the research headed by the University of Bristol's Professor Charles Burdett.

The research project will aim to set the precedent for future studies into modern languages hoping to emphasise linguistic and cultural interaction between differing nationalities.

Due to its history of migration, the Italian culture provides "an exceptionally rich example for any study of cultural and linguistic translation," according to Professor Burdett.

Italian communities have been established all over the world from the UK to South America, thus ensuring a great deal of cultural variation for the researchers.

Warwick academics, alongside the Universities of Bristol, St Andrews and QMU, aim to assess the "linguistic and cultural translation" of these communities through

publications and materials including journals, literature and photographs.

The creative responses of community groups living in bilingual or multilingual environments will also be examined to further understanding of cultural and linguistic interaction.

Overall, the project aims to identify the cultural associations formed by each Italian community in the various nations they've settled.

It will additionally seek to enhance public understanding of the role of modern languages and their cultures at both a localised and global scale.

Awarded by the AHRC under its Translating Cultures scheme, the £1.8 million grant will also establish the project as a model for other languages, with a view improving overall communications between varying cultures.

The results of the study will be shared in a series of books to be published, an online website and in a number of international conferences.



Get involved with our team:
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Uni offers free online courses

Andreas Avraam

Warwick University is one of the twenty top UK universities to offer free online courses to anyone around the world.

The degree-level courses will be accessed through an online hub called FutureLearn, a private firm owned by the Open University.

While Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are already very popular across the Atlantic, it is understood that this is the first time a UK organisation has been set up to offer them.

Warwick Business School at Warwick University will be running a course called 'The Mind is Flat: The Shocking Shallowness of Human Psychology.'

Leondrea Tan, a second-year English Literature and Creative Writing undergraduate at Warwick University, thought that the programme could offer many benefits to the international community.

She said: "Yeah, I think they are good! [It] definitely helps the university to reach out and spread its name. It is a good idea to use the internet to encourage learning."

David Bell, vice-chancellor at Reading University, whose course is expected to be based around programming, was enthusiastic about

the project.

"Offering free taster courses online is a no-brainer. Universities shouldn't be afraid to open up teaching and research, either in the UK or beyond."

Learning never stops and as the economy's demand for higher skills rises, universities should be in the vanguard when it comes to providing new opportunities.

"Making courses accessible online, on mobiles and tablets means that people can fit their studying around their lives, rather than their lives around study."

Universities Minister David Wil-

"People can fit their studying around their lives, rather than their lives around study."

David Bell

lets sees the development as "exciting", and believes it is an important step for the UK to stay at the top end of the education scale internationally.

"I encourage all our institutions to explore the opportunities offered by new modes of technology, such as MOOCs."

"This will keep the UK ahead in the global race to deliver education in worldwide markets."



Tell us your experiences of sharing.
Tweet: @BoarNews
#WarwickFreshers

Fewer students granted special exam consideration

Freedom of Information Request reveals that students requiring special exam arrangements has decreased

Sian Elvin
Tom Lewis

There are a decreasing number of students being granted special consideration for their exams, a Freedom of Information Request submitted to the Information Compliance Office at Warwick University has revealed.

Special examination arrangements are organised through the administrative bodies of individual subjects.

They can grant students extra assistance in their exams with the use of a computer, extra time to complete the exam, and a scribe should a student require them due to medical or personal difficulties.



The *Boar* has received information on students with special examination arrangements in seven subjects from 2011/12 to 2012/13 in a Freedom of Information Request to the University's legal department.

English Literature, Maths and Psychology all saw significant decreases from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

The number of students requiring special examination arrangements in Engineering, Law and Physics went up slightly in the same period, while there was no change in the French department, with 22 students across years one to four in both years.

In the last two years, the overall number of students granted special examination arrangements in these subjects decreased from 213 to 204.

In 2011/12, 68 of these were female and 145 of these male, while in 2012/13, 63 were female and 141 were male.

Of the seven subject departments sampled, Engineering granted the most special examination arrangements to students.

70 Engineering students successfully applied for special circumstances in 2012/13, 31 more students than for Physics, which had the second most successful applicants. This figure accounts for over five percent of the total student body of around 1280.

However, all seven subjects re-

corded roughly the same figures for both academic years. There was a fluctuation of five students or less in Engineering, English Literature, Physics and Law.

The greatest change was for Psychology, with the number reduced by 18 from 30 students granted special examination arrangements to 12.

Maths also recorded a fall of 16 students, from 43 to 27.

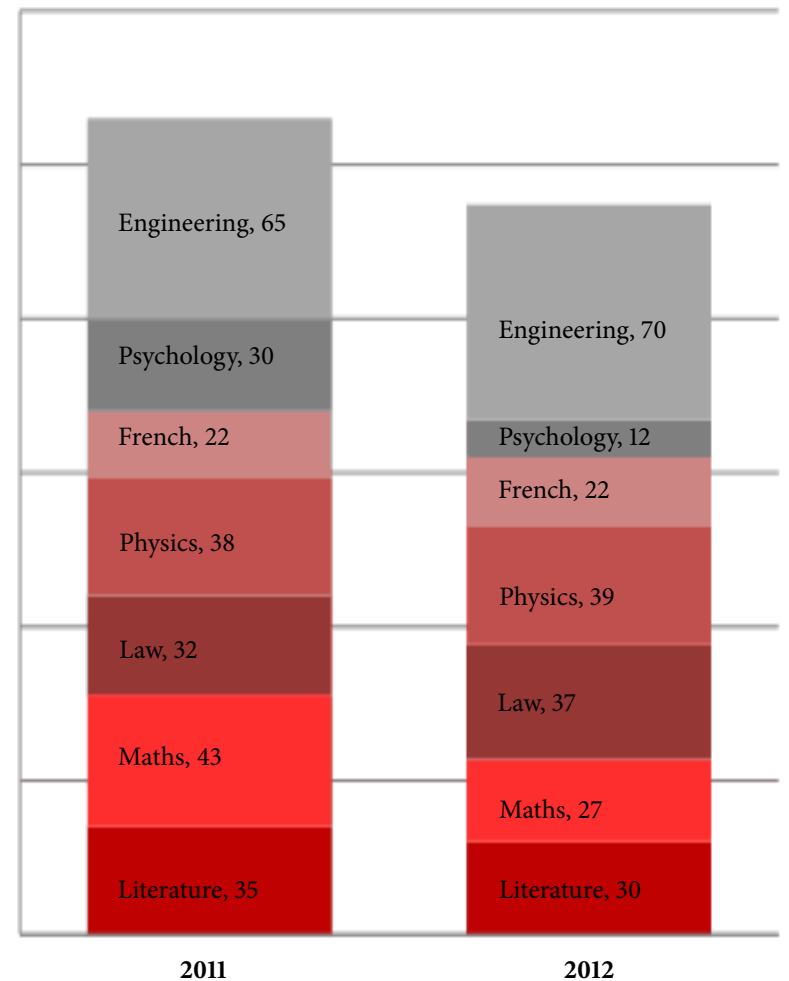
Second-year History undergraduate, Alex Schiphorst, commented on the overall decrease: "The fact that special consideration in exam situations has decreased can be seen in a positive light as it shows that the process is stringent and not being misused in order to benefit from it."

"However, it is important that access to this special assistance is not too restricted, and it is essential that all students have the right to use it should they need it."

Second-year English and Creative Writing undergraduate, Andreas Avraam, added:

"The fact that the amount of students getting special circumstances has gone down possibly indicates the system is becoming stricter, which could be good if they are specifically targeting those who really need help."

"It's all fine as long as no one who needs help is being left out."



US student visa rules tightened SU democracy row

New immigration bill may affect student exchange to the US

Ann Yip

Student immigration and student exchange to the US may be affected by recent immigration bill amendments to tighten US student visa rules.

In May this year, the US Senate Judiciary Committee amended the immigration bill in reaction to the Boston Marathon bombings.

The committee members agreed to clamp down on student visa fraud.

An amendment that passed removed a 30-day grace period to allow students to correct their status when their visa was terminated.

"This will plug a loophole in the tragic Boston Marathon bombings," said Charles Schumer, Democratic New York senator.

The amendment was made in response to Azamat Tazhayakov's case, a criminal involved in the Boston bombing who had been allowed into the US in January even though his student visa had expired.

Another amendment would impose stricter penalties for educational institutions engaged in student visa fraud and tighten requirements at flight schools, like those used by the September 11 hijackers.

Other amendments to the immigration bill involved tougher border control and new guest-worker

programs which would take away a 13-year pathway to citizenship for about 11 million people living in the US who overstayed visas or entered illegally.

Ali Mortlock, a second-year Psychology undergraduate, is considering studying a postgraduate degree in the US after graduating.

She said that the tightened student visa rules would "probably not [deter me from studying in the US] as I would plan to leave after my visa expires."

Ms Mortlock, however, had no plans to live and work in the US. She said that she wanted to study in the US "because they have a really good university [Stanford] for my subject."

When asked whether or not the tightening of student visa rules can

be justified, she answered: "If it's an anti-terrorism act, it makes sense. But if the reason is because they are trying to stop bombings, then not really."

Siobhan Brennan, second-year English Literature undergraduate commented:

"As a student who's interested in taking a year abroad in America next year, I think these restrictions are a bit harsh."

"I don't think it will deter anyone from going, but it would probably be a lot of unnecessary hassle to a lot of students who haven't done anything wrong."

There were also debates on whether or not immigrant workers would be beneficial or harmful to the economy as they could impact wages and incur costs to taxpayers.



» University of California, Berkeley. Photo: Curtis Cronn / Flickr

Amathul Farhath

The Democratic Challenge is being organised by Miguel Costa Matos, the Undergraduate Social Sciences Student Staff Liaison Committee Faculty Representative, in an effort to highlight how the the Students' Union (SU) could be made more transparent, and democratise it further.

"When were you asked whether you wanted to be ripped off at the Dirty Duck?"

"Since when have you been consulted on what to do with the nearly £7 million the SU takes into its coffers every year?" said Mr Matos on his event page.

Mr Matos wants the SU budget to be brought to Council by sabbatical officers for approval to guarantee full "democratic accountability". The budget would be taken to approval in Student Council as well as the Trustees allowing everyone to scrutinize "how money is spent".

Mr Matos is campaigning for this change to prevent "faceless/anonymous bureaucrats" making the decisions.

He believes there is a lack of student interest in SU politics because students are not able to be involved. He said: "The issue is about the SU democracy and [the SU] is a £7 million turnover charity. This grants the SU enormous power."

"If only there was some scrutiny on how the money was spent?"

In a response to these concerns Cosmo March, the SU Democracy and Development Officer, has denied that there is a lack of student interest stressing that Warwick's SU has "more Societies (242) and Sports Clubs (72) than almost every other Union".

Mr March admitted the SU had "some way to go" in reaching their personal target in relation to accumulating student engagement, but

"When were you asked whether you wanted to be ripped off at the Dirty Duck?"

Miguel Costa Matos

found Mr Matos' opinion about student participation "unfair".

Mr March said: "No officer makes a decision without insight into students' needs but that if decisions are made, they are always made with the interests of students at the centre of the discussion."

In response, Mr Matos said that whilst the Sabbs are full-time democratically-elected representatives of students and are meant to be the executives of the SU, students still lack sufficient representation as there are failings to deal with their opinions in regards to the SU's operations.

Mr Matos has said that answers are not provided when one contacts the SU about creating a financial plan for change in the workings of the organisation.



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Editors' Letters



Boris Boar

Boris' views on the campus news.

It would seem that the days of the dog habitually eating the homework are beginning to end. Perhaps the canine's palate is full of its owner one simple thing: the art of perseverance. With Warwick students less frequently appealing for special considerations in exams we can see a clear shift toward a more hardened academic system. Not an inhuman system, not something that ignores the genuine consideration of students but a system which puts faith in its students to perform well despite the problems that they may be facing. Special consideration and extenuating circumstances should always be there but it should remain exactly that: special, reserved for genuine problems. This shift is good, no matter whether it is with this ethos in mind or not, because we can now give greater discredit to the old saying "exams are getting easier". Now down rover!

How do I take somebody back to my room now!? Let the awkwardness commence! If you find a somewhat jarring dynamic with your new roomie then you will have to set up a code. Perhaps when stumbling home from POP! with an, erm, companion, in tow at two o'clock in the morning you might want to shout really loudly, "I was not expecting this!" This should give your roommate, who is studying with a hot cuppa, plenty of time to conveniently divert their all-nighter to the learning grid. Just make sure you keep your fun to your own bed – after all, you do have to live with this unfortunate for a whole year. Oh who am I kidding Freshers? If you are sharing then you are probably screwed, or alas you probably aren't. Oh to not be fresh again.

So I see that the Dirty Duck has got some fancy new pergola going on outside. Clearly the management has some suburban aspirations! Hopefully this will mean that we'll finally get our one pound pints. After all, if the Duck can afford a middle-class refurb, then surely it's got enough spare change lying around to give us some cheap pints. After all, what's really going to draw the students in to the pub? A handy bit of decking and, ooh, how about a fire pit to go by the ornamental, terracotta flamingoes? Or some cheap booze? Maybe it's about time the Duck accepted it's lack of style and started to try it's hardest to saturate our livers with some sweet, sweet substance.



"Watch your slanguage!"

Nicole Davis
Deputy Editor

As a student of English literature, language is at the core of my education. I absorb antonyms, eat metaphors for breakfast and lap up lyricism. I suppose you could say I have somewhat of a love affair with words. And I consider the English language worthy of being preserved and perpetuated throughout generations, rather than being replaced and erased by slang.

I understand that colloquialisms are there to reflect culture and change. What's a night without a good twerk? How else could I describe that latent roast dinner and extra helping of apple crumble causing my belly to protrude over my waistband but as a 'food baby'? And how will anyone know that I'm living my life to the absolute fullest if I don't #YOLO when I tweet?

But with such a wealth of vocabulary within our reach, it seems a waste for it to be usurped by such vulgar surrogates. 'Noob' for instance sounds like it belongs on the Teletubbies, whilst saying something is 'sick' still brings to mind images of vomit, no matter how much we now associate it with something brilliant.

There's none of the finesse, romance or etymology that accompanies ye olden language, such as how 'companion' means 'with bread', suggesting that friends are basically

sandwiches. Where, for instance, does the word 'merked' originate?

I too am a culprit of littering my sentences with far too many 'likes' or 'LOLs' and often begin using a word ironically, only for it to surreptitiously slip its way into my regular vernacular.

It sums up our utter laziness with language. Our entire lives seem

There's none of the finesse, romance or etymology that accompanies ye olden language

predicated by time, never having enough of it and always rushing to meet a looming deadline. Abbreviations are a mere symptom of this culture. Who wants to text with grammar and proper syntax when you can brb because atm you're totes busy?

But maybe, just maybe we should encourage a resurgence of proper, descriptive and traditional language. We should celebrate those words that have been created, thought out and sculpted over thousands of years to perfectly describe the appearance or shape of something.

Because in my opinion there's nothing quite like eloquence. Why be amazeballs, when you can be amazing?



"Third year can be a good time"

Isaac Leigh
Sports Editor

While first-years arrive at Warwick with a sense of excitement, for finalists it is widely accepted that you should approach your final year with a sense of trepidation.

Spending free time crafting job applications, and then staying up all night to work on your degree? That's just the way it is, we are told by wizened ex-finalists, whose erstwhile expressions of joy are replaced by grave seriousness.

Well, I disagree. The fact is that finalists still have a significant role to play beyond being chained to the 'next step' of their life. They can rise to the pinnacle of their chosen societies, helping to integrate freshers. They can keep playing their sport and performing in plays. Hey, they can even go out and enjoy themselves once in a while.

I believe final year is about evolution rather than revolution, namely embracing the foe of many students, 'time-management'. Third-year for me will be about eschewing the allure of a Sunday watching the US Office on Netflix (not easy to do) and admitting that it would probably be better spent doing something more productive.

But this doesn't mean that third-year is some kind of purgatory before the dizzying heights of a paid job. It can be interesting and fun; you are allowed to meet new peo-

ple and try activities you haven't before. That's what university is about.

University is a fantastic but all-too-brief step in our lives; why write off a year of it?

It is important for third-years to keep an eye on the future, but so many direct their whole attention towards the 'next step', casting aside the here and now. University is a fantastic but all-too-brief step in our lives; why write off a year of it? Once you are in the 'daily grind' of employment, you truly will be in a regimented routine.

This is really a call to all finalists not to troop back to Warwick with a sense of defeatism. Enjoy the fact that there will be new experiences ahead of you, the twists, turns, calamities and triumphs that every year at university brings.

Of course there will be times when the stress and pressure of looming exams and graduate scheme applications become significant. But cross that bridge when you come to it. Make the journey to the bridge as varied and enjoyable as you can, rather than accepting as gospel the rumours that final year is horrible. Live your life!



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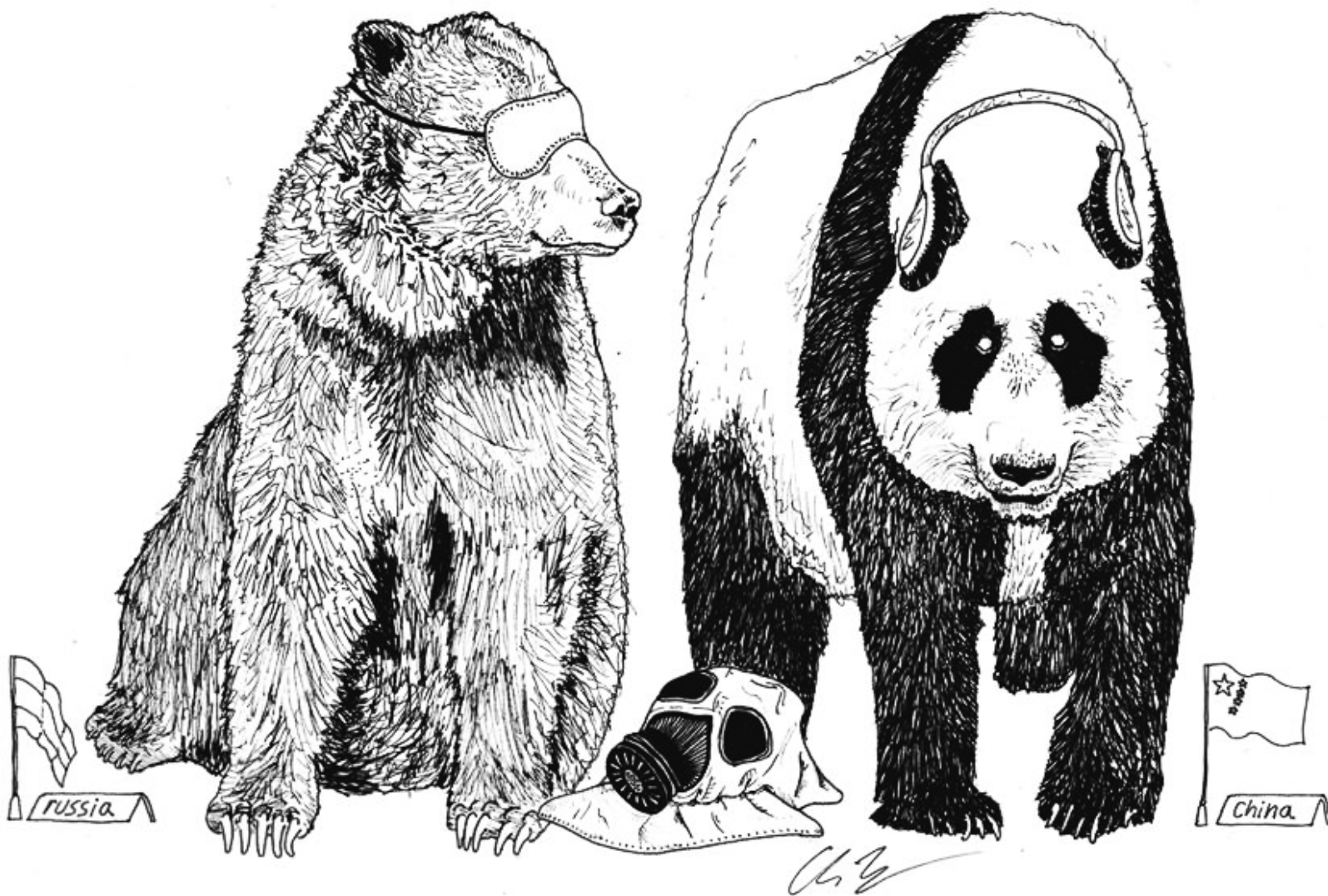
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» “See no evil, hear no evil” Cartoon by Charley-Kai John

Russia and China blind to Syria

The inability of certain nations to remain objective needs addressing

Jack Simpson

The United Nations has been critical in preserving the post-1945 international settlement. Indeed, it cannot be a coincidence that the world has enjoyed an extended period of peace between the major powers since the end of the Second World War and that, throughout this time, global affairs have been governed by an institution far stronger and more decisive than its League of Nations predecessor.

