



theboar

Student Publication of the Year 2013



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TEDx comes to Warwick

Asbestos in student bedrooms

Sian Elvin

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the *Boar* has revealed that every single bedroom in campus accommodation buildings Westwood and Tocil contains asbestos.

This news comes after the *Guardian* revealed over the summer that Warwick is the university which provides the most rooms that contain asbestos to students.

2,313 rooms on campus contain asbestos, which is 35 percent of the total number of available bedrooms, including shared accommodation.

It has also been revealed that over 94 percent of rooms in Rootes and Redfern also contain asbestos.

A number of students have expressed confusion and frustration over the matter, saying that they had not been told that the substance was in the vicinity of their rooms.

A first-year student currently living in Westwood anonymously told the *Boar*: "I am very angry that the University has not informed me that I am living in a room which contains asbestos.

"Even if it is safe, I should still be told so I am made aware, in case any damage occurs which could expose or uncover it."

Natalie Tang, a first-year Economics undergraduate currently living in Rootes, added: "I'm confused as to why students have been allowed to move into rooms which potentially contain asbestos. It should be removed as soon as possible."

A spokesperson for Warwick University has confirmed that students are not told that their rooms contain asbestos, and has said that they do not need to be told because

"the asbestos is sealed inside other materials and is therefore completely safe.

"The University complies fully with all statutory requirements and good practices regarding the materials containing asbestos in those rooms.

"Similar materials can still be found in a great many domestic houses and flats from the same period."

All of the accommodations containing asbestos were built between 1956 and 1977, and are legally allowed to contain it as long as they were erected before laws banning the substance were passed in 1985.

Kate Balzan, a second-year History undergraduate who lived in Westwood last year, commented: "I still find this worrying.

"Although as long as the asbestos is not damaged, it does not pose a risk to the person's health and it is unlikely that I have had any exposure to asbestos fibres, it does make me concerned that material that can cause long-term health effects is in the vicinity."

Cryfield and Benefactors also host a number of rooms which contain the substance, although almost 40 percent of bedrooms which contain asbestos are located in the Rootes accommodation.

Campaigners, such as those from the Association of Teachers and Lecturers and the British Lung Foundation, are concerned that as a result of not knowing whether asbestos is in their rooms, students will not report damage in accommodation which could expose asbestos.

Last year when a pipe burst in the accommodation block International House, students were told they may have to evacuate their bedrooms whilst measures were taken to remove asbestos.

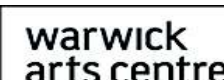
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Asbestos

» Under the magnifying glass: all Westwood bedrooms contain asbestos. Photo: S. Elvin and Wikimedia

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Jailbreak to return

Emily Stevenson

Escaping from jail may not be an average experience for the typical University of Warwick student, but with the return of Warwick Jailbreak you can get close.

Starting on Saturday 2 November, teams will be given 36 hours to get as far away from campus as possible, with one catch – they can't spend any money on travel.

This year, all the money raised will go to the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR), as vice-president Harrison Gould explained:

"The majority of us know someone affected by cancer, and so raising funds for an international cancer research charity is something that would resonate with participants."

Mr Gould added: "They [AICR] have a hilarious #smartypants social media campaign which involves a pair of brightly coloured pants."

"It definitely matches the Jailbreak ethos – imagine hundreds of people wearing these pants across Europe and beyond!"

The current record is Thailand, 1,000 miles away, while last year's record was Hungary, 1,800 miles away.

Less successful attempts have travelled to Canley – just 1.5 miles away.

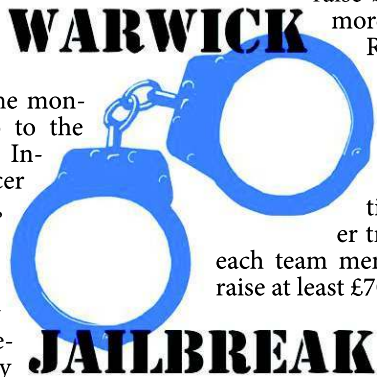
This year the society hopes to raise £20,000 – and even more with the smaller Race2Amsterdam event taking place in the summer.

Joining Jailbreak costs £20 per team member as a participation fee to cover travel insurance, and each team member is required to raise at least £70 in sponsorship.