Russia and China have, throughout the crisis, consistently vetoed resolutions to condemn the violence.

However, the divided reaction of the world's most powerful nation states to recent events in Syria has brought into sharp focus some of the structural problems which beset the UN and which threaten its long-term credibility.

Of course, this does not mean that it is headed the same way as its earlier incarnation in failing to prevent a destructive world war; the challenge facing its authority is

much more subtle, but nonetheless serious.

At the root of its difficulties lies the ability of any of the permanent members of the UN Security Council to veto a resolution. Upon first examination, this may seem like a logical requirement to ensure that actions undertaken by the international community carry a broad consensus. Practically, however, it is a requirement that does much to undermine the UN's standing.

This has been starkly apparent in the case of Syria, in which permanent Security Council members Russia and China have, throughout the entire history of the crisis, consistently vetoed resolutions to condemn the violence inflicted by President Assad upon his own people. Even now, after the US and Russia have brokered an agreement to rid the Syrian government of its chemical weapons supply, Putin threatens to veto any resolution that contains the possibility of military action, rendering the diplomatic 'solution' toothless.

It takes limited deduction to recognise that Putin's primary concern is not the protection of human rights in Syria, but a desire to prop up a key ally in the region. Yet the UN bestows upon Russia – along

with each of the other Permanent Security Council members – the role of an absolute moral arbiter in global affairs, able to determine the course of global affairs, e.g. regarding human rights in Syria, even when ill-disguised self-interest is often at the heart of their motivations. This constrains the ability of the UN to arrive at meaningful decisions and so threatens to erode its authority.

There needs to be some acknowledgement within the UN's decision-making process that members of the Permanent Security Council are not impartial jurors, but imperfect nation states with their own agendas and foreign policy ambitions.

This means making the ability of Permanent Security Council Members to veto a resolution more circumscribed, in recognition of the fact that isolated, dissenting members are quite probably being obstructive not out of reason, but of calculation, and effectively hijacking the UN for their own ends.

Of course, clear provisions must remain in place for resolutions to be vetoed by the Security Council; the UN would otherwise lose much of its purpose as an international decision-making body.

However, it will also have little

purpose if, as an organisation, it becomes unworkable as a source of decision-making and merely another route for powerful states to

The Security Council will have little purpose if, as an organisation, it becomes unworkable as a source of decision-making

safeguard vested interests abroad.

None of this is to deny the important work that the UN does in maintaining the balance of international relations and seeking a level of consensus in the hugely important matters over which it presides.

However, there is a difference between striving for consensus and protecting against unilateral action, on the one hand, and making it difficult to arrive at any meaningful decisions – and becoming vulnerable to manipulation by individual members – on the other.

If the UN's internal structure continues to err on the side of the latter, then it will be the loser. Such a consequence would be unfortunate for the whole of global society.



Do you think the UN is still effective? Tell us on Facebook

A universal education

Josh Denoual

There is a tendency to preconceive your university life as unravelling in a pattern of, to borrow a phrase from David Guetta, “work hard, play hard.” You imagine an existence where your life is completely categorised and designated into separate areas. During the days of the week you will spend hours in the library, trawling through dusty books, tackling complex mathematical problems, honing your ideas on some of the biggest problems in the world; during the evening you'll be found four vodka Red Bulls down, lying on the stairs of Evolve, trying to find your way back to the dancefloor.

However, university education comes not just in the form of lectures, notes, and exams. It comes in the form of learning to look after yourself, to organise your own life, and to generally be an adult human being rather than the precocious teenager you've enjoyed being for the last five years.

So you'll learn as much by simply talking to the many other intelligent people around you as you will from studiously reading everything placed on your syllabus and making detailed notes on it. After all, one of the best methods of learning material the university has to offer is the seminar; essentially, an hour where you sit and discuss that week's topic with the others in your group. And you'll soon discover that if you engage in that situation, you'll find you know and understand more about what you are learning than you realised before you walked in the room.

Seminars work best when everyone is open and willing to talk but often, in an educational environment, with an imposing tutor monitoring the course of discussion people are not. However, take a group of people and find them in the Dirty Duck that evening, with a few drinks down them, and they'll be offering new theories on *Ulysses*, reanalysing the fall of the Roman Empire, and providing a Grand Unified Theory of Everything while they're at it. This isn't to encourage you to run off, down a four pack of Special Brew, and set to work on your dissertation – it is the principle that matters.

When people are relaxed, and not self-conscious, they will more openly offer opinions or ideas that they are not entirely confident about but which can stimulate great discussion – discussion that can only be made more interesting when you have a diverse mix of people. So try not to saddle yourself with the idea that you will learn in one environment and relax in another; the whole three years are your education. You should aim to leave university, not with just a degree, but with the confidence that you are prepared for the real world.

STUDENT SOAPBOX

Matt Davies
 “Old and forgotten”

So, clinging on like a cat on a branch, I'm back at Warwick. Only this time it's different. I'm no longer one of the masses. I'm starting again, but with all the scars, emotional and physical, of three hard years of university already with me. I hold a degree in one hand, and a cup of coffee in the other. I'm studying for an MA. I am a postgraduate.

Despite my allusion to clinging on, this isn't an attempt to avoid the real world. I'm studying something interesting and relevant, more specific than my bachelors. This isn't a 12-year course in applied basket-weaving, this is a one-year course, and then I'm out again, for real this time, with more expertise.

So, in this one extra year, where do I stand? I've received a lot of correspondence from the university, but none of it really seems to take into account I've been here before. I know the best time to visit the Terrace Bar. I remember the breakfast special. I have already paid homage to the Koan. They're treating me as if I'm new blood, when really I'm old hat. Do I just carry on as I did before, just with more work to do? Or is it entirely different?

I feel that Freshers' events are meant for those with boundless teenage energy, not for suave and sophisticated early twenty-somethings. I'm left with questions. How many times can I hear about 'Tony Lee XXX comedy hypnotist'? Is it socially acceptable to go to POP!? Will I dare go? (The answers are a. once is too much b. no, and c. probably). I'm not sure it's quite the same. But, does it need to be?

Maybe I should just respect the idea that we need less social engineering at this age. After all, most freshers will never have experienced anything like university, being thrown into a new environment and being forced to adapt quickly. In fact, maybe I should be glad I get to choose my own friends, and at a less frenetic pace.

It's difficult being one of the old guys. It's easy to stick to your work, feeling everything else is a young person's game, only pausing occasionally to sigh, look out the window and shout out that "I was the future once!" Maybe though, it's possible to not be so resigned. I get to live life at my own pace, knowing where I am, what I'm about, and what I'm doing (most of the time.)

Maybe being the old guy isn't a bad thing. Ask me in a year.



Module choice woes

Miguel Costa Matos

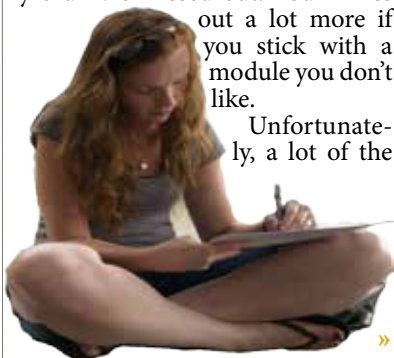
Pick your modules wisely. Your choice of modules today greatly affects how motivated you are during the whole year.

Obviously, pick modules that interest you. No matter how easy modules may appear, if it doesn't engross or inspire you, it's likely you'll give up on doing the work needed to achieve those high marks.

Look closely at how the module's assessed. Some of us cope better in exams and some doing coursework. Coursework questions and past papers can easily be found to give you a notion of exactly what you're going to be asked to learn and answer. Finally, bear in mind contact hours and who's delivering it.

The best advice anyone can offer is: Try it! If you're still not sure about the modules you've chosen for this year, try other ones. You have until week 3 to change your mind. Don't worry about what you've missed out. You'll miss out a lot more if you stick with a module you don't like.

Unfortunately, a lot of the



» photo: Flickr/m00by

modules we take are chosen for us. Core modules make up a large part of our degrees. Many departments offer only full-year 30 CAT modules. Many of these modules could be split into two one-term 15 CAT modules, giving all of us more choice over what we study and to what depth.

Students could be given even greater module choice by allowing all students to take extra credit. While this idea might seem ridiculous, many students take over 120 CATs worth of modules.

It's a way of covering pre-requisites they need in the future or learning about something you're interested in. For years, students in the Sciences and Maths Faculties have been allowed and given credit for extra modules they take on, through the Seymour Formula.

Unfortunately this too has stopped and freshers this year will not be able to take extra credit.

Seeking greater (and better) module choice is an important part of improving our academic experience. Students need to fight to bring back Seymour, but for all Faculties. We should strongly encourage departments to create more 15 CAT modules. Above all, our SU needs to be more proactive in advising students on module choice. Our fight for a better education starts now – because modules matter.



Are you miserable about module choices?
theboar.org/comment

Lacking in-Clegg-rity

Lewis Merryweather

“Education is the key”, stated Nick Clegg in his speech in Glasgow on September 18. Lovely. So why is it that many feel an uneasy sense of distrust and disbelief as they read this statement? Perhaps because Clegg promised students would retain this key three and a half years ago, then wrenched it from our hands in the form of upping tuition fees after swearing blind he wouldn't, creating a huge financial burden for students across the country and marring the Liberal's previously trustworthy exterior.

Clegg's speech declared the Lib Dems have a sense of individuality, a debatable statement. After the tuition fee fiasco, has the party done enough to win back the trust of the nation's people? Has the party's integrity been restored?

Clegg claims that the party have stood up to the Conservatives regularly since 2010. This means Clegg believes the steady selling off of the NHS privately is acceptable. Clegg has the audacity to criticise Labour's lack of policy on the NHS, yet he stands idly by and allows the Tories to begin a process of privatisation.

At the Lib Dem party conference, Clegg claimed that the party were

there to protect the most vulnerable, yet it has fallen to Labour to oppose the Bedroom Tax Bill that is ravaging the lives of the vulnerable, whilst Clegg and the Lib Dems prop up the Tory government who imposed it, barely kicking up a fuss. The behaviour of a politician and party who have restored their integrity? Or does this smack of a party desperate for a place in government?

However, Clegg's stance on Equal Marriage Rights highlights a glowing yellow slither of integrity pushing it's way through the otherwise rather cold, blue Tory shell that seems to encompass him. Also, Clegg's recent plans for free school meals for all children in Primary Schools does radiate a certain glow of genuine party specific policy. However, if claims that this policy was a trade off for the Conservative's Married Tax Breaks policy are true, Clegg's integrity is sent spiralling back downwards.

Clegg claims that the Lib Dems aren't any party's "little brother", they are their own party with their own beliefs. So why does it seem the Lib Dems are cruising their way through government as the Tory's puppets? It seems they have not done enough, particularly for students, in recompense for selling their souls at the 2009 general election. It will take a lot more than a few shiny showpiece policies to restore Clegg's integrity.



» photo:

Burkaphobia: the irrational fear of clothing

Nadeine Asbali lends her voice to the current debate around the Niqab

Once more, an item of clothing over (some) Muslim women's heads has sparked controversial debate and fiercely polarised media coverage. Amidst relentless economic, political and humanitarian crises, the British media is busying itself with the issue of the Niqab (aka Burka or Veil) and whether it should be banned.

Admittedly, the Niqab is somewhat of a 'foreign' concept to Western culture; it is antithetical to the media – encouraged and socially enforced ideals of beauty and sexuality. It confuses people, and confusion – when not quenched by self-education – breeds ignorance, which gives rise to the very fear that fuels such debate.

Those who support a Niqab ban – be they far right fascists (who would probably rather all Muslims in general revoke their 'Muslimness' entirely) or the overly eager far left, plagued with saviour complex – all seem to be missing an aching irony: to dictate what a woman cannot wear is as impudent and oppressive as it is to dictate what a woman must wear.

It goes without saying that the Niqab is sadly not a matter of choice for many Muslim women around the world. Yet, contrary to what the likes of the English Defence League would have one be-



» photo: Flickr/carlos_en_esos_mundos

lieve, the vast majority of Muslims

It is highly patronising to assume that all women cover their face due to force

around the world do not support such derogatory contempt for a female's free will, any more than they support terrorism, female genital mutilation or child brides.

It remains an irrefutable fact that many women can, and do, choose to wear the Niqab and for a plethora of reasons, at that. Some see it as an outward manifestation of inner piety. Some simply believe it to be religiously mandated (although many more do not).

Some see the absolute rejection of pressures to conform to a particular fashion sense and body image.

It is highly patronising to assume that all women who cover their face, do so due to force. Furthermore, it is nothing but arrogant to presume that Muslim women, even in this 'safe haven' of the West – which itself is not devoid of misogyny – are not able to make such decisions for themselves. Ironically, it is at the hands of intrusively inquisitive strangers, who insistently assume that my father/husband/brother forced me to cover that I (and many other Muslim women) experience more 'oppression' than from family pressure or religious dogma.

Let's not pretend that this debate arose from genuine concern

about women's rights. There is clearly an anti-Islam dimension to such discussions. Certain newspapers, for example, seem to be exercising selective feminism: suggesting that the Niqab is abhorrent, archaic and draconian, yet simultaneously refusing to tackle the issues of female degradation and objectification in their own consistent publication of 'page 3'.

In a liberal democracy, is it correct to shackle the free will of others, in order to maintain the one-dimensional ideals of the majority? A poll by the Sun newspaper recently estimated that 61% of people support an outright ban of the Niqab.

This frighteningly echoes a 'tyranny of the masses' which should be antithetical to a multicultural, liberal democracy such as ours.

The very idea of a Niqab ban is futile. It will not 'liberate' Muslim women, but criminalise them. It will force Muslim women into a position whereby religious and national identities suddenly become mutual exclusives. After all, it is not only immigrant females who wear the Niqab, but also many British Muslims – including converts.



Read Nadeine's full piece, and more, at
theboar.org/comment

Yes

Will Tucker

Such are the vagaries of Britain's bizarre first-past-the-post voting system that the party currently polling third with around 13%, the UK Independence Party (UKIP) could end up with no seats at the 2015 general election, and the fourth-placed party, the Liberal Democrats, could win around twenty with their current 9% of the vote. So it may seem strange to suggest that UKIP are on course to be 'a force' in 2015. But it depends how you look at it.

The majority of UKIP's support comes from disgruntled Conservative voters in the South of England, annoyed with the party's apparently more liberal instincts nowadays, feeling that David Cameron has betrayed the party's values on issues such as gay marriage, renewable energy, immigration and defence. They also garner some support from disaffected Labour voters in the North, and some from people who do not normally vote at all. But these two latter groups are not nearly as significant.

Very often, the Westminster commentariat acts as a glorified echo chamber. 'Labour in Crisis!' read a thousand headlines, despite that party's solid poll lead. 'Conservatives oversee economic recovery!' go some more, despite it being unclear who is benefiting from a potential house price boom, falling living standards and insecure jobs. 'Lib Dems set for wipe-out!' is the received wisdom, despite evidence that they actually do rather well at holding seats where they already have a big presence (see the Eastleigh by-election).

The constant reference to nationwide opinion polls maintains this. Due to the aforementioned voting system, it sadly does not matter what people think in solidly Labour or Conservative seats.

Is UKIP still "on course to be a force" in the next general election?

The election will be won or lost in a few marginal seats. And the most recent polling of these by Lord Ashcroft is eye-opening.

In the 32 seats in which Labour came the closest behind the Tories in 2010, Labour is on 43%, down one since 2010, the Conservatives 29% (down six), UKIP 11% and the Lib Dems on 8%. Given that 60% of UKIP's support is gained from 2010 Tory voters, it is not hard to see that UKIP's vote share is seriously affecting the result.

Of course, the irony of UKIP, based in the idea that the modern Conservative Party is not right-wing enough, depriving the Tories of the votes they need to get over the line in 2015 is doubtless not lost on some at Tory HQ. But many UKIPers don't care; they'd rather make their point than keep Cameron in office. UKIP are still on course to be a force in 2015: not by winning seats, but by stopping the Tories winning and putting Ed Miliband in Downing Street.

Tête à Tête

No

Lucy Webster

The recent surge in support for UKIP is an undeniable fact; the party did indeed take a large proportion of votes in May's local elections. But success in 2015 is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. Much can change in two years (remember Harold Wilson's saying that "a week is a long time in politics"?). Already the political landscape is markedly different to what it was five months ago and current trends suggest that UKIP will soon return to its place on the fringes, peeking into the arena of serious government.

This is mainly because – maybe – the economy is finally getting better.

Since the 2008 crash,

many have felt that

the main parties are

equally incompetent

when it comes to

money matters.

For too long, Labour

denied the need for

cuts, while the new

conservative government

went too far and

hurt the living

standards of society's

most vulnerable

members, as well as

constraining the

economy's capacity

for growth. People

were forced to look

elsewhere.

Now that things are

looking up, however,

this may change. A ma-

majority of new UKIP supporters are just disgruntled conservatives, and are likely to return to their former party if it seems to be enjoying some success.

This is especially true given the recent prominence in the media of the conservatives' anti-immigration policies – particularly the vans bearing 'go home' which were driven around heavily immigrant areas of London.

Even their most pressing concern – withdrawing the UK from the EU – has been addressed by Cameron's promise of a referendum on the country's membership, should he win the election. The traditional conservative supporters right now feel they are being listened to and are flooding back, away from UKIP's eccentricities, and the referendum gives them a strong incentive to make sure Cameron stays in power.

It is also important to remember that it is mathematically difficult for UKIP to do well in a general election, regardless of circumstance. This is because Britain's electoral system is based on constituencies, meaning support for a party must be strong in a particular area for it to win the associated seat.

Labour and the conservatives benefit from this, UKIP and other small parties lose out because their support tends to be spread out. Thus, even if UKIP remains popular, it will probably only get one or two seats. We are not about to see the end of Britain's odd two-and-a-half-party system.

Perhaps most importantly, people do not view UKIP as a serious party. They are the darling of the protest voter; fine for elections for the European Parliament or the local council, but not suitable to play a part in grown-up Westminster politics.

Come 2015 Nigel Farage won't be holding a ministerial briefing box – he'll still be clutching a pint.



» photo: Flickr/freedomassociation

Australia: GMT+10 - 60 years

Electing Tony Abbott has sent Australia rocketing back in time to the dark ages

Abbey Lewis

"I think it would be folly to expect that women will ever dominate or even approach equal representation in a large number of areas simply because their aptitudes, abilities, and interests are different for physiological reasons."

If Tony Abbott were writing an article for the *Boar's Comment*



section, that might well be how he would begin. It's a direct quote from the head of Australia's Liberal Party, who was elected Australia's Prime Minister on September 7th.

Some other great soundbites from the man himself:

"I think there does need to be a give and take on both sides, and this idea that sex is kind of a woman's right to absolutely withhold, just as the idea that sex is a man's right to demand I think they are both, they both need to be moderated, so to speak."

"Same sex marriage? I'm not someone who wants to see radical change based on the fashion of the moment."

"I won't be rushing out to get my daughters vaccinated against cervical cancer."

"Abortion is the easy way out. It's hardly surprising that people should choose the most convenient exit from awkward situations."

"Jesus didn't say yes to everyone, Jesus knew there was a place for everything and it's not necessarily everyone's place to come to Australia."

photo: Royal Australian Navy

"There may not be a great job for indigenous people, but whatever it is they just have to do it – and if it's picking up rubbish around the community, it just has to be done."

It's like Mitt Romney and George Bush had a son in the 50s and the Australian people decided that son was who they wanted running their country.

Voting is compulsory in Australia and has been since 1925, so it's not even as though the blame can be placed on low turnout or a politically unengaged society, the latter of which would surely have returned a re-election of the opposing Labor party to the same seats. But Labor, newly led by Kevin Rudd who has done nothing effective since effectively overthrowing Julia Gillard, lost a record number of votes.

The truth is that Australians didn't feel as though they had a lot of choice. Once Julia Gillard was ousted and it was Kevin v. Tony, Australians were essentially looking at the same candidate. Both men ran on the promise of a tough stance on asylum seekers who came to Australia by boat. Australians

merely picked the party that would do it with the least drama. Since winning the election, Abbott has planned the launch of Operation Sovereign Borders, which turns back any vessels carrying asylum seekers. He will also abolish the carbon tax Gillard introduced: he doesn't believe climate change is scientifically proven. Australia is extremely wealthy and one of the only 'developed' countries to survive the recession, but Abbott will cut the nation's foreign aid by 4.5 billion Australian dollars.

It's a sad and angry shame to see Australia recede into the socially backwards reputation it was just starting to shed. It's long been known as a state that fails to respect or recognise the rights of both Aboriginals and new immigrants, with an irony paralleled only by white America's treatment of Native Americans and newer immigrants.

The abhorrent practice of 'Abo hunting' continued well in to the latter half of the 20th century, as did the removal of 'half-caste' or lighter-skinned Aboriginal children to be raised in white communities, in an attempt to 'dilute' the Aboriginal

bloodline.

Ancient history, 20-somethings voters might think, but in May 2012, UN visitors to Australia declared the "reality for indigenous peoples one of unacceptable conditions, that requires urgent action by governments across the globe". The truth is that Australia is a deeply racist nation, only recently aware that its treatment of its indigenous population is globally deemed unacceptable.

Under Julia Gillard, socially progressive Australians were piecing together scraps of hope. Despite the sexism she faced from the Australian media, public, and opposition led by Tony Abbott, Gillard spoke up for white women and introduced policies that moved them towards better and stronger representation.

However, she did very little to improve the lot of indigenous Aboriginals, and took a disappointing stance against allowing 'boat people' into Australia. Still, a few steps forward, some thought. With the election of Tony Abbott, the Australian government takes a giant leap back.



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J.P. Morgan

Living with anorexia

Beth Quiligotti tells us about coping with an eating disorder whilst studying at university

For someone with an eating disorder, university can either make you or break you. It's something I know about well, having lived with an eating disorder for the past 3 years of my life. The blessed independence that we receive at university means it is now our responsibility to look after ourselves, and it is up to us how we use it. Moving to university meant I had the perfect opportunity to use this independence to start afresh and finally try to recover. Instead, I initially chose the wrong route. I used this freedom in the wrong way: as an opportunity to be in charge of my food intake with no one checking up on me, and essentially as a coping mechanism for this huge transition in my life.

My first weeks as a fresher were the same as most others: meeting new people, a lot of drinking and a lot of hangovers. The meeting-new-people part I loved. The only difference from most others was that the drinking

What I wasn't admitting to myself at the time, although I knew fully well, was that I was slowly going down the wrong route

often ended in tears and the hangovers were spent alone in my room. In fact, I remember my flatmates joking about how I only came out at night and asking whether I was a vampire – awkward. In reality, I would have been in my room all day regardless of the hangover or not, spending my days completely obsessing over every flaw, weighing myself constantly, showering and getting ready, obsessing again, re-showering and re-getting ready. Obviously, I had no time for lectures with all of this going on – more stress. Oh,

and staying in my room all day meant I could avoid the kitchen at all costs – bonus!

I knew I was continuing on a downward spiral, but I also knew I would be completely and utterly happy if I just budged an extra few pounds. What I wasn't admitting to myself at the time, although I knew fully well, was that I was slowly going down the wrong route – the one I had hoped I wouldn't take. Those reading this with an eating disorder know that is a coping mechanism and largely based on control, and so you really are most vulnerable when undergoing changes in your life.

In fact, research has found adolescent girls aged 15-19 have the highest incidence of eating disorders. On top of that, Anorexia Nervosa has the highest mortality rate of any other psychiatric disorder, with between 15-20% who develop the disease eventually dying from it. What a great way to end university – not.

Whilst I may have started out painting a pretty miserable picture of my first few weeks at university, obviously I was having the best time of my life alongside these personal problems. As time progressed, university showed me that there is so much out there that an eating disorder stops you doing: throwing yourself into a new hobby, going out for a meal with friends, going to lectures. But at the end of the day, avoiding doing these things will get you nowhere; avoiding things won't make you friends just like missing lectures won't get you a degree.

With that said, despite everything going on, there is no doubt that the past year has been the best of my life, and that's because I eventually learnt that my eating disorder doesn't define me like I thought it did. Even though I still struggled, and still do, the friends I made, the amazing support from my boyfriend (proof that you can get with a

flat mate and stay together!) and the sports or societies I joined gave me less time to obsess and more time to be happy and enjoy university like everybody else. After all, not having the energy to get out of bed gets a bit boring after a while. University has made me finally want to get better, which was always the major problem with previous treatments I have received – I didn't want to. For now, I have just begun sessions at 'Coventry Eating Disorder Service', which has some of the best results in the world and hopefully this is the last treatment I have to go through.

Freshers: while coming to university can be so exciting, it can also be very stressful. Moving away from home for the first time and learning to look after yourself on top of establishing a social life can be overwhelming for anyone, let alone someone with an eating disorder. New stressors, unfamiliarities and uncertainties may replace the normality of home life and bring into play those particular coping mechanisms that make you feel safe. We both know they aren't safe, so don't waste your time.

It will be a challenge, but hopefully one you can overcome. I know it's easier to say, not do, so all I can say is to really use your independence and self-control wisely. Don't obsess. Don't have such high expectations of yourself. Don't be a perfectionist. Don't use freedom in the wrong way because in the end you'll be anything but free. Do use it to make new friends, new memories and have the best years of your life. University is for making memories that you'll remember for the right reasons!



How do you feel about the stresses of university?
 Tweet: @BoarFeatures

Beth's top tips for Freshers

TELL SOMEONE: Tell your accommodation representative. They can be a really big help, trust me! If you're lucky with yours, they'll be a great help and will be there whenever you need to talk, and everything you say is confidential. You should also tell a flatmate or friend you feel you can trust. Friends and especially flatmates will pick up on things such as eating habits and unusual behaviour, so sometimes it is better to let them know how to help you. Everybody at university has their own problems, and keeping it to yourself will only make it worse – you never know how confiding in someone may also lead them to confide in you.

TELL YOUR GP: Register with the health centre and let your GP know. If you haven't told anyone before, don't worry, anything you tell your GP is again confidential. It is so important that you let them know so that they can keep an eye on your bodily functions and most importantly electrolyte levels. For those suffering with bulimia, if potassium levels drop too low all of a sudden this could lead to cardiac arrest. It is better to routinely get your bloods checked to keep an eye on everything. Secondly, you can get referred to the 'Coventry Eating Disorder Service' if you feel this is best and you want to engage in treatment.

GET INVOLVED: Get involved with things as soon as you feel comfortable. Push yourself, but not too much, as you don't want to overdo it and end up overwhelmed when dealing with your own problems. Living with an eating disorder is not only mentally tiring but also time consuming. Fill up your time with something else. The more you get involved, the more busy you are, the more friends are made, and less time spent dwelling on unimportant things!

DON'T LOCK YOURSELF AWAY: Get to know your flatmates straight away. If you are feeling shy and self-conscious, act like you're not. The quicker you get comfortable around them the better. You are living with them for the next year after all!

SUPPORT GROUPS: Look out for eating disorder support groups on the SU website and campaigns during mental health awareness week. Mental health is huge at Warwick, and it is great that it is seen as not something to be ashamed of.

From now on, I will be writing a regular column in the **Sci & Tech** section about my treatment at the 'Coventry Eating Disorder Service'. I am hoping that the information I provide will help those who aren't ready to seek treatment yet themselves.

Useful links:

- Beating Eating Disorders: <http://www.beat.co.uk>
- University of Warwick Student Support: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/student-support-services>



Straight from the hack's mouth

Nicole Davis and Michael Perry dish out some tips from journalists at this year's NUS Student Media Summit



» Spot the *Boar* member! The Student Media Summit is bought together by NUS and Amnesty International photo: via nationalunionofstudents/flickr

At the end of August, two members of the *Boar* team had the privilege of attending a student media summit in Shoreditch. Jam-packed with some of journalism's biggest names, free sandwiches and the opportunity to network, the atmosphere of excitement was beyond tangible.

Over the course of two days several talks and workshops were offered, ranging from sports journalism and interviewing skills to photography and newsgathering. No matter what speciality or format you're interested in, the same basic advice kept cropping up. We bring you the sagest snippets straight from the equestrian mammal's mouth.

1. "Write in 3-D": make it direct and visual
Simon Hattenstone, *The Guardian*
 Using a wealth of imagery: "articles are like fast-moving rivers"; feature-writer Simon emphasised turning your article into a narrative. At the end of the day it has to grip the reader, so get those 3D glasses on and get typing.

2. Get out there and PITCH PITCH PITCH (AND PROTECT) YOUR IDEAS
Ramita Navai, *Unreported World*
 Ramita is a straight-talking, awe-inspiring journalist who has made documentaries and covered events in Egypt, Zimbabwe and Libya. Pitching your articles is her sure-fire way of getting started, the more you get your ideas out there, the more likely you are to get a response.

3. Report FACT with ZERO interpretation
Deborah Haynes, *The Times*
 Another frontline female journalist who has visited conflict zones such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Deborah's straight-talking advice is targeted mainly at news pieces, as opposed to comment or opinion writing.

4. "If you're a journalist and you love your job, you must work every day." To think otherwise is "FUCKING BOURGEOIS."
Iain Cobain
 Pretty to-the-point, laziness is not for journalists...

5. Be charming! "It's easy to get a reputation as a pest, but use persistence and charm. Enchant people"

Lizzie Catt

Flutter those eyelids, flick that hair, be interesting! If only it were that easy. But Lizzie has a point and if you're polite and engaging you're more likely to make a good impression.

6. Focus on ignored or neglected issues and carve out a niche in that area to give you a unique angle.

Owen Jones, *The Independent*

When you're trying to break into national publications as a student, be smart about it. They employ hundreds of writers to cover the big stories, so it's unlikely you'll get those gigs. But student type issues, or stories personal to you – you're in a unique position to cover.

7. On interviewing: do your homework! Preparation will inform your questions. But equally don't over-think it and forget to ask the obvious questions.

Ronke Phillips, *ITV*

Ronke Phillips has interviewed some big names and in all sorts of countries, and won awards doing so. So if she says prepare, I would go in knowing who you're interviewing and what to ask.

8. When contacting potential employers, ask questions such as "what's your online rate?" or "what's your word rate?" Don't let editors assume you're willing to write for free

Paris Lees

With the rise of the unpaid internship, Paris has a point. If you don't ask, you don't get.

9. On websites: Understand your audience: WHO are you targeting, and WHAT are you offering them?

Anna Doble, *Channel 4*

You wouldn't send your Grandma a snapchat of you twerking... Cater to your audience – use the right terminology, tone and style and they're more likely to come back for more.

10. Be compassionate; remember it's not just a story, but someone's life. You are a person first, and a journalist second.

Narveesh Puri, *BBC News*

And the ones that everyone seemed to mention:

- Constantly refine your writing.
- Be accurate.
- Have an opinion.
- Sell yourself! Not literally of course, but don't be afraid to tell editors why you're the best person to write that article – what unique perspective do you offer?
- And be prepared for rejection and very little money... (But then as students, you'll be used to that already!)

It's a tall order of to-dos and what not-todos, with the possibility for slip-ups at every turn. But the event reminded us that there isn't a singular route to journalism; some of us may have a more scenic journey there,

whilst others will take the highway straight to the top. There may be diversions, distractions and rejections, but if you want it enough, you will keep trying. Every speaker here had a different story and a different setback to share (Simon Hattenstone described his approach as "cack-handed"), placing a different amount of value on what you need to make the cut – some prioritise education, others recommend experience at your local paper.

Ultimately it's down to you to work at it. And university provides the best opportunity for you to do so! From blogging to the *Boar*, to other media outlets and creative writing publications throughout campus, the time to write has never been so, well, right. You can test the water to see if you like it, hone your skills, get feedback from other students and get the opportunity to attend such events as this one. And you don't even have to be charming to do so.



» The Student Media Summit in full swing photo: Flickr/ vnationalunionofstudents

Want to write for Features? Let us know! E-mail features@theboar.org to pitch your ideas

Room Renovations 101

So you've had a week of living in your university accommodation, unfortunately, some of you will be finding yourselves in small, cramped up rooms. **Luckily, there are ways to fix this:**

Make your room brighter

During the day, have your curtains 'as open as possible'. Not only does this allow more sunlight into your room, but it also makes your room feel less confined and gives the illusion of a bigger room.

Don't be afraid to open your sheer curtains as well - unless you really want your own privacy. But so long as you are not naked or picking your nose all day, so what if people can look into your room? I prefer taking down the sheer curtains or twisting them then hanging them up by the curtain railing.

At night, make sure your lights are bright enough. If your ceiling light looks a bit dim, change the light bulb(s)! Look for a power-efficient light bulb with a relatively high lumen measure. Remember to check the maximum power intake and buy a light bulb with the correct screw end.

Lamps are also a good way to light up a room. So if your room does not have one already, consider investing in one.

Use light colours

Try to use lighter colours for your room for a more refreshing ambience and to make your room feel less confined. This means using lighter coloured duvet covers - I am a big fan of white beds - or consider getting light-coloured curtains. If possible, a simple light-coloured desk and chair is also a good idea.

If your room walls are painted in a dark or depressing colour like grey, I recommend asking your landlord to have your walls repainted.

Reduce clutter

Too much clutter can make a room look more confined, suffocating and smaller than it really is. Try to keep most of your things out of sight. Store things away properly, use your drawers. Organise all your clothes in your wardrobe and avoid leaving them hanging around. Use small corners in your room or the space under your bed to hide things. It's a good idea to keep your shoes under your bed too. Aim to have more walls and floor space showing.

It is important to keep your desk tidy as well, with only the essential things on there: your laptop, your current work tidied up into neat piles - and maybe a bottle of wine!

If you have a sink in your room, try to keep that clear too. You only really need your hand wash, toothbrush and toothpaste out - maybe shaving cream for guys. Moisturiser can go in the drawers.

It may sound extreme, and true, I am a bit of a perfectionist and a minimalist, but these are just suggestions and the main point of this article is that there are ways to improve what you're given. So if ever you find yourself in a room too small for your liking, stop wailing and get working

Ann Yip

Putting the sex in homosexual

Daniel Cope expresses his no holds barred view on what it means to be gay



» photo/Flickr: Guillaume Paumier

We love sex. It's not exactly profound gospel to say that our consumption of sexual commodities such as, the startling eroticism displayed in perfume adverts, is prevalent among 21st century living. Neither is it original for me to say that we are sold a particular type of sex: the sex of heterosexuality. From dating shows to gossip columns you can place a hefty bet as to where the ball of sexuality will land.

In schools sex education also favours heterosexuality. If you couple this education with the media's sensual sales, it comes as little surprise that heterosexual kids are already in the know before the infamous 'birds and bees' talk. Where then, does that leave homosexual young adults? Thoroughly confused and riddled with doubt if my experience is anything to go by.

I'm wary of trying to appear as a voice for the definitive homosexual experience, since there is no such thing. However, I would like to give out some advice that I wish I had been given:

Gay sex is NOT any less healthy than heterosexual sex

This one is pretty obvious but it's worth noting nonetheless. I don't want to patronise when I say that contraception is valid no matter what team you are battling for. However, the way something like a condom was sold to me as a young child was something that stopped a girl getting pregnant. Maybe I was a naïve and ignorant child but it took me a while to understand that contraception should be a requirement for safer and healthier gay sex too. So the lesson here is that, provided the relevant safety precautions are observed, welcome to the world of gender fluidity and have fun!

Watch porn...no seriously, watch porn!

Unfortunately, the sexual activities of the LGBT community can often be perceived as alien in the light of every-day 'reality'. People are aware of it but refuse to acknowledge it. So I say to you if you don't get the answers from your media, your role models or your peers then go watch porn. The myths and stigmas of sexual attraction should be understood as much as they possibly can before individuals become active themselves. The questions that you'll be too embarrassed to ask will be explained with um... a practical demonstration. If you can prevent yourself from internalising the misogyny inherent in the porn industry then it will be your best bet for understanding the nitty, gritty details of homosexuality that British sensibility likes to gloss over.

Don't worry about answering: "who is the 'boy'/'girl' in the relationship?"

I've asked my boyfriend this very question. He doesn't like it. "We are both men" he says. He is right. The urge to put a heterosexual label on our relationship is irrelevant; we both like each other for the gender we are. Just because one of us might have qualities that are stereotypically 'feminine' or 'masculine' does not in fact mean we are the relationship's equivalent of the 'girl' or 'boy'. A relationship quickly makes you appreciate the pointless attribution of words like 'butch' and 'camp' as a descriptive of personality.

Just because you meet somebody with the same sexual orientation does not mean you have to 'do' anything with each other.

This attitude is far more abundant on campus than you might first believe. "Everybody who is gay seems to know each other!" is an example of observations friends have made to me in the past. They might be being slightly dramatic but it is a fair observation. Societies like Warwick Pride exist so that the LGBT community can network and share common experiences. It isn't a dating society so it shouldn't therefore, be perceived as some sort of real-life Grindr. It might be tempting to 'get with' somebody in a club once you realise you both swing the same way, but ask yourself, is it worth it? If the only common denominators between you both are 'homosexual' and 'fit' then chances are this hook-up won't be a very good starting point or secure way of demystifying your own sense of sexual self. Never jump the gun.