Now in its ninth year of running, Paul Ratner, founder of Warwick Jailbreak, commented: "The first event was a wonderful success ... over 70 people took part and we raised over £8,000 for charity."

"I was thrilled a few years ago to find out that not only is Jailbreak still going, but that it's more successful than ever."

» Photo: Warwick Jailbreak



Smart phone heating

Derin Odueyungbo

The University of Warwick has worked with Midlands company JSJS Designs Ltd and WMG on an idea which will see mobile phones and tablet devices used as part of a new personalised heating and energy economy system.

The University has been awarded £495,000 towards the idea by the Technology Strategy Board, the UK's innovation agency.

The University's Estates Office will work with JSJS Designs and WMG to install a wireless Heating Micro-management System (HMS) to the University's Social Sciences building.

Users will be able to control the heating of individual rooms using their smart phones and tablet devices.

The project was inspired by the research of Dr Rebecca Cain, WMG Associate Professor in Experience Led Innovation at Warwick.

Dr Cain commented on the project.

"This is a great opportunity to test some of the research we have been doing across a range of public spaces in the energy management arena.

"It is imperative that users of

such technology are able to fully engage in the process of monitoring energy usage in their homes or work spaces in order to enhance its effectiveness."

The project will give JSJS Ltd the chance to test the innovative technology on a larger scale in a non-domestic environment.

Smart heating has, in the past, only been available to much smaller spaces, which is why the University is looking forward to be using the Social Sciences building for such a project.

"We are keen to engage new initiatives that can help the University and the country to reduce its carbon footprint"

Joel Cardinal

Joel Cardinal, energy manager at the University of Warwick, added: "Refurbishment of existing buildings is a challenge for the construction and facilities management industry.

"We are keen to engage new initiatives that can help the University and the country to reduce its carbon footprint.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to develop and validate an exciting new technology in one of our largest buildings."

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First Student Council discusses important issues

The staff strike, the book sale and the Summer Party were under scrutiny

Ann Yip

The first Student Council (SC) meeting of the year took place in the SUHQ on Monday 21 October.

Among the issues discussed were the upcoming staff strike and the delay of the second-hand book sale.

SU support for staff strike

At the meeting, a 'Policy for Supporting Fair Pay in Higher Education', which discussed whether or not the Students' Union (SU) would support the staff strike on October 31, was the most debated issue.

Miguel Costa Matos, undergraduate Social Sciences faculty representative, said: "Our lecturers and seminar tutors have received a pay cut of 13 percent. By not paying them well, the best people don't go into higher education.

"The policy does not say we support the strike, but that they should have fair pay and should not be receiving a minimum wage."

However, Jack Rankin, fourth-year councillor, took issue with the language. He claimed that it was "an 'attack' on the University".

He explained that the pay cut and

the fact that wages have not risen in five years was a result of inflation.

Katie Pearce, a second-year education and development postgraduate, said: "I am asking for support when I go on strike.

"Failing to pay my colleagues... is exploitation."

It was acknowledged that the University's financial surplus increased from £2.7 million in 2009 to £31 million in 2012.

Ms Pearce said that the University was using huge pay rises for 'vanity' projects, such as the Monash collaboration, and was not paying for better teachers and feedback.

When the question of whether or not the strike would 'compromise teaching and learning' was raised, Aiden Press, deputy chair of SC, remarked: "Lots of SU members are postgraduate students [and] people's livelihoods are at stake here."

A speaker suggested that 'there was no positive for the strike'. Lucy Gill, postgraduate officer at the SU, responded.

"Regardless of whether the strike will work or not... by expressing our support, there will be more weight in the idea that we support our members."

In a vote by the SC, the policy to support the staff strike was passed.

Delay of SU book sale

Alongside the staff strike, the issue of the delayed second-hand book sale was raised.

Cosmo March, democracy and development officer, explained that the delay was due to the SU being "at the mercy of" the new web developer, MSL (Membership Solutions Limited).

He said: "I asked for the book sale to be on time, there was nothing more I could do but to say work faster.

"It's not the SU, it's MSL, who have not secured funding for investment."

Mr Matos, however, attacked the SU: "Doesn't the SU own MSL? You