If you're smart then sex should be a bit scary no matter your orientation.

We all have habit of being frightened of things we don't understand. This is why homophobia and gendered stereotypes like the promiscuous 'femme fatale' exist. How does a woman use her sexuality if she doesn't have a penis? Gay sex can't really be natural; it can't possibly work can it? If you want to get all biological determinist then, no, perhaps homosexual sex isn't 'natural' in that way. And yes, that is a little disconcerting if you are gay. But it shouldn't be treated as an extra problem. Treat it as you would a mathematical equation or complex bits of prose, if you will, treat it as a learning curve. We ALL get nervous initially; we are ALL a bit confused and rubbish, some people are just good at putting on a face and pretending otherwise.



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Brace yourselves, the applications are starting

Ben Shaw gives his top tips for securing yourself that elusive dream internship

Is studying a degree at one of the best universities in the world enough to secure your future careers? Unfortunately, with jobs harder to come by, it's simply no longer sufficient to be able to count yourself amongst the intellectual elite.

With many graduate positions being filled by previous interns of any given company, a lot of you will be looking at these internships as your entry route. As a little introduction to the whole affair, here are my top five tips on landing that internship that you've always wanted, or at least, wanted since you heard about it.

1. Do your research

It sounds obvious, but you'd be surprised at the number of applicants who have no idea what they are applying for.

In a lot of popular career choices here at Warwick, *cough cough*, Investment Banking, *cough cough*, the majority are only able to regurgitate a textbook defini-

tion of what their job would involve. Dig a little deeper, and they will resemble a fish out of water. I should know, I was one of the majority when I started. I didn't have a clue what an Investment Banker was, yet, I wanted to be one. Sign up to all of the presentations you can, look out for society events and your knowledge will quickly build itself up. You're reading the Money section of the campus newspaper, that's a good start.

Try to think of a unique reason as to why you want to be in your chosen industry, and please don't say "it's the money". There's always one. Speak to senior students, they've been there, and worn the shirt and tie, they'll be able to help you out.

The chances are, there isn't only one company you are applying for, and recruiters will know that; but, even so, it's vital that you're able to demonstrate why you want to work for that company, and no one else. Make sure you know what makes them different from the other companies in the industry and demon-

strate in your application that you've at least read their website.

2. Learn to sell yourself

Firstly, get your CV and cover letter checked by the right people; recruiters receive thousands of applications every day, they will look over your CV in 30 seconds, and make a decision as to whether or not they like you. All it takes is one spelling or grammar mistake, and that will be all that the recruiters

Try to think of a unique reason as to why you want to be in your chosen industry.

remember from your application. Ask other people to check your application for you, and make sure recruiters only take away good things about you.

Again and again, you will be questioned as to why you think you

would be successful, and what motivates you. Find out what qualities the company is looking for in their employees, and think of examples in your experiences up until now to demonstrate that those are the qualities you have.

3. Prepare at every stage

Although all are different, most applications will involve several stages. Online forms, competency questions, numerical and verbal reasoning tests, interviews, and assessment centres. As best you can, prepare for every stage. Take the online tests for instance. A lot of people will not do any practice before hand. Mess one of these tests up, and your whole application is over, no matter how long you spent explaining your extravagant work experience placement in Nepal. Spend time preparing for each stage, and your hard work will be rewarded.

4. Set aside enough time

These applications will take time;

that's the point of them. Companies want to see whether you actually want to work for them. They know that you will be applying elsewhere, but you should still spend time and effort trying to impress them. It's a little game they like to play with you. You both know what's going on, but it happens anyway. It's far better to apply for a select few placements and take your time with the applications, than to apply for as many as you physically can. A small number of applications will be far stronger than a handful of rushed ones.

5. Get it done early

Go! Now! Before it's too late! I know of a number of companies that have already closed applications for spring, summer and graduate placements. Be the eager beaver, and you will be rewarded.

All that's left to say is good luck, hopefully the work done now will pay off in the end!

» Canary Wharf photo: Dave Straven



Macroeconomic review: where Britain stands

Alex Bunzl

Who could blame the average commentator for looking on the past year negatively? At first sight, Britain's economic experiences over the past twelve months seemingly warrant the title 'Year of Discontent'.

During this time, Britain was estimated to have suffered two quarters of negative growth; Moody's and S&P alike deprived Britain of her AAA rating; growth estimates were lowered, and a triple-dip recession was forecast. In a time of uncertainty, the notable consistency was inflation, an increase in the price level that remained above the 2.0 percent target.

The economic scene was so bleak that Chancellor George Osborne found himself comparing Britain to the Southern European countries, simply to adopt a positive outlook. It was all well to emphasise that Britain, unlike France, maintained the highest possible credit rating, until Fitch alone upheld this judgement – much to the amusement of the French commentators. Osborne even found a new scapegoat in the form of snowy weather. Admittedly, the winter weather made a slightly lesser antagonist than Miliband and Balls, who send a chill through the House of Commons on a weekly basis.

The message to take away, however, is that the signals were misleading, the statistics false, the negativity unfounded. Britain did not

experience a double-dip recession, and GDP has been rising impressively since.

Most recent reports show growth of 0.7 percent in the second quarter of 2013, with employment increasing by 0.2 percent. This progress is in spite of despondent reports that expect a curbed work ethic and decreased international investment. The Olympics saw Osborne booed and former Prime Minister and architect of current British debt levels, Gordon Brown, cheered. Perhaps the inverse would have been more fitting.

The Labour Party, on the other hand, stress that many families are still worse off than before the 2008 Financial Crisis. They are quite correct. The increase in the regressive VAT to 20 percent continues to

place those on the lowest incomes at a disadvantage.

Are they, however, missing the point? In light of the annual raising of the tax-free threshold, the government is relieving the poorest workers and promoting work simultaneously.

Of course, the British cannot take complete credit for their progress. Germany grew at its highest rate for two thirds of a year whilst France, albeit less impressively, expanded too. As eurosceptics regularly need reminding, these nations are major trading-partners. As such, they determine the fate of our economy in conjunction with any governmental macroeconomic instrument.

Step back and observe a worldwide recovery. China, whose dwindling increase in growth had

attracted much attention, is now boasting higher manufacturing activity. HSBC raised its Purchasing Managers' Index of the sector's health to 51.2 from 50.1. God forbid that the Chinese may slip back a notch and grow only 7.5 percent rather than 7.7 percent!

So, assuming that the latest round of statistics are correct, their reliability having previously rivalled that of our Deputy Prime Minister, Britain's future doesn't look too bleak and the golden tinge of the Noughties may soon be in sight again.



Should we be optimistic about future growth?
Tweet: @BoarMoney

Kiss me, kill me: *Othello* at the National Theatre

Jessica Devine reviews Nicholas Hytner's stellar production starring Adrian Lester and Rory Kinnear



» Cast of *Othello* at the National Theatre (photo: Johan Persson)

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Nicholas Hytner's role as Director of the National Theatre, and over the last decade he has set a precedent for witty, intelligent productions that are both innovative and effortlessly cool – his most recent production *Othello* being no exception.

Othello is one of those plays that speaks for itself; the story is well-known and well-loved. While it would remain popular even without a stellar cast, casting is still critical and I was excited to find out that the roles of Iago and Othello were being played by Rory Kinnear and Adrian Lester respectively. The last time I was at the National was to see Kinnear in Hytner's acclaimed production of *Hamlet*, so I was expecting great things.

Luckily, I was not to be disappointed. The contemporary realism of the production that extended to the set, costumes and direction transformed the 1603 play into the realm of modern warfare. This heightened sense of the presence and the ultra-naturalism of the

acting made the emotions and themes of the play seem relevant and realistic. That being said it managed to remain non-hyperbolic, a trap I have found other, more traditional productions falling into.

Vicki Mortimer's design was both stylish and innovative. The very original idea of staging the eavesdropping scene, which is the final catalyst for the tragic dénouement, in a common bathroom captured the lad-esque culture that was subtly employed to further the idea of rumour and hysteria. Othello's paranoia was heightened by the claustrophobic set, with locked doors, enclosed walls and the threat of imminent danger outside the camp, which left Othello trapped with his torturer Iago.

The colour scheme was austere and cold, in keeping with the military themes but also perfectly juxtaposing the bright and sunny disposition of the charming Desdemona, played extremely well by Olivia Vinall (an actress nurtured by the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, where she starred in their recent

production *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*.)

Despite the play being entitled *Othello*, the character who dominates is Iago and there are plenty of critical debates surrounding Shakespeare's decision to name the play after its tragic hero rather than the fiendish manipulator. Kinnear stunningly executed the role and the moments when Iago fears he is losing control stood out as the only glimpses of the character's firm and vulnerable humanity. His false smiles and asides to the audience were chilling and allowed Othello's fall from power and grace to appear all the more tragic.

Though Kinnear's portrayal was brilliant and contemporary, it had perhaps too much emotional motive behind it. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but I have always seen Iago as a sadist; a sociopath who does the things he does not because of some humanly logical reason but simply because he can. This criticism is down to a matter of personal taste and otherwise Kinnear was flawless in the role. Particularly, the action with

Kinnear and Lester together onstage was energetic and tense; it fulfilled everything you could want from the relationship of Iago and Othello.

Emilia is a character it's easy to forget about, but Lyndsey Marshall played a passionate and strong performance that made me take notice of her for all the right reasons. In addition, it was interesting to see Emilia presented as a fellow soldier, rather than just a lady's maid, which added a different dynamic to the relationship between her and Desdemona, as well as her and Othello, during the climactic final scene.

This is a clever and cool production that strips the play of both glamour and melodrama, transporting you to a very present and real world in which Iago's quest for revenge takes centre stage.

Othello is at the National Theatre, London until Friday 4 October, or catch the encore NT Live screening on campus at Warwick Arts Centre on Sunday 13 October.

What's on compiled by Rebekah Ellerby and Chloe Booyens

1984 Editor's Star Choice	The World Turned Upside Down	Leamington Comedy Festival	Millet to Manet: late c19th French prints	Ghosts	Australia	Broken	Richard Serra: Drawings
1-5 Oct Oxford Playhouse; 15-19 Oct WAC Risk-taking Headlong explore Orwell's ever relevant, perhaps timeless, dystopia	4 Oct - 14 Dec, Mead Gallery, FREE <i>Buster Keaton, Sculpture & The Absurd</i> : his films' influences on conceptual art	12 - 19 Oct Royal Spa Centre, Various Lee Mack headlines a fantastic line-up, including Seann Walsh, putting Leam on the comedy map	until 12 Jan 2014 Barber Insitute, FREE French prints from the late 19th century with a handful of famous Impressionists	until 23 Nov, Almeida Theatre, £16 for Students Richard Eyre directs Ibsen's play about the ghosts of the past	until 8 Dec Royal Academy, £9 for Students Demonstrates the scope of Australia's art, from its abo- riginal origins to the modernists	2-4 Oct WAC, £11 for U26s Examines our broken relation- ship with the earth in athletic dance & digital imagery	until 12 Jan 2014, Courtauld Gallery, FREE for Students A minute exhibition of 12 recent, radical drawings that promises to be something special

2 + 2 = 5: 1984 comes to the Arts Centre

Harley Ryley reviews Headlong's radical, multimedia production of Orwell's dystopian masterpiece



» Tim Dutton (O'Brien) and Mark Arends (Winston) in *1984* presented by Headlong and Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company (photo: Tristram Kenton)

A stage adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* was never going to be an easy task. Its world in which even thoughts can be a crime under the totalitarian forces of Big Brother, has become the ubiquitous example to pair with stories of over-surveillance and obstructions to human freedom. Deemed a seminal work of twentieth century fiction, expectation from the adaptation's creators Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan was so high that producing something truly impressive was always going to be, in my opinion, quite a challenge. In their adaptation, Headlong have done many things right but even now, as I sit to contemplate it almost a week later, I can't work out if I enjoyed it or not. Now before you panic and think about cancelling the ticket you just bought, let me elaborate a little, because there were many elements of the production that were engaging, innovative and excellently staged; elements which in themselves make the production worth a visit.

All of this said, for the most part, my issue with this adaptation was the conviction of its characters; I felt at times that I didn't believe the characters were fully committed to their actions. Winston, though played well by Mark Arends, was cast too young for the role and Harra Yanas' Julia lacked character depth throughout. Winston and Julia's active undermining of the Party's regime seemed at times a half-hearted attempt, and at others as though they were doing it because that's what the script prescribed. I didn't believe that the two people on that stage were there, in that situation, so the action lacked the compelling tension that I found in the novel. Though O'Brien was probably the most life-like character, whether Tim Dutton brought anything new to the role is questionable. I wanted the characters to grow and develop, but as the play drew to a close I quickly realised, with disappointment, that this wasn't going to happen.

However, despite issues with the acting, I was firmly impressed by Chloe Lamford's set design, which was composed of mov-

ing elements, whose dynamism more than made up for the monotony of the character portrayal. The set's disintegration into Room 101 was momentous and incredibly well choreographed. Its sparse emptiness poignantly replaced the corporate scene of the rest of the production. Coupled with an interesting, if at first predictable, use of pre-recorded videos, which took the story's theme of surveillance and experimented with it even on-stage, the set added dimension to often two-dimensional characters.

I think I speak for most audience members when I say that the torture scene was breathtakingly perfect. It was tense; it was unnerving; and I more than once had to close my eyes against the visual effect of the staging. Winston came into his own in this scene, finally evoking our sympathy, surrounded by the ominous brightness of Room 101.

The concept of *1984*'s legacy was interestingly used by the production, as it opened and closed with a contemporary book club discussing Winston's diary, for them a piece of history, and what its message could be. I could see, by the end, that this was trying to achieve an idea of resolution in the future but I felt that the opening scene was 'tacked-on' to justify the final scene. The link, therefore, felt tenuous, and the effect was disorientating for the audience. At just £6 for Warwick students when the play tours to Warwick Arts Centre, I advise you to go and simply make your own judgements about this radical production. Perhaps, for my part, I simply didn't 'get' the characters. Even if you were to agree with me, it is at least guaranteed to be an interesting evening's entertainment, by a fantastic company who have managed to produce another memorable piece of theatre. It will keep you thinking, which, of course, is its point!

1984 is a co-production by Headlong and Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company, which tours to Oxford Playhouse (1-5 October) and later comes to Warwick Arts Centre (15-19 October).

Hobgoblin Leamington Comedy Festival

A fantastic line-up of comedians, including Seann Walsh and Lee Mack, puts Leamington on the comedy map, says Isaac Leigh

Following on from last year's hugely successful debut festival, featuring stand-out performances from Terry Alderton and Lee Hurst, some even bigger names will be making appearances this year.

45-year-old Mack headlines the star-studded line-up. The Southport-born comedian has starred in TV shows including *Not Going Out* and *Would I Lie To You*, as well as guest-hosting *Have I Got News for You* and *Never Mind The Buzzcocks*. He will bring his quick-witted set, peppered with one-liners, to the final night of the week-long festival (Saturday 19 October). But he is by no means the only big name in tow.

Arthur Smith, the much-loved British broadcaster, writer and comedian, will be performing on the same day. Smith has appeared in shows such as *Grumpy Old Men*, as well as panel shows *QI* and *Have I Got News for You*, and is well-known for rejecting an award from the Perrier Awards in 2005. In his words, "basically, they wanted to tell me I was old and cool; well, I know that already, and anyway, my ego is bloated enough." This veteran of Edinburgh Fringe is sure to bring the house down.

Alongside Mack and Smith on the final

night will be hilarious guitarist Mitch Benn, as well as the quirky George Egg, described by *The Guardian* as 'a hugely entertaining variety turn'. The finale will be compered by Tiernan Douieb, a rising star hailed by many a comedy expert for his audience interaction.

On the Friday night, last year's headliner Terry Alderton will unleash his magnificent combination of noises and voices. Alderton, who was signed as a goalkeeper by League Two football team Southend United in 2004 after performing brilliantly in Sky reality series *The Match*, rose to the top of stand-up comedy via the long route. Originally a television presenter, Alderton was voted as *The Sun's* Comedian of the Year in 2011, and has also appeared on *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*. A bundle of energy and endearing weirdness, Alderton is truly one of a kind, a blur of imitations and impressions that will leave you in stitches – so good that he was described as a "f***ing genius" by no less an authority than Frank Skinner.

That's not all, though. Rising star Seann Walsh appears on Wednesday 16 October to build on the phenomenal success of Channel 4's *Stand Up for the Week* and BBC One's

Live at the Apollo. The 26-year-old is hurtling towards international recognition at quite a pace, and it is worth seeing him now, while he is still relatively unknown.

And we still haven't talked about Richard Herring, whose early work consisted of a double-act alongside the hugely popular Stewart Lee, brings his show *We're All Going to Die!* to Leamington Spa. Not afraid to ruffle a few feathers, Herring has tackled politics, religion and genitalia in shows thus far, and now adopts the theme of death as his companion on the Comedy Festival stage. A show not for the faint-hearted but certainly for those who appreciate wit and that old chestnut, 'comedy outside the box'.

Outside stand-up, there are all sorts of activities to get your teeth stuck into. The opening day (Saturday 12 October) sees a face-painting workshop and a performance by popular theatre company Maison Foo, while the Reduced Shakespeare Company are putting on a thrilling and humorous exhibition of all 37 Shakespeare plays in just 97 minutes called *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. The show appeared at the West End's Criterion Theatre for nine years, making it London's longest-serving comedy,

and has been adapted for 2013. Written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, this is a rapid romp through the Bard's complete works which promises to make you see Shakespeare anew.

On top of all that, there's Leamington Underground Cinema, a performance from CBBC favourite Justin Fletcher and the Pun Run (Tuesday 15 October), a huge audience favourite in both London and at Edinburgh Fringe.

In other words, there is something for everybody at the Hobgoblin Leamington Comedy Festival. Diversity is rightly a buzzword in comedy, but the best thing about this example of diversity is that it has not come at the expense of calibre.

Visit www.leamingtonspacomedy.com for more details: I'd get your tickets now, if I were you.



Been to any of these shows?
Tweet: @BoarArts

Keep your wives and swap your books

Over the summer students agreed to swap their favourite novels and try a completely new genre



»Small gods Picture: Dedroidify

Horror

Rebecca Myers prepares to be terrified as she reads Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

No matter how many years of reading you have behind you, and how 'open-minded' you consider your liberal literary taste, there comes a moment when someone recommends a genre to you that you've probably never heard of. Now was my time.

Eagerly engaging in the genre swap, I wondered: what could someone throw at me that I hadn't even dipped my well-read tootsies into before?! – I hit a bit of a wall. 'Horror' I drew, and 'horror' I had never, never read before.

What did horror entail? Was it like *The Woman in Black* - I was absolutely praying not, because when I saw *The Woman in Black* I had a fever and slept walked for about three nights afterwards. Which brings me to another point: I, Rebecca Myers, am a scaredy-cat. So what would I do if the book made me sleep with the lights on for the rest of the academic year?

When I received the book, I must say I was less than impressed. Book reviews can't all be good, and I was starting to worry mine really wouldn't be. A neon green design, with the silhouette of a man in a top hat, and a spattered effect – it looked like a children's book from the outside.

The reality was no book for children, except perhaps the 'inner child', if you can so call the inner devourer of new words and mesmerising imagery. Words like 'itchweed' and phrases like 'somewhere in him, a shadow turned mournfully over'; images of a young, pale boy called Jim Nightshade, a duo called Mr Cooger and Mr Dark, and a world in which there is such thing as a lightning rod salesman.

If you want to reawaken tingling nerves and spell-bound vocabulary that conjures forgotten worlds of slime and shadows and cold winters, delve into the world of *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. People often look for a novel to refresh their reading list, to give them a change of literary scene. Few novels and few genres will be able to do this for me ever again after the imaginative overhaul I embarked on with this dark volume.

As for the rest of the genre, who knows? I can say only this: I have been spoiled by being given the true horror to end all horrors, the 'timeless rite-of-passage' of the master Ray Bradbury.

Non-Fiction

Andy King tackles literary criticism and Hanif Kureishi's thoughts on multi-culturalism

"Being a child at all involves resolving, or synthesising, at least two different worlds, outlooks and positions."

Hanif Kureishi's *The Word and the Bomb* might be described as an evolving opinion on race relations and multiculturalism in Britain. The child of a Pakistani Muslim father and a white British mother, Kureishi describes his parents' outlooks 'clash[ing]' within him, causing him to not really side with either. With this position, he scrutinises both cultures and their interactions with one another. The text contains extracts of the author's work, including the entirety of *My Son the Fanatic* and a chronological list of essays.

Kureishi's non-fiction reads as eloquently as his prose without losing any clarity of meaning. At under a hundred pages, it can easily be read in an afternoon. However, whilst his words are well-spoken, I'm unsure they had a lasting effect on me; the sermon-like statements about my "human duty" not to be blinded by religion felt, to me, like he was preaching to the choir (if you'll pardon the pun). That isn't to say the book isn't enjoyable, just that I felt it was targeted at a demographic I don't belong to.

This is possibly the first non-fiction book I've read cover to cover. I'm usually very fiction, if not fantasy, focused: stories fascinate me and I doubted non-fiction's ability to provide a satisfying narrative arc. Kureishi proved me wrong to an extent. His voice is rich and his evolving argument about the need for multiculturalism provides an arc-of-sorts. I would not say that I am a converted non-fiction reader, yet I enjoyed the prosaic segments (such as *My Son the Fanatic*) more than the essayistic chapters. Whilst my preconceptions weren't entirely accurate, I haven't been convinced of the worth of opinion over those truths that can be gleaned from fiction.

Fantasy

Phoebe Demeger muses on the king of fantasy Terry Pratchett and his novel *Small Gods*

It's not that fantasy and I don't get along, per se; we've just never had an especially strong relationship. For example, despite enjoying *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy as much as the next person, I've never felt any need to delve fully into the world of Tolkien, or more recently George R. R. Martin.

Thankfully, Pratchett in his *Discworld* series (*Small Gods* being the thirteenth instalment) creates a well-realised alternate universe while keeping heavy-handed description to a minimum. His laconic and witty prose leaves you no choice but to suspend disbelief and immediately invest yourself in the fate of a once-powerful God trapped within the unlikely form of a sassy tortoise. It's refreshing to see a genre novel not taking itself too seriously; or more accurately, an author who doesn't take his genre too seriously.

Yet that's not to say that the novel is solely a light-hearted romp. It also serves as a caustic warning of the dangers of institutionalised religion, and what happens when that religion becomes too powerful. Moreover, through the journey taken by the underdog hero Brutha, it poses the underlying question: is it better to trust and believe in gods, other people, or oneself?

To sum up: a philosophical and witty book, with just enough fantastical elements to entice you into the next instalment. Thanks to Pratchett, I'm feeling ready to take on the *Discworld*, and maybe even Middle Earth someday.



Try the book swap challenge!

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#BookSwapChallenge



» Summer swappin' had me a blast Flickr/baddogwhiskas



Classics

Rhianne Poole took on Oscar Wilde and the genre of the Classics

When I received Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, I couldn't wait to lap up the corruption, debauchery and excess of Wilde's only published novel. Reason one: I'm a big fan of the fin-de-siècle, Victorians, and all things decadent. Reason two: it's on the reading list for one of my modules next year.

What makes the novel a great classic to me is that despite its surface contextual significance, Wilde deals with a more universal issue: what effect does sin have on man's soul?

Dorian Gray's portrait begins to bear (and bare) all of his sins. Indulgence in unspeakable desires transforms only his picture, leaving his corporeal beauty and youth unmarred. The novel documents Dorian's adult life, from the initiation of his corruption by Lord Henry Wotton, to the shocking consequences of sustaining such a immoral double life, denying his senses nothing whilst remaining a "gentleman" in polite society. It was certainly an engrossing, if not quick, read. The plot drives the narrative down to its expected dénouement, whilst the unspoken activities of Mr Gray shroud the life of its protagonist in a veil as dense as the opium smoke which clouds his senses.

However, having not read many of Wilde's works, I was quickly challenged by his characteristically embellished style, and to me it became quite tiresome. The prose is littered with theatrical cynicism, lavishly tripping from the golden tongue of the corruptive influence of Lord Henry Wotton. "You cut life to pieces with your epigrams", an insult of Dorian's, confirms my reading experience of the annoying excess of such phrases.

Although the style is a bit tough going, the plot and 'moral of the story' ascends the difficulty. I'd definitely recommend *Dorian Gray* to anyone looking for a read which raises that general problem of morality, and what happens when you've gone too far over to the dark side...

Science Fiction

Una Shah delves into the wonderfully weird mind of Philip K Dick

I'd tried reading a bit of science fiction before taking part in this project – a little time travel here, some dystopia there. However, I'd never read anything like Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Set in a post-apocalyptic Earth ravished by nuclear war, Rick Deckard is a bounty hunter hired to 'retire' six runaway androids in order to own the greatest status symbol: a living animal.

As the title suggests, Dick's novel contains pretty much every sci-fi cliché out there, and by the time I'd finished Chapter One I was already bored of reading long descriptions about synthetic mood organs, World War Terminus, and electric animals. However, as the story got going I found myself enjoying it more and more. Although my attention did slip at times, I was always inclined to keep reading – the plot was gripping and easy to follow, the action was fast-paced, and the character interaction was well written and interesting.

Literature can appeal to everyone no matter which genre you prefer, and it's always worth trying something new every once in a while.

One of the common preconceptions about science fiction is that it's mindless – you know, like aliens coming down to Earth and blowing everyone up, that sort of thing. But I was pleasantly surprised to find that *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* was actually a very thought-provoking read. The novel explores a number of questions that are relevant to today's society: what it means to be human, the distinction between man and machine, and the issue of social manipulation. In terms of both entertainment value and intelligent writing, Dick definitely exceeded my expectations.

I'm usually a bit of a snob when it comes to literature. My genre of choice was 'classics', but despite my snobbery, I actually preferred Philip K. Dick's modern sci-fi to many of the books considered essential to the literary canon.

OK, it wasn't the best book I've ever read, and I don't think science fiction is ever going to become my genre of choice. But despite my initial presumptions, I enjoyed *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* a lot more than I thought I would. It just goes to show, literature can appeal to everyone, no matter which genre you prefer, and it's always worth trying something new every once in a while.

Pint of purple



Deputy Games Editor **Richard Brown** takes on our bookish questions in this week's column

What book are you reading at the moment?

I always like to have two or three books going at once so you can flick back and forth and keep it fresh. I've got a few course books at the moment. I've just finished *100 Years of Solitude* which was incredible and now I'm plodding through *My Antonia* which is...less incredible.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Okay this is going to sound like a strange one but hear me out. I'm going to say Patrick Bateman from *American Psycho*. He's the perfect mixture of exterior cool, the suits, the business cards, and internal turmoil. Once you get to grips with the violence, it's a brilliant book and Bateman, as shallow, obsessive and loathsome as he is, is an equally brilliant...hero? Anti-hero? I don't know.

What is the first book you remember reading?

I think it was *George's Marvellous Medicine*. I remember after I read it, when I was probably about seven or eight, my sister and myself decided to make our own. I don't think my mum was hugely impressed when we poured most of the fridge into the bath, mixed it together and left it for a few hours!

What is your all-time favourite book?

Whenever anyone finds out you're an English student you get asked this question, and to this day I haven't come up with a decent answer. There are so many books that could be my favourite for different reasons, but if I had to pick I'd probably go with *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers, which I first read in book club at school (oh yeah, I'm the kid who was in book club). The protagonist is a deaf mute and throughout the book, McCullers hits this amazing balance between loneliness and hope.

If you wrote an autobiography, what would be the title?

I think even I, never mind the rest of the world, would find it hard to take my autobiography seriously. I've had a pretty mundane summer so if I was writing it now it would have to be "Cheese, Jeremy Kyle and Sleeping: Richard Brown Uncut"

Kindle vs. Book?

I've got a Kindle and it's useful, especially as a student, because so many of the books are ridiculously cheap, but you can't beat a book. As pretentious as it sounds, there is something special about having a book in your hands that no amount of technology will be able to match.

How much is a pint of purple?

Although most of my infrequent nights at Pop are a bit of a haze of fancy dress and bad music, I have a sneaking suspicion that it's £1.50.



So you want to work in publishing?

Louisa Vivienne ponders about the publishing world

In a post-university world of around 85 applicants chasing every grad job, building up your CV is crucial. Many publishing houses offer unpaid work placements, such as Random House and Penguin (where I've spent my summer in the Publicity and Marketing departments, respectively). Of course, getting internships is competitive, as this is where the catch-22 of employment comes in; can't get work without work experience, can't get work experience without getting work. So this is where every 'skill' gets shamelessly twisted for your CV: It might be a bit of a stretch to point to your performance at Wednesday night circle as evidence of team-building skills, but hopefully we've all done a few things that will make us unique, vibrant candidates. In my case it was website editing, speaking French and ahem...writing for the *Boar*.

Once you've got your foot in the door, there are a few more things to keep in mind. Firstly, you can't expect to earn a lot. Entry level positions pay around £15,000 - £23,000 which doesn't go very far in London where the majority of publishing houses are based. It's only really the big-dogs in senior or directorial roles who earn competitive salaries. I once commented on the endless parties and book launches that

seem to go hand in hand with the publishing world and was told that "we have to drink so we forget how poor we are." So there's that. But a stream of open bar parties is a plus, a few of which I attended even as a lowly intern; which brings me onto...

NETWORKING. You have to do it, and it pays to be shameless. Talk to editors, publicists, marketing directors; basically, spy the people talking to the authors and try to slide in gracefully. Exploit social media and email or tweet the relevant people to say: "Hi. I'm a big fan of your books and would love to work for you. Are you aware of any positions or internships?" The worst they can do is say "no" (or more likely not reply at all). But it won't make you less likely to find a position. There are many websites out there to help you get experience or a job in publishing; the listings on TheBookSeller.com, BookMachine.org and BookBrunch.co.uk are updated regularly.

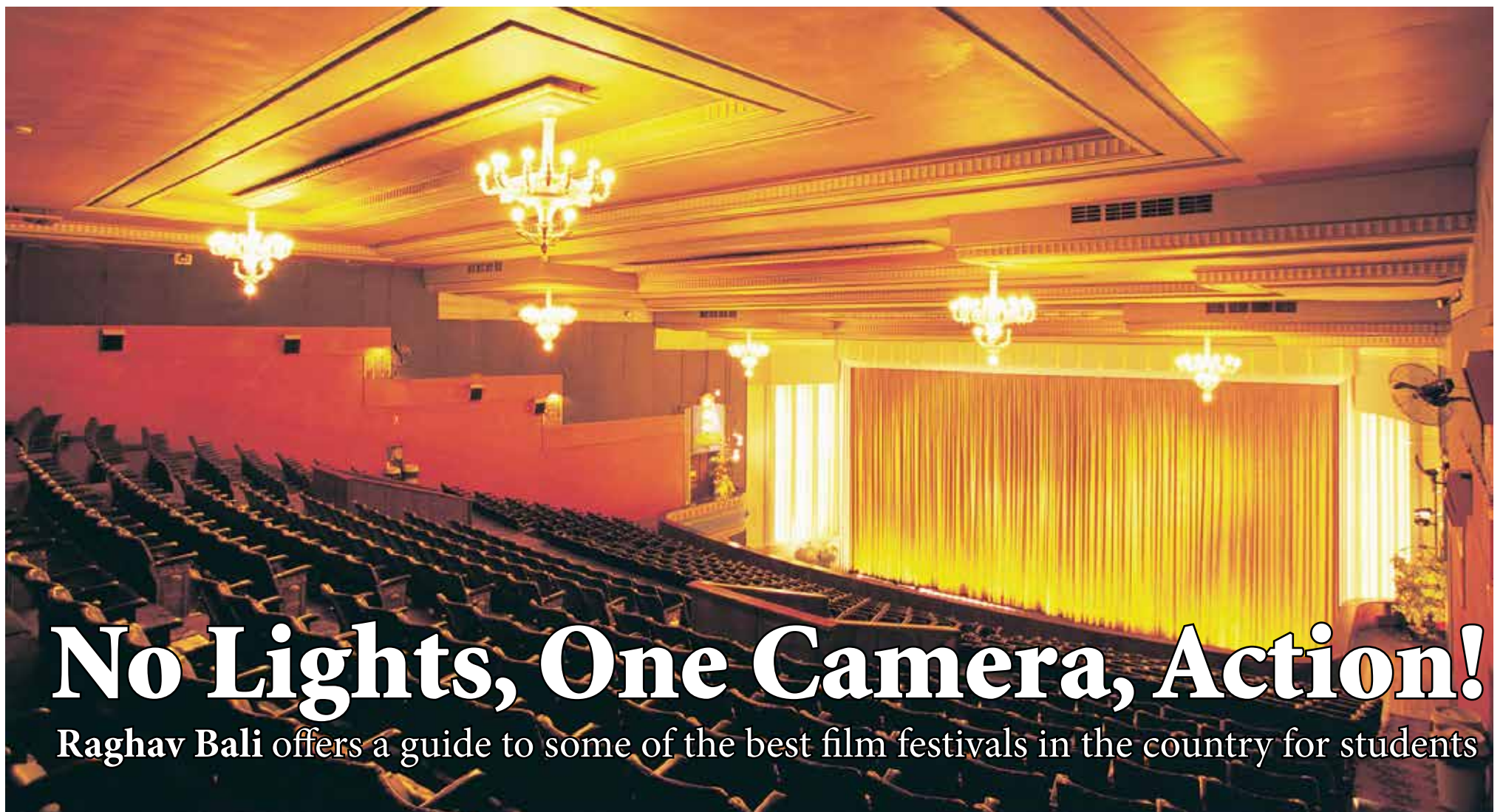
For most employers, your degree discipline is not crucial to securing a job, but a background in the humanities can demonstrate the necessary enthusiasm for all things books. However, if you wanted to work in a specialised publishing sector such as legal, art or science, a relevant degree may be necessary. There is also little evidence to suggest that candidates who have a Publishing MA progress more than those who

have only completed a bachelor's degree.

As with almost any job, you have to be prepared for some mundane tasks, and this is especially true for interns. I can't tell you how many books I've stuffed in envelopes to send to bookshops or reviewers. Department depending, you may also be asked to do things like writing press releases, compiling press packs, proof-reading and copy-editing. However, there are also plenty of creative aspects, such as overseeing the design of book jackets or advertising campaigns. There are also some hidden perks; Summer Fridays for example. This is a fairly common publishing practice which allows you to go home after lunch every Friday of the summer - simple, but brilliant. It's also fairly likely your colleagues will be adorable book-nerds.

Along with the aforementioned wine abundant parties, it's an enjoyable, exciting and ever-changing work environment. Perhaps most importantly, you get to be a part of the world that created every book you ever loved or were inspired by, a world that will continue to inspire for generations.





No Lights, One Camera, Action!

Raghav Bali offers a guide to some of the best film festivals in the country for students

» Disclaimer: This picture may not accurately represent student film festivals. Cinemas used will almost never look as beautiful as this one but one can wish! photo: australia.com

Flatpack Film Festival

Featuring film, animation, optical illusions, music, improvised sound and image, live performance, installation and even a pedal-powered cinema, Flatpack proves to be one of the most diverse film festivals this side of the North Sea and English channel. The inception of Flatpack occurred in June 2003, as a monthly film night at the Rainbow pub in Digbeth, Birmingham, and now the wheels are turning to start the gear of the 8th festival in March 2014. Warwick University cinephiles can revel in being part of Birmingham's cinematic history while sitting in the festival's spiritual home, The Electric Cinema, the oldest working cinema in the UK. The highlights from last year included *The Lebanese Rocket Society*, a documentary charting the implausible forgotten story of a group of Armenian students who tried to build a space rocket in 1960s Lebanon and also a simple black and white animation, *Plug and Play* that combines love, desire and the coulomb current into one electrifying whole. Luckily what it lacks in overriding themes from its art installations and films it gains in the form of a welcoming atmosphere and spirit that heartens the feeling of excitement and enhances the shared viewing experience in the festival community. So pack a coat, bring a buddy and prepare yourself for a week of cinematic enchantment.



Watersprite

Hailed as one of the most prestigious student film festivals, the Watersprite International Student Film Festival is designed to celebrate student filmmaking from around the world, and is held annually at the University of Cambridge. The festival culminates with a weekend of events in the beginning of March, in which famous speakers from the worldwide film industry are invited, with the likes of Bill Nighy, Kevin MacDonald and David Yates, to give talks and workshops, alongside the awards ceremony, celebrating and screening the winning entries. The festival is not-for-profit but even so its short-film competition attracts entries from 41 countries, across six continents, garnering a strong support from BAFTA. Shortly moving into its fifth year, the festival also provides people from numerous film departments, including make up, screenwriting, scoring, and post production, the platform to indulge in their early experience in the industry as well as sharing the secrets of all these different tools of the trade. The festival's name derives from their first ever Film of the Year, *Who's Afraid of the Watersprite?* directed by William McGregor. The 18-minute short, a hauntingly beautiful coalescing story of a sick mother, her little girl, a blacksmith and an old man, went on to receive universal praise and won 9 international awards. In essence, it's a perfect place to get make that distant dream of yours into an impending reality.



Festival

November is the best time to be a film fan with an impatience to escape the University bubble. Which is why one of the UK's most talked about events, the Aesthetica Short Film Festival will fill that void, retuning for a third year in York from 8-11th November. Aesthetica is not specifically a festival engineered by students but rather an experience that can easily be absorbed by one. The festival celebrates independent cinema with a shorter time frame and a multitude of genres varying from drama to music video to experimental. Akin to Glastonbury the festival takes place over a weekend, with the option to acquire a three-day or one-day pass. However instead of forking over £200, Aesthetica provides tickets for a modest price of £27 for access to all the venues and screenings over the whole weekend – perfect for those on a student budget. Accompanying the usual festival frolics are the master classes that provide the opportunity to engage with industry professionals. This year Alice Lowe, who has appeared in some of the best British cinema has to offer like *Hot Fuzz* and *Sightseers* comes to Aesthetica to discuss screenwriting and subsequently bringing the words to the screen. But what easily sets Aesthetica apart from other film festivals are the unique screening locations. You could catch yourself laughing your head off in a 300 year-old manor or weeping silently in an old clothing shop hidden down York's cobblestoned alleyways.



Cinematique!

Led by former Warwick students Jennytha Raj and Daniel Montanarini who helped develop the yearly Keeno Kino Warwick Film Festival, Cinematique! provides the perfect platform exclusive for all student film-makers, especially those new to the game, to get their work to an open audience. The festival itself is quite small in scale taking place in a bar and screen on one warm summer day in London. But don't be fooled, the professionalism and organisation is on par with any another festival, and you'd be surprised to hear that the event itself is free. Last year the festival invited Rob Savage the writer-director of the micro-budget feature *Strings* for a Q&A session about filmmaking and working the festival circuit. Savage himself screened his film at the prestigious Raindance Festival in London and even internationally at the Rome Film Festival. Without the hassle of fees and the competition of film-makers outside of education, Cinematique! is not only providing a fantastic environment with the purpose of showcasing what students have to offer in the world of film but also giving those interested in cinema the opportunity to meet others and network within a casual setting allowing the possibility of future collaborations with others.



Keep on keeping up



» Kim and ko. on the red karpet – but is the family worth keeping up with? Don't be a snob, admit you love them... photo: Forbes.com

Poppy Rosenberg

Now, I'm not usually one to admit to my guilty pleasures – I am customarily inclined to fall into the snobbery of an English literature student – however, when it comes to the Kardashians I am shamefully unabashed in my dedication and affection. If you're not too busy stewing in your own superiority, read on to find out why *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* is a wonderful addition to television and the best reality TV show out there.

1. It's real

Unlike the blatant staging of *Made in Chelsea*, or the controversially contrived *The Hills*, *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* is a no-holes-barred documentary following the lives of an undoubtedly 'k-razy' (sorry), but very real family. I have to admit to the admiration I have for the Kardashians and for their press tactics. Instead of allowing speculation and often-destructive rumour, their form of press control is simply to have no secrets. We have been privy to the emotional rollercoasters of Kim's infamous relationship with Chris Humphreys and there is no attempt to gloss over the harsher, personal areas of life – one needs only to look to Khloé's on-screen battle with fertility to see that this is very much the case. Although there is a huge amount of criticism, most recently from Kim's baby-daddy Kanye West, about the family's appar-

ent need for drama and attention, I believe that in celebrity culture, with the spotlight continually shining on the family, their decision to be entirely open, thus removing the danger of rumour is near genius. You need only look to the press attack the family suffered after a slight absence of media coverage and openness to see the wisdom in their usual approach. Whilst you may disagree with their decisions and status, once you watch the show itself it becomes clear that each of them takes responsibility for their actions and are prepared to deal with the consequences right in front of you. With the Kardashians the drama is real, and for better or worse you have to respect that.

2. The family dynamic

Unlike shows like *The Hills* and *Made In Chelsea*, which at their cores are essentially voyeuristic exercises organised around negative gossip-mongering, bitching and hostility, *KUWTK* has, at its center, a very close and loving family. Coming from a close family myself, and being one of three sisters, I can say that their dynamic and affection is heart-warming and, more importantly, accurate! Over the course of the series we get to know the family through fly-on-the-wall footage and direct interviews. Whilst there is of course bickering between the sisters, this only adds to the endearing quality the show has as a documentary on a family. Khloé Kardashian has herself spoken out to say that this is the reason she believes the show has been a success: contrary to almost every other real-

ity show, this one follows a family who truly love each other. The dynamics between the siblings, especially the three sisters, I can report as being very, very close to the reality; from the tears over being 'left out' to the tantrums about clothes being stolen, these girls are the real deal. So even when they are arguing, the Kardashian sisters provide a good laugh by revealing the seldom-discussed realities of being a part of a large, loud family.

3. They aren't thick

This may seem unlikely, and you may be beginning to think I am a bit crazy (sorry), but seriously they (can) make some insightful points! The Kardashians may seem ditsy and materialistic, but they are very aware of these criticisms and reflect on this in the show. Frequent discussion is had on the importance and role of money and status in the family – it is no secret that Kim likes shopping, but this is embraced and discussed from philosophical and moral standpoints as well. In a particular episode, Kendall Jenner herself discussed the discomfort she feels with her privilege amidst a community who are suffering from economic recession. She was 15.

I could go on, but I won't. In short: you really must *Keep Up With The Kardashians*.



Do you keep up with the Kardashians? Or any other guilty pleasure show?
 Tweet: @BoarTV

Aussie Update

This summer, the TV section sent **Joshua Murray Down Under** to report on the undiscovered world of Australian TV. He came home with an unexpected new obsession.

I am afraid that I must start my final year here at Warwick with a confession. I am a Blockhead. By that, I don't mean that I am a die-hard fan of Ian Dury's rock and roll band – although *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick* was a focal point of my Freshers' playlist. I am admitting to a television addiction that I picked up this summer on the other side of the world.

The Block is an Australian renovation show that follows five couples as they compete to turn rundown buildings into luxury housing and win a massive cash prize – sounds addictive right?! This year's version, *The Block: Sky High*, saw the contestants renovate an old hotel in the heart of South Melbourne, turning it into a stunning five-storey luxury apartment block. Each couple were given the task of refurbishing two rooms every week on a budget. Once the rooms were finished, expert judges ranked the results, with the top three couples each week receiving a monetary boost to their budgets. At the end of the competition, each apartment was opened to the public for a series of auctions. Every dollar of profit was won by the contestants, with the largest profit winning one couple an extra AUS\$100,000.

Have I sold it to you yet? No? I am not usually a renovation programme enthusiast either, but within a week of being *Down Under*, I was hooked on *The Block*.

Whereas most shows like it focus overly on the renovation work being done, often alienating viewers such as myself who would struggle to construct an IKEA bookshelf, *The Block* is more interested in how the stresses and strains of the renovation process affects the relationships between the couples. In the claustrophobic atmosphere of the building site, even something as simple as deciding on curtains for the master bedroom can suddenly become a traumatic choice.

The Block is not just confined to the television screen either – it is a quasi-religion to the passionate viewers. Any of the products used on the programme, from oil paintings to a state-of-the-art fridge-freezer, are made available to viewers on the show's website. When the apartment block was opened to the public in early July, thousands of people waited in line for a chance to meet the star renovators of the show.

I wish I could chuckle at those people for their obsession with a television programme – I really do. Unfortunately I cannot. I was one of the eager fans who braved the Melbourne rain for a photo with Trixie and Jono from Floor 5. My name is Joshua Murray, and I am a Blockhead.



Fable: Don't game at Uni

Gabe Hurst justifies the decision to continue gaming at university



» Is there a place for gaming at University? photo: Warwick SU

Before I started my first year of university, there were many questions that I found myself contemplating; what will it be like? Will I have a good time? What should I bring? Would it be okay to bring a games console and/or a gaming laptop? When speaking to my friends about it they all came to the same conclusion really. Why would I want to stay in and game when I'm supposed to be enjoying the best and most social years of my life? I actually listened in my first year to people who said this, people who seemed to believe that gamers are a strange breed of social recluse. Actually,

Bringing a games console or gaming laptop will not only give you a break from your social life but it can also give you an alternative one

if you have the appropriate insurance, bringing a console to university is a really good idea for a multitude of reasons.

Personally I do dislike socialising a lot of the time and even though some people do go out non-stop I found it comforting to be able to lock myself in my room and play the games I could at home. Some games are cathartic really. Even though everyone encourages Freshers to take part in as much as they can, the pressure to do so sometimes can be overwhelming and having a good lot of games with you means that even when nothing is going on or you're too tired to join in the



fresher's week forced-fun you can settle down in the privacy of your room and work out your stresses on something you won't get a prison sentence for.

But on a less cynical note, bringing a games console or gaming laptop will not only give you a break from your social life but it can also give you an alternative one. For a start there are thriving communities of gamers at university, the largest unofficial society being Bulbasoc founded by Jack Bliss. If you are a fan of *Pokemon* games make sure to bring your DS for meet-ups and trading opportunities on the Facebook page. People who don't have a DS but do have a laptop are bound to find people to LAN with. It is also a good idea to bring a console for more casual social gaming because despite the initial investment this is a cheaper alternative to having a night out and can even be a pre-drinks option a little more interesting than a game of "never have I ever". If you don't want to share your console with your new friends at university you can use online gaming to keep in touch with friends and long distance partners, putting your thumbs to better use than twiddling them on Skype all evening when the conver-

sation runs dry. Free-to-play games like *Star Wars: The Old Republic* and *Secret World* are a brilliant option here because playing them also saves money and means you can keep in contact by using Skype or TeamSpeak in the background.

Some people may find having their precious console at university a little stressful as there often isn't as much security as there is at home, so if you are to bring a console it is a good idea to insure it. Even though some people argue that gaming could hold you back at university, if gaming is how you have fun, then why not include it in your university experience?



Do you fancy writing your own article for the section? Tell us on Facebook

Retrospective

The birth of a legend: Grand Theft Auto III

Richard Brown

Hitting prostitutes with baseball bats, mowing down innocent civilians, flying over the city and observing your wanton destruction. Ahh, those heady days of youth. The *Grand Theft Auto* series always has been, and always will be, an unapologetically controversial beast. While people, arguably rightly, have concerns with the morality of the games, it cannot be denied that *GTA* is both critically and commercially, one of the greatest franchises in the history of video games. But while *GTA V* breaks records and wows fans left, right and centre, I want to look back to the game that revitalised and reimagined the *GTA* series and made it the enormous behemoth it is today.

It seems incredible that it has been 12 years since the release of *Grand Theft Auto III*, the first game in the series to utilise a 3D game engine and the iteration that planted the seeds for subsequent successes with *Vice City*, *San Andreas* and *GTA IV* and *V*. The widespread acclaim the game received took *GTA* from a low-key success story to a sphere of mainstream dominance. Even now, *GTA III* is regarded as one of the best games to grace the PS2 and video games magazine even claimed that "the game's open-ended gameplay elements have revolutionized the way all video games are made" While now, it would be easy to look back to *San Andreas* and more recently, *Los Santos*, a variation of *San Andreas*, as the pinnacle of the *GTA* cityscape, it was *GTA III*'s Liberty City that set the benchmark for open world sandbox gaming. While the city may lack the personality of later games, it became a home for creativity and freedom.

The location is coupled with a typically stellar cast of characters, a fun and evocative soundtrack, complete with numerous radio stations to browse and effectively, limitless possibilities for mayhem. The choice to complete missions at your own free will, an indepth set of side missions away from the main storyline; these are things we take for granted in the modern era of the sandbox game, but many of the features we now see regularly owe a great deal to Rockstar's first major hit: *Grand Theft Auto III*.



Controversy for two dimensional gamers

Adam Lloyd examines the hysteria surrounding the new Nintendo 2DS



Like hearing news of the death of Michael Jackson – or Princess Diana before him – I doubt that any of us will ever forget where we were when Nintendo announced the 2DS. For my part, I was sitting in my mate's lounge with a number of friends, flicking through the Kotaku gaming blog on my laptop. I told them as soon as the news broke; like many of you, we stared at those pictures, mouths agape, trying desperately to make sense of the situation. Fortunately, DeathSoul2000 of Gamefaqs was on hand to break the tension. "Look at that doorstep form," he quipped.

We laughed. He was right, of course. It does vaguely resemble a doorstep and we'd been too slow to notice. It was the sort of witty, biting satirical comment that only he could make. "Taking away the 3D from the 3DS? Next thing you know, they'll create a 1DS," said one of my friends, smiling nervously. "And it'll just be a line of pixels or something, there won't even be a screen." We didn't laugh quite so much this time; his joke was awkward and forced, spoken with an air of desperation. But we acknowledged his point: 2 is certainly less DSs than 3. It had to be inferior in every detail. My friends were quickly bemoaning the lack of a hinge on this new slab of plastic, and I nodded sagely. "Either I'm getting old," another added, "or Nintendo is really going downhill." There was no need to confer on this point. We all knew it was the latter; it had to be. The evidence was right there on the screen.

"How could Nintendo have gone astray so quickly?" we pondered, still shaken by the reveal. We cast our rose-tinted gazes upon the Gameboy Advance SP, a marvel of handheld ingenuity that was cool for one simple reason: that glorious hinge. I mean, sure, it also introduced the backlit screen (which lent the console perfectly to gaming marathons under the blanket of night) but, most importantly, the screen folded down. When you were 10, having a console that looked like a shrunken laptop or chubby Motorola was unspeakably brilliant. Luckily, it didn't need saying. A mate would come over to you and ask: "Hey, want to trade Pokémon?" and you'd reply: "Sure, let me just get my console..." And

out of your pocket would come the darndest bit of gaming nostalgia ever. You'd flip up that screen and the envy of everyone in the room was palpable. It was a better time, an age where Nintendo strode across the world of handhelds like Titans. Now everything lacks a hinge. Now everything sucks.

Only that wasn't the case, I quickly realised. Despite our fears, the 3DS and 3DS XL models were still in production and hadn't immediately crumbled into dust; they were not yet a thing of the past. You could, in fact, walk straight into a shop and purchase one whenever you wanted. The hinged option was still open to us. The moment that thought hit me, the most curious of things occurred: writing on Kotaku's 'Talk Amongst Yourselves', young parent Marsh Naylor revealed, somewhat furtively, that his 12 year old really wanted a 2DS. And he agreed.

His shame was understandable, given the situation, but the reasons were all the more surprising. "This kid likes the 2DS because it looks a bit like a

tablet," I told my friends, "and his dad likes it because it's cheap. Also, you know, there are Zelda and Pokemon games coming out soon." Instantly I knew that I'd said the wrong thing.

Their eyes darted around the room like angry flies looking for someone to blame for this affront. The 2DS was stupid. It looked like a wedge of cheese from a 1950s Tom and Jerry cartoon. It deserved no defence.

Yet once this moment of clarity had washed over me, the floodgates opened. Suddenly I realised that the lack of hinge gave the model a greater structural integrity, making it more child-friendly; the eschewing of the 3D feature allowed the model to launch at the surprisingly low retail price of £110 (or \$130); and, yes, the console looked a bit like a tablet. It was the boon for cash strapped mothers, the affordable handheld whose form could tap into the imaginations of today's children rather than the children of a decade ago. I couldn't stop myself from imagining the new possibilities the lack of 3D focus offered to the console's gyroscopic tilt controls – a fea-

ture that was undermined by the infamous 3D 'sweet-spot' of older models. Stereoscopic 3D and movement don't mix. 2D, however? Tilt that console any which way you please. I was frightening myself – not only was I beginning to think that the 2DS was an excellent marketing decision, I was starting to convince myself that it had the potential to win over the imaginations of their targeted audience: the children. "Could it be that we only liked the Gameboy Advance SP because we were easily entertained by cool looking things?" I uttered, "Could the 2DS be the same for today's 10 year olds?"

They stared at me, eyes burning with fury. "This is nothing like our beloved SP and you know it," they seemed to tell me, before faltering, "we're not sure why, but it isn't. Thankfully, Kotaku commenter Zackasaur was able to make their point for them: "These look even MORE like Fisher Price products..."

he lamented. "Ahh yes," their misty eyes implied to me, "that must be why we hate it."

Nintendo are just becoming a toy company."

My friends seemed placated by this; not I, however. "What's wrong with Fisher Price toys?" I demanded, "They're fine. Does this man frequent the Fisher Price forums demanding more edgy designs from their Chatter Telephone line of products? Does he begrudge 3 year olds their Popper Walkers? If not, why?" I suspected the reason was that he accepted that he was no longer part of Fisher Price's core demographic. My friends' conversation had moved on, however.

Why, then, the hatred for a Nintendo console blatantly aimed at children? Nintendo has targeted the younger demographic for a good few decades. I could understand confusion at Nintendo's business decisions generally, but anger? These feelings of betrayal that permeated the internet forums and comment sections? As I sat there surrounded by cackling Nintendo dissidents, I narrowed it down to two possible conclusions:

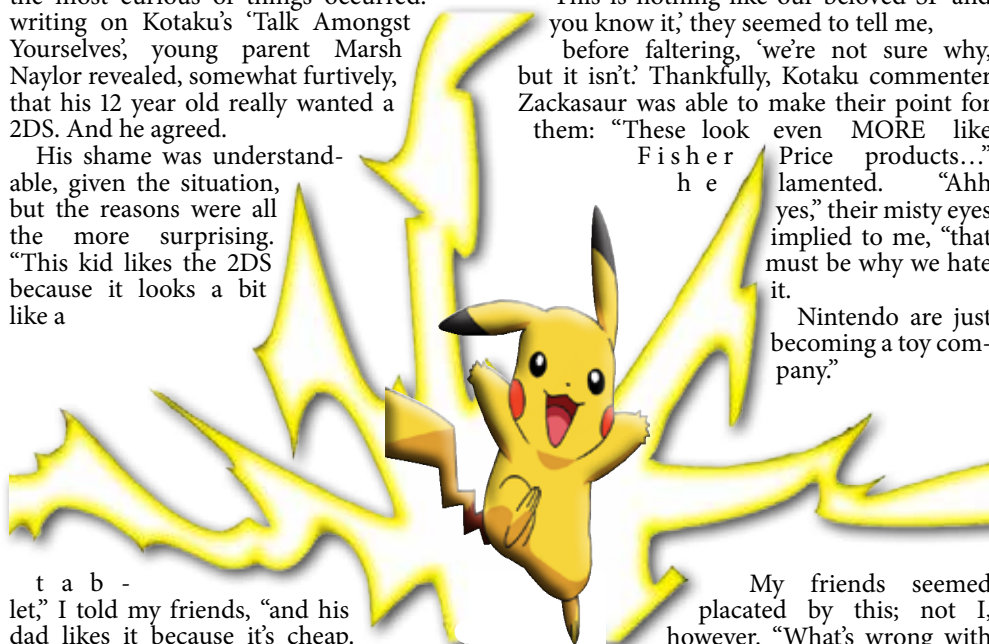
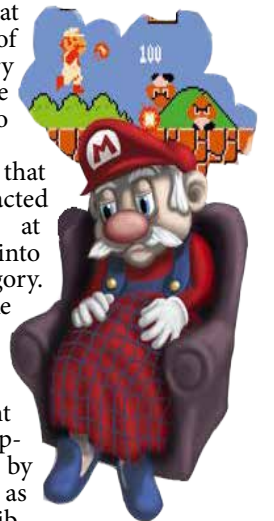
These people are older Nintendo fans that bitterly wished they were still Nintendo's target audience; these people are an entitled

vocal minority that believe every facet of the gaming industry lives or dies on the back of its appeal to them personally.

I'd like to think that all those who reacted with bewilderment at the 2DS reveal fell into the former category. That would make the whole thing so much easier. Because Nintendo fall into that brilliant platform of broad appeal that is enjoyed by film studios such as Pixar and Studio Ghibli: Mario and Pokemon form a nostalgic part of our childhood and continue to be enjoyed by children and adults alike. Nobody over the age of 15 is embarrassed to admit they like Nintendo games. But that does mean that there will come a time when people have to admit they are no longer part of Nintendo's core demographic. They used to be, and everything seemed so cool; now they are not, and everything looks twee and childish. Nintendo, they will realise, makes products that are not for them. And they may not like metaphorically letting go. But they'll get over it in time.

However, the general caterwauling surrounding this reveal demonstrates more than this, I think. Even major gaming news outlets were at pains to point out that it was 'the console no-one wanted'. Bemused gamers failed to see how the console would appeal to them, missing the point entirely: that there exists a market beyond them to whom this might appeal. That hardware on the market already covers their needs. Ironically, despite their nostalgic attachment to older hardware, they didn't seem to understand how goofy quirks of design might appeal to younger age brackets. Some even felt cheated by the existence of a console iteration that is not for them. It's not what they want, but it cannot merely be ignored with a shrug; it must be mocked and ridiculed into oblivion.

So am I saying that the 2DS announcement highlights a small group of sad, entitled idiots who begrudge – and actively want to steal away – the future gaming nostalgia of vulnerable ten year olds? That's for you at home to decide. But the answer is yes.



Want to weigh in on the debate about the 2DS?
Tweet: @BoarGames

Mercury reverence...?

Picking holes in the shortlist for the 2013 Barclaycard Mercury Prize



» These New Puritans: cruelly omitted?
photo: dewmagazine.com



» photo: danceyrselfclean.com

Supposedly, the Mercury Music Prize was once the heroic advocate of the left-field, and champion of the musical subculture. But considering that the 2013 shortlist poses the odious possibility that - by some incalculable travesty - Foals or Rudimental might ascend to the same throne-room as the likes of Portishead, PJ Harvey and Gomez, one has to question the award's self-description as a celebration of the most "urgent" and "reflective" releases of the year.

While Kevin Shields of My Bloody Valentine sounds a bit like a paranoid, wounded lamb, bleating about the "sinister forces at work" behind the Mercury Prize's leering corporate agenda, he ultimately has a point. It's a sorry state of affairs when subservience to the mass market (the subtext behind the fuzziest stipulation for a "digital and physical distribution deal") is a qualifying feature of a landmark album release.

mbv wasn't the only casualty of the 2013 shortlist. If Everything Everything's debut *Man Alive* was recognised in 2011, the omission of their sleeker sophomore is nothing short of mystifying. Meanwhile, the likes of Jake Bugg and Rudimental seem to have been copied and pasted straight out of the Top 40: radio-friendly enough, but hardly innovators of their fields. If there is any gram of justice, the prize will go to Savages or James Blake, whose 2013 releases offer a scintilla of the verve that boundary-pushers Melt Yourself Down or Factory Floor harbour by the barrel.

Rechristened in 2009 as the Barclaycard Mercury Prize, its very name nods to the sands of systemic commercialisation that it has built its house upon.

The Mercury Prize, short of answering the qualms and conundrums of contemporary music, has sparked off an exasperated ream of questions this year. Questions such as: "what about Fuck Buttons?" And also: "is this the Brit Awards?" Rechristened in 2009 as the Barclaycard Mercury Prize, its very name nods to the sands of systemic commercialisation that it has built its house upon. Rather than tapping into the wellsprings of talent occupying the fringes of British music, the Mercury Prize seems to have mutated into a well-manicured hand, stroking the egos of established names and well-heeled industry fatcats.

Sophie Monk

If there's anything this year which has a true chance of sounding nothing like anything you've ever heard before, it's These New Puritans' *Field of Reeds*.

An award that is supposed to champion the most forward-thinking music outside the mainstream, the Mercury Prize is often noted for not quite getting it right, and boundary-pushing / game-changing albums are overlooked almost every year. But the fact that records such as The xx's debut and PJ Harvey's *Let England Shake* have bagged the generous £20,000 prize in previous years does suggest that an eye for ground-breaking soundscapes does exist amongst the panel's set of judges.

Just as *xx* did in 2009, sonically, *Field of Reeds* fills a musical void which no-one ever really knew existed, and successfully sustains a peerless world of its own. An art-rock album composed largely of classical arrangements (alongside the incorporations of Portuguese singing, the sound of smashed glass, and the recording of a hawk), it wouldn't be necessarily wrong to dub it a pretentious composition. Indeed, you certainly won't be likely to hear "The Light in Your Name" soundtrack-ing BBC election coverage anytime soon. But *Field of Reeds* arguably manages what all great art should achieve: it pushes the listener, challenging him or her to rethink their own preconceptions about music's possibilities and capabilities.

Bound together by evocations of (and ideas concerning) the east-English countryside, the record also meets PJ Harvey's magnum opus on a similar plain thematically, displaying attention to detail and a vision which is astounding for a group only three albums into its career. Moreover, with concerns about the destruction of the environment appearing to creep back into public consciousness with increased potency and urgency in the past couple of months, *Field of Reeds*' defamiliarising depictions of the complex relationship between ourselves and the natural world are perhaps now more relevant than ever.

Overall, this year's shortlist isn't exactly shambolic, and recognition of the UK's increased recent shift towards dance / electronic music is marked through commendable inclusions of Disclosure, James Blake and Jon Hopkins. And yet, while Savages, Bowie, Foals and Laura Marling have each produced great albums, can any be said to have produced something as genuinely innovative, pertinent, astonishing and down-right strange as *Field of Reeds*?

Ed Graham

There's no point ranting about Mercury Prize absentees. At its basis (beyond the pungent fear of industry in-trading and politics like so much world-wide-compost), what happened is that some people picked their favourite records of the last twelve months. That's it.

See, the real issue with the Mercury Prize - and it's an increasingly prevalent and necessary one - is quite simple: what do they stand for? If anyone can do what they do (and surely, most music connoisseurs do), then what is the purpose of this institution now?

Independence, perhaps? Sadly not: as Kevin Shields recently pointed out, the rules exclude those who don't have a distribution deal. Celebrating critical and commercial crossover capabilities? For every Dizzee Rascal, The xx or Arctic Monkeys, there's a Speech Debelle, Roni Size or Talvin Singh.

Diversity, maybe? No such luck: the album choices for 2013 have an overwhelmingly obvious allegiance to the indie-rock genre. Oh, and for good measure, the nominations of Laura Mvula and Rudimental smack of the kind of Big Society multi-culturalism which snuck into BPI's Cameron-endorsed G8 mix-tape. Tin-hat aside, one can't help but suspect that Ms Mvula in particular has been plonked into the running like the previous (and now frustratingly absent) token classical / jazz nomination.

In a way, the annual shortlists offer up an irritatingly wonderful hodgepodge typical of these isles. Sonic epochs change, as do judging panels, and accordingly, the latter may be ahead of (or far behind) the curve on occasion. Some of the bands could desperately use the £20,000, whereas others won't even have the cost of their private jet to the ceremony covered. In comparison to the faux-glamour of the Grammys or the Brits, it's actually rather tolerable to see acclaim being given to actual song-writers, and to several outré artists who've possibly never had the chance of being interviewed by Fearne Cotton.

But in short, the Mercury Prize doesn't stand for anything, and fundamentally, it doesn't matter. The discussions that the Mercury Prize creates between you and your friends will be more valuable than the prize itself.

As a side-note, I'm hitching up my taste-wagon to Jon Hopkins. He probably won't win. But then, maybe I don't want him to: there's always, of course, the infamous "curse". So, in that case, hopefully Jake Bugg will win.

Christopher Sharpe

Boar Jukebox: Ready to Start

As we knuckle down for the new academic year, our panel of student musos presents a clutch of tunes best suited to get term off to a flying start.

Drake: 'Hold On We're Going Home'

Pulsing drums and chilled synths lay the groundwork for Drake's sensuous vocals as he croons about taking (yet another) girl home. What makes the song work is that Drake abandons rap and goes full pop, producing his best out-and-out tune since 'Find Your Love'. An instant classic, this is the perfect song for lowering stress levels and triggering that vital spark of inspiration to get those essays in on time.

Redmond Bacon

Britney Spears: 'Work Bitch'

"You wanna live fancy? Live in a big mansion? Party in France? You better work, bitch." So purrs Britney on her latest venture into socio-economic inspired music... and it's certainly tough to argue with those lyrics. Armed with a Swedish House Mafia-flavoured beat and a British accent, Ms Spears is firmly on hand to destroy any slumps of laziness and laurel-resting you may have encountered over the holidays. Come to think of it, it's a mystery why the library doesn't repeat this on its PA system...

Faizan Sadiq

Arcade Fire: 'Reflektor'

The highly-anticipated fourth album from Canadian maestros Arcade Fire has kicked its autumnal campaign off in fine form, with the release of its titular track exceeding the heavy expectations which have been steadily building during the past three years. The septet have risen to the challenge with poise and panache by producing an upbeat (yet dreamy) throwback to the '80s. Oozing with cool instrumentation (thanks in no small part to an appearance by a certain David Bowie) and dark, insightful lyrics, 'Reflektor' is a fundamental track for any back-to-work / energy-inducing playlist.

Flora Havelock

Hot Chip: 'How Do You Do?'

The entirety of *In Our Heads* (Hot Chip's fifth - and strongest - album) is a Technicolor electro marvel, fusing elements of multiple genres into a gloriously uplifting whole. But when it comes to selecting five minutes of concentrated euphoria, simply make a beeline for the pinball pop of 'How Do You Do?'. Keyboards bubble over the surface of skittering rhythms, Alexis Taylor's thin falsetto has never sounded more life-affirming, and the whole thing pings from hook to hook so seamlessly that it's borderline hilarious. Whether heading for the Learning Grid or the indie disco, never stray far from Hot Chip. How do they do (how do they do) that thing they do? Who knows, but it's frickin' awesome.

Michael Perry



Which songs blow your mind open wide?
Tweet: @BoarMusic

Album Reviews

In recent years, the autumnal season has garnered something of a reputation as a prosperous time for big album releases. Last year saw The Killers, Grizzly Bear, Mumford & Sons and Green Day release new albums within the space of a few days.

2013 looks set to continue the trend, with the likes of Arctic Monkeys and Kings of Leon dropping new material at the same time as bright young hopes Chvrches, HAIM and Factory Floor. If you'd like to get involved with helping us dissect the oncoming surplus of new music, get in touch with the Music section via music@theboar.org.

The uncut version of each album review printed here can be found at The Boar's on-line Music page: <http://theboar.org/music/>.

Franz Ferdinand
Right Thoughts...

★★★★☆



Clocking in at a meagre 35 minutes, Franz Ferdinand's latest wastes no time in reminding listeners of the group's spiky rock credentials. 'Right Action' drags us back into their heyday amongst

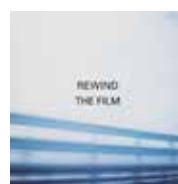
clattering riffs and guttural yelps, and the strutting hooks of 'Evil Eye' add some throw-back dancefloor cool to the mix. There's a raw weight to this sound that resonates in today's setting; a veritable sledgehammer next to the dentist's drill of modern indie.

MP3: 'Love Illumination', 'Bullet'

Sam Carter

Manic Street Preachers
Rewind the Film

★★★★☆



Rewind the Film is more gentle, yet just as sophisticated as the Manics' previous works, indicating that with age comes true maturity. Characterised by thoughtful melodies and simple guitar lines,

it conjures images of rolling country landscapes. Some tracks – such as '(I Miss the) Tokyo Skyline' – do occasionally slip into oversentimental territory, but these are generally acceptable blips on an album which is so thoughtful and rewarding as a whole.

MP3: 'Anthem for a Lost Cause'

Patrick Lavin

Nine Inch Nails
Hesitation Marks

★★★★☆



Trent Reznor claims the molten vehemence laid bare on his earlier records is still present, but that "the rage is quieter". Indeed, the self-hating masochistic creepiness of old of has been replaced

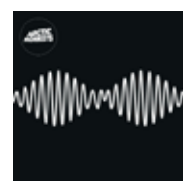
by a middle-aged man, who is perhaps no longer sure what to be angry about. *Hesitation Marks* is absolutely worth a listen for existing fans, but it's a shame that Reznor's best songwriting days seemingly dissipated with the anger that coursed through his veins.

MP3: 'Copy of A'

Joe Wallace

Arctic Monkeys
AM

★★★★☆



Arctic Monkeys' fifth reveals the band to have further pursued and refined the murky, expansive aesthetic initially heard on *Humburg* (with album opener 'Do I Wanna Know' exemplifying

this most perceptibly). Joshua Homme's influence is evident throughout *AM*, with the band producing irregular minor-scale riffs, high vocal harmonies, and a deliberately oozing pace. This is a night out on which we would all want to tag along.

MP3: 'No. 1 Party Anthem', 'Snap Out of It'

Hari Sethi

Kings of Leon
Mechanical Bull

★★★★☆



Despite conveying a group of musicians in a happier state of mind, *Mechanical Bull* finds the Kings still in the midst of artistic indecision. Following an enjoyably raucous opening, the major-

ity of the album is made up of mid-tempo songs, which the band seem to be far more comfortable producing in bulk. While pleasantly melodic, the likes of 'Beautiful War' fail to develop into satisfying crescendos, instead fading away just as quietly as they arrive.

MP3: 'Tonight', 'Temple', 'Rock City'

Hari Sethi

MGMT
MGMT

★★★★☆



MGMT's third album is subtly difficult to put one's finger on, possibly because one is suddenly unaware such fingers exist. A showtune collapses into a hallucinatory experience during opener

'Alien Days', before a half-hour exploration of synthetic psychedelia leads into the wonderfully ethereal closer 'An Orphan of Fortune', whose uplifting tones manage to give the entire piece something which feels overwhelmingly like meaning.

MP3: 'Introspection', 'An Orphan of Fortune'

Robin James Kerrison

Zola Jesus
Versions

★★★★☆



As an epic revamp of a handful of tracks from *Conatus* and *Stridulum II*, *Versions* never once plays it safe. The album's greatest virtue is that Nika Roza Danilova's extraordinary voice – usually caked in effects – is finally unbound to

take centre stage. However, in this grand thematic shift towards voice and narrative, *Versions* loses some of the grit which infused the originals, held together only by the bare bones of JG Thirlwell's string quartet.

MP3: 'Fall Back', 'Seekir'

Sophie Monk

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A vegetarian abroad

Samantha Hopps discusses the trials and tribulations of a vegetarian lifestyle on holiday

While walking along a bustling harbour in Crete, full to the brim with restaurants, we are spoilt for choice for dinner. When I ask if there are vegetarian meals, a tall Greek waiter answers the question. With his big, innocent eyes and very convincing tone, I am sure that I have come to the right place and I choose the meal that he 'highly recommends'. He scuttles into the kitchen with our order, only to come out a few minutes later with what I presumed to be a vegetarian moussaka but, after tasting, I can be certain that it contained meatballs and mince.

It wasn't that the Greeks were determined to turn me into a meat-lover, but rather that the language barrier

With a family of devout carnivores, I was alone in my horror at being handed a plate of lamb. I was also upset because aside from the condition of 'no-animals-on-my-plate-please', I'm an open-minded eater, and I enjoy trying different cuisines. At the end of our two-week holiday and 52 spinach and feta pies later (a delicious local delicacy, but only in moderation) I never wanted to see another bit of feta again. I concluded that in Greece, the problem wasn't a lack of vegetarian op-

tions, but that when you chose one, you weren't sure whether it was vegetarian or not.

It wasn't that the Greeks were determined to turn me into a meat-lover, but rather that the language barrier caused some things to get lost in translation. That, and the competition of many other restaurants means that local business owners are desperate for your custom and will say anything to get you to eat at their restaurant. On top of that, when a dish appears by all accounts to be meat-free, there's nothing to say that it hasn't been cooked in beef stock or fried in animal fat.

As other well-travelled vegetarians might agree, you don't realise quite how accommodating Britain is to vegetarians until you've been abroad. Examples of this include a margherita pizza I ordered in France that turned up with lardons hidden discreetly under the mozzarella, and in Italy when I was promised 'a lovely little dish' only to end up with three roasted sparrows adorning my plate. As for buying vegetarian products like

Quorn or tofu in European supermarkets, you're more likely to get results searching for a three-headed dragon.

And yet, in Greece, on an island where there were restaurants stretching along the harbour as far as the eye could see, not one seemed to offer me anything more varied than those delicious but over-eaten spinach pies or a Greek salad. However, I chanced upon a tiny restaurant with a sign outside that shone like a beacon of hope in a land of very, very little Quorn! The sign simply read: 'Traditional Organic Vegetarian Restaurant', and my heart did a little jump of joy.

So after some convincing, I dragged my family to this restaurant and it was fantastic. We asked the owner to bring us a selection of dishes - an exciting prospect, as vegetarians are rarely able to tuck in without asking questions beforehand. It was all delicious - even my step-father, who is baffled by my dietary choices and refuses to eat anything I cook as I don't cook

meat, was impressed by the selection and quality of the food.

When we got back to the villa, I googled the restaurant, finding adoring comments from hundreds of relieved veggies on the restaurant's facebook and various travel websites. It seemed I wasn't the only one who was grateful to have found somewhere to eat out. Although I'd never considered it before, there are plenty of other vegetarians with the same problem: wanting to travel the world AND still be able to eat. These crazy vegetarians had the crazy idea of setting up a website to tell you where to find vegetarian restaurants the world over! The best one I found was <http://www.happycow.net/>. Simply type in your location and the site will list all of the vegetarian-friendly restaurants in the vicinity!

In short, travelling as a vegetarian is not without its fall-backs, and you must be prepared for meat to occasionally land on your plate. However, more and more people are choosing a vegetarian lifestyle, so with a bit of research in advance, your chances of finding somewhere vegetarian-friendly are getting improving. For now, be thankful that you live in Britain, because never in England have I told someone of my vegetarianism only to be asked, 'do you eat chicken?'



» Spinach and feta pie - tasty in moderation. photo: flickr/efatimas

Racism in the Baltic states

Jack Waterlow

Watching my friend get approached by a friendly looking old woman who told him in uncertain terms that she was uncomfortable with him being in the supermarket was something that I didn't expect to see. The reason for this was that he is of Indian descent. We were in Riga, the capital of Latvia which, along with its neighbours Estonia and Lithuania, still has a serious problem with racism.

Earlier this year a group of twelve friends and I visited the capitals of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The blend of Russian and Scandinavian cultures create an experience unlike any I have seen before. You can feel like you are in a Northern European capital like Stockholm or Oslo one moment then minutes later, witness a country more akin to Soviet Russia. There is no shortage of things to see - from visiting a genuine Soviet bunker near Riga to the beautiful Aleksander Nevsky Cathedral in Tallinn there is plenty for lovers of art, history and culture. For these reasons, I cannot recommend the Baltics enough for any adventurous traveller. However, this article is about the animosity towards the five non-white members of our group that we re-

peatedly witnessed.

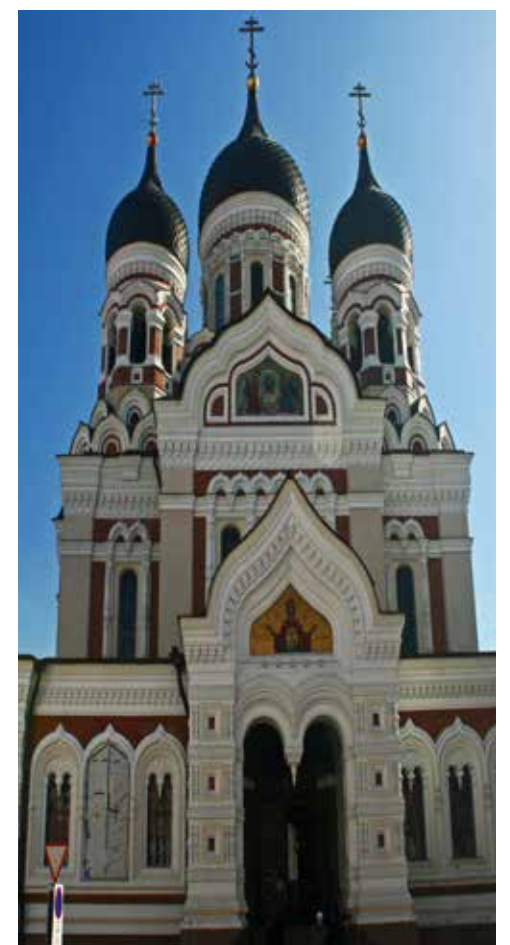
This came in many forms. We received many stares and annoyed looks from the locals but we initially wrote this off as a reaction to a large group of tourists. More direct incidents quickly drew our attention to the real issue. In a restaurant a waitress casually implied that my friend was from the jungle and on a night out we were asked if some of the group were our slaves. While these comments were clearly offensive, others were far worse. The most shocking moment for us was at bar in Riga, when we were approached by a man who shouted in Russian that we should 'go home'. This was racially motivated aggression that threatened to turn to violence. There was no reaction from anyone else in the bar as we left and I think we were all slightly shaken by the experience.

Estonia is by far the most progressive of the three countries, something reinforced by its close links to Finland. In Lithuania, however, the issue of racism isn't widely acknowledged. The murder of a Somalian immigrant following his appeal about the situation in the country brought race into the public eye, but little has been done since to deal with the problems. In Latvia, the media have shown themselves to be more aware, particularly since in 2005 a speaker at the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance stated that racism was a 'feature of daily life'

in Latvia. The far-right nationalist party Visu Latvijai won their first parliamentary seats in 2010 showing that nationalism and xenophobia have significant support among the electorate.

The three Baltic States had a troubled twentieth century. They experienced over fifty years of occupation from 1940 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. They have faced invasions by both the USSR and Nazi Germany. The deeply affecting Museum of the Occupation of Latvia in central Riga is a chilling reminder of this. My friend Liva who grew up in Latvia says this can give us a real insight into why. As she puts it, the people of the Baltics are suspicious of outsiders and those who are different. The experience of occupation demonstrated how fragile a nation's freedoms are and with only a mere twenty-two years of independence it is understandable that many are afraid of losing it again. Although their animosity towards non-white visitors is misplaced their history brings us a little closer to understanding where these attitudes come from.

Despite our experiences being marred by racism, we did enjoy our time in the Baltics, and travellers should definitely try to visit. It seems that the issue is becoming more visible to the public, but racism still has a firm grip on the Baltics.



» The Aleksander Nevsky cathedral in Tallinn photo: flickr/suomi_star

Purple: Our favourite drink - but why?

Hayley Simon explains the science behind Warwick SU's pint of purple, and why students love it

With the new academic year fast approaching and the SU gearing up for Freshers' Fortnight, one drink is sure to be back in high demand. A mixture of Strongbow, Carlsberg and an inordinate amount of blackcurrant squash, nothing says 'Welcome to Warwick' quite like a pint of Purple.

Whether they like it or not, the new crop of first years will soon learn to love this Warwick staple. Be it a stack of three pints at circle or a cheeky eight pint tube in the Terrace Bar, we manage to drink our way through gallons of the stuff. Last year alone the SU sold over 60,000 pints of Purple, enough to fill the average-sized shipping container.

But what is it about Purple that makes Warwick students go crazy?

Once absorbed, alcohol dissolves into the blood and the ethanol molecules are carried throughout the body

The predominant ingredient in Purple is alcohol. In chemistry, the term alcohol refers to a family of molecules that contain oxygen atoms covalently bonded to hydrogen atoms. The electrons in this bond are not shared equally. The oxygen atom pulls on the electrons more strongly than the hydrogen, causing it to develop a slightly negative charge. Meanwhile, the hydrogen is left with too few electrons, resulting in a slightly positive

charge. It is this polarity that gives rise to the unique chemical properties of alcohol.

When most people use the term 'alcohol' they are not talking about a class of molecules. Instead, the word is used in everyday language to specifically describe the molecule ethanol.

Ethanol is produced by fermenting sugars with yeast and has been drunk by humans since the Neolithic Era.

Most cultures in the world manufacture some type of alcoholic beverage, from the Rum distilleries of the Caribbean to the Vodka guzzling Baltic States.

Regardless of its country of origin, no alcoholic drink is 100% pure ethanol. This is because alcohol is a poison. The human body can only process one unit of alcohol per hour. If the blood-alcohol level gets too high, it can prove lethal. In England in 2011, 360 people died of accidental alcohol poisoning, so it's best not to overdo it during Freshers!

After alcohol is ingested, about 20% is absorbed in the stomach and the rest enters

via the small intestine. Once absorbed, alcohol dissolves into the blood and the ethanol molecules are carried throughout the body. Bodily tissue contains water into which the ethanol dissolves. This happens everywhere except fat tissue, which alcohol cannot dissolve in. It is this property of fat that means women are affected by alcohol more than

men. A man of the same height, weight and build as a woman would have more muscle and less fat. The same amount of alcohol would be more diluted in the man. As a result, the woman would have a higher blood alcohol level and she would feel the effects of the alcohol sooner.

Absorbed ethanol in the liver is converted into acetaldehyde in a process called oxidation. The acetaldehyde is then oxidised for a second time, transforming it to acetic acid, the main component of vinegar.

This is the process by which ethanol is removed from the body. If more alcohol is taken in than the liver can cope with, the blood alcohol concentration will rise. As it increases, the ethanol molecules inside the tissues will begin to have an effect.

In the brain, alcohol acts on nerve cells. Specifically, it alters neurotransmitters, the chemical messengers used by nerves to communicate. Alcohol suppresses the excitatory neurotransmitters which stimulate the brain and increase the activity of inhibitory neurotransmitters that balance mood. By enhancing one type of neurotransmitter and weakening the other, a person will begin to appear sluggish.

Not all areas of the brain are affected at once. As more alcohol is drunk, more centres of the brain feel its influence. Memory loss is caused by the alcohol's effects on the limbic system, while behavioural inhibition results from alterations to the cerebral cortex. Gradually, as more of the brain surrenders to alcohol, more symptoms of drunken behaviour appear.

With every pint of purple downed, the student brain descends further into the abyss of an alcoholic stupor. But this drunken daze is not only achievable with purple. It can be obtained with any kind of liquor, so why are we so keen on Snakebite and black?

The real magic of purple is that you never quite know what to expect. When you look close enough you realise why - no two purples are ever the same.

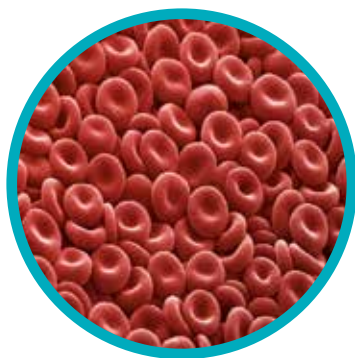


Do you think purple is the best student drink?
 Tweet: @BoarSciTech

» The highly alcoholic Purple is one of this university's most popular drinks, with Warwick SU selling over 60,000 pints to students last year photo: flickr/mfajardo

The summer of scientific breakthroughs

Ellie May gives us an insight in to the biggest scientific advancements over the past three months



Stem cell research

Stem cell research may be a controversial topic, but has shown impressive potential this past summer. In July, two men were found to be completely cleared of the HIV virus after receiving a stem cell transplant - a breakthrough in HIV treatment unlike anything before. Stem cell research has also made several other breakthroughs. Scientists have grown the first functional liver from stem cells. The liver has also been successfully transplanted in to mice, working well and increasing the lifespan of the mice with previous liver failure.



Voyager leaves Solar System

Dispatched 36 years ago, the NASA spacecraft has finally left our solar system and reached interstellar space, 12 billion miles away. It takes 17 hours for a radio signal sent by it, the spacecraft, to reach us on Earth, and has travelled further than any other man-made object in history. Voyager was sent to study the outer planets of our solar system but after it completed its task in 1989, it just kept travelling. Although it is travelling at an impressive 100,000 mph, it will not reach another star for over 40,000 years.



Lab-grown meat

Scientists have successfully grown meat within a lab. By taking cells from a cow, they were able to grow strips of muscle. In August, using the lab-grown muscles, they produced the world's first burger created without any slaughtering of animals. When the burger was sampled by food critics it received largely positive reviews, saying that the burger tasted good but not entirely like traditional beef. The scientists say that it may be several years before the burgers reach the market, and in this time they will hopefully perfect the taste.



False Memories

Scientists have successfully implanted false memories in to the brains of mice. The mice were placed in a box and the brain cells forming memories were tagged and made responsive to a flash of light. The mice were then placed in a different box, had their tagged brain cells activated, and given an electric shock. Placed back in the first box, the mice showed fear as they now associated the first box with the shocks, despite never receiving shocks in there. This showed that the mice now had an entirely false memory of the first box.

Liverpool top of the pile? Welcome to 1973

Josh Murray takes a look back at sport 40 years ago, from the Five Nations tournament to US winning the Ryder Cup

Whether an interview with the men's hockey captain ahead of a Varsity clash with Coventry or a nostalgic look back at the London Olympics, The Boar has been providing insightful articles on the biggest stories in sport for 40 years.

So let us cast our minds back to the first year of this very publication, and take a look at the main events that made the back page in 1973.

Football: Liverpool began their domination of English football under Bill Shankly as they claimed the First Division title.

The Reds' strike-force of Kevin Keegan and John Toshack scored 39 goals between them to help their side edge out Arsenal by three points and Don Revie's Leeds United by seven.

It was the first time that Liverpool had been crowned champions of the top tier since 1966.

In Europe, Shankly's men added the UEFA Cup trophy to their league title after beating Borussia Monchengladbach over two legs.

In the European Cup, Brian Clough's Derby County reached the semi-final stages, defeating Eusebio's Benfica on the way, before being controversially knocked out by Juventus – it was later proven that the Italian giants had bribed the referee.

At the time of writing, England can seal qualification to the 2014 World Cup in Rio, Brazil, by beating Poland at Wembley – but they should take heed of England's complacency in 1973.

On June 6, Sir Alf Ramsey's side slumped to a 2-0 defeat against their Eastern European opponents in Chorzow in a World Cup qualifier.

Perhaps the most astonishing el-

ement of the match was that it contained two glaring errors from arguably the greatest English footballer of all time, Bobby Moore.

Arsenal midfielder Alan Ball was also sent off. In October, Poland put paid to England's hopes of qualifying for the



custodian pulled off a number of spectacular saves to defy England. Despite having 35 shots, only Allan Clarke managed to beat Tomaszewski. A few months later, Ramsey was sacked by the Football Association.

At a time when Manchester Uni-

ted fans are beginning to fear their club's invincibility, perhaps this story will ease some of the worry. At the end of 1973, United goalkeeper Alex Stepney was joint top-scorer for his side with two goals after a torrid start to the season. Moaning about David Moyes? It could be so much worse.

Rugby Union – Five Nations:

The annual Five Nations Championship (which became the Six Nations Championship in 2000 with the addition of Italy) ended in an historic five-way tie – the first time in the tournament's forty-four year history that the entire quintet of teams ended on the same number of points.

Between January 13 and April 14, the five participating nations of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France won both of their home fixtures and fell to defeat in both away fixtures to ensure every side finished on four points.

England lifted the Calcutta Cup after Peter Dixon's brace of tries helped them to a 20-13 victory against Scotland at Twickenham.

Golf – Ryder Cup: The Old Muirfield course in East Lothian played host to the Ryder Cup as the US overcame Great Britain and Ireland by a score of 19-13.

The American team, led by captain Jack Burke, Jr., were locked 8-8 with their opponents at the end of the second day's play, but provided a dominant display in the Saturday singles event to maintain an incredible unbeaten streak stretching back to 1957.

Great Britain and Ireland's star golfer Bernard Gallacher contracted food poisoning at the end of the first day to cut his tournament short, whilst the great Jack Nicklaus amassed 4 1/2 points for Team USA.

And finally...

At a time when Manchester Uni-



Which sports do you want to get involved?
Tweet: @BoarSport

Olympic coach gets to grips with Warwick Judo

Robert Demont

Everybody has a special memory from the Olympic Games.

One of mine is the semi final of the women's 78 kg judo competition. Great Britain's Gemma Gibbons defeated her opponent to secure her place in the final and, with it, a guaranteed silver medal.

Judo was not an event I expected to stick in the memory, but Gibbons' performance was one of the most iconic of the entire Games.

Last week Warwick Judo Club benefitted from the same quality of coaching as Gibbons herself received, with her coach, Darren Warner, coming to the university to lead their training session.

I was invited to take part in the session myself, to observe just how the club benefits from having such a decorated judoka as a guest at the club.

Prior to training several Olympic and Paralympic athletes, he himself was a British champion, competing for many years at international level.



» Great Britain, pictured here against Hungary, are out of Eurobasket 2013. photo: kpc

"Having worked at such a level, he just sees things differently to everybody else," says president Antoine Remond-Tierez.

"It's especially great for those who haven't tried judo before – who better to give you your first impressions of judo?"

My first impression of taking part in a judo training session is a reminder of just how scrawny I am, as I put all my weight into a push, which my opponent shrugs off as a dog might shake off a particularly

irritating flea. At least it's only the warm-up.

Warner steps in, heralded by his call of "matte!" Apparently, that means 'stop'. Lesson number one.

He explains in more detail how to correctly grip your opponent's clothing, and introduces the exercise that clarifies the whole premise of the sport in one fell swoop: use your opponent's body weight and balance against them.

In other words, if they're pushing you back, pull them further. If

they're tugging at you, give them a push. The esteemed coach has made it all clear in one simple demonstration.

Despite now being based in Brighton, Warner spent much of his professional judo career in Coventry, and says he relishes the opportunity to come back each year to lead the students at Warwick – although he admits that coaching beginners is actually harder than internationals.

"You have to be so technically

perfect," he explains. "You're the only one who has to have all the answers. It's not like at international level, where you're working with three different tiers of coaches."

I ask Warner what it was like to work with Gibbons at the Olympics.

Like a skilled judoka who has just been sent crashing down onto the mat, he is laid back about it all.

"It was a great experience, especially being at a home Olympics. The crowd is more behind you and there is more riding on it. But the matchday routine has to be the same as any other.

"Obviously we were delighted for Gemma. She went from having 30 Twitter followers to about 30,000 overnight. Instead of desperately rooting around for money to go out, she was being paid to be seen in places. As a coach, it suddenly becomes a case of keeping them in."

"But the athletes deserve that reward for all the hard work they put in."

Perhaps he trained the judo star of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games at Warwick last week – only time will tell.

Warwick coach leads GB to silver medal

Director of Warwick Sport, James E

It is widely accepted in footballing circles that the pinnacle of management is to take charge of your country.

So it may surprise you that a member of staff at Warwick Sport has twice steered a Great Britain side to second place in an international tournament.

James Ellis, the acting director of sport at Warwick, guided the GB football team to a silver-medal finish at this summer's World University Games in Russia, a global tournament open to any talented footballers who are studying at university.

This followed a similar achievement in Shenghai, China, in 2011. Ellis was also assistant coach in Belgrade in 2009, where GB finished fourth.

The opening ceremony in Moscow hosted 160 nations and 10,000 student athletes, while 27 different sports were represented in the competition itself. The World University Games is the second-largest

Fabio Capello wanted to come into our changing room to congratulate the players. The players were amazed

multi-sport event in the world after the Olympics.

After watching numerous Blue Square Premier and Conference games to select a squad of 20 for the 2013 tournament, Ellis helped the team through a tricky group stage with Italy, Malaysia and Algeria, before edging past Ukraine 1-0 in the quarter-final.

After beating hosts Russia in the semi-final – improbably for a British side, the win came in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw in normal time – Ellis' men were beaten 3-2 by France in the final.

Despite this, the former Loughborough University director of football's manner unveils to me that he remembers July's competition with great fondness.

"It was an absolutely magnificent spectacle," he said. "I can't even describe the opening ceremony. There were 45,000 people there, including (Russian president) Vladimir Putin, and it was very much like the London 2012 opening ceremony.

"We prepared for the tournament at the CSKA Moscow training ground, which had quite basic facilities but helped us acclimatise. We then lived in the athletes' village, which was brilliant.

"The players did get a little bit bored, but we did loads of research to make sure that they were living with the right people.

"We had to be really ruthless. Some extremely gifted players missed out, not because of their footballing ability, but because of

what we call the 'human being element'. It was so important the players knew how to handle their free time."

It was a strange start to the tournament, as GB's first opponents Algeria failed to show up for their first match, giving GB a 3-0 win.

"I didn't tell the players at the time, but I had heard they were struggling to arrive on time," Ellis admitted.

"In the end they didn't make it. It actually made it harder for us though, as we knew we would have to win at least one of the other games against Italy and Malaysia.

"We beat Malaysia 2-0, which was great, but Italy absolutely smashed us and won 1-0 (Federico Masi, a centre-back who plays for Serie B club Bari, scored).

"We knew the quarter-final was always going to be tough, as GB had never beaten Ukraine before in this tournament."

Thanks to a second-minute penalty from Forfar Athletic's Gavin Malin, Ellis' side narrowly broke the hoodoo. By contrast, their semi-final opponents, host nation Russia, cruised through their quarter-final with Canada, winning 4-1.

"It was really intimidating playing in that semi-final, with all the crowd behind Russia," said Ellis.

"I had to make some massive decisions in the penalty shoot-out, but it was great to go through."

Indeed, after Mickey Rae's late equaliser, Ellis made the unusual decision of taking off goalkeeper Tim Horn and replacing him with James Belshaw, who was on the bench after being concussed in the group stages.

"He wasn't really allowed to play, because the doctor didn't want him playing within a week of suffering concussion," Ellis admitted.

"But in training we'd practised taking penalties against James, and I knew he could save a 'stock penalty' to his left-hand side.

"After the game, the opposition coach walked away and wouldn't shake my hand. Suddenly (Russia and former England manager) Capello came down from the stands and pushed the guy, as if to tell him to shake my hand.

"He then came up to me and asked if he could come into our changing room to congratulate the players on their performance. The players were amazed."

The win was all the more remarkable given the calibre of the Russian side. Goalscorer Vladimir Dyadyun has been capped by the national team and plays for Champions League regulars Rubin Kazan, while eight of the players have appeared for the under-21s.



»A close-up shot of where GB's finest student footballers lived in Russia. photo: wikimedia commons

By contrast, Ellis was denied the services of players such as Partick Thistle midfielder James Craigan and Sunderland's Duncan Watmore, whom Paolo di Canio signed in the summer from Altrincham.

Great Britain ultimately slipped to a 3-2 defeat against France in the final, which Ellis admitted was "a game too far".

But he said he was proud of the players' attitude, and particularly their commitment to passing football.

The second-minute winner against Ukraine came before their Eastern European opponents had touched the ball. "You wouldn't see the senior England side doing that," Ellis smiled.

He also appreciated the praise of

pundits on Eurosport, who provided a live broadcast of the final.

But the former Nuneaton Borough and Kettering Town coach, who has previously worked with Charlton Athletic midfielder Bradley Pritchard in non-league football, confirmed that he would now be stepping down from the role in order to concentrate fully on his role at Warwick.

"It's time for me to stand aside now," he said. "I absolutely love the coaching side of things, but I also love the day-to-day role of developing people.

"I moved to Warwick (from Loughborough University) because the University has massive potential, and a great community of students who are on a journey towards

doing well in life.

"My focus is now trying to create an environment where people can come and talk to me about any concerns, want sport and exercise to be a way of life for people at Warwick.

"Eventually I'd like to get back into Conference football, but it would have to come at the right time."

But it is clear from the numerous souvenirs – from medals and pictures to videos and slideshows – that James Ellis will not forget the summer of 2013 in a hurry.



What do you think about this?
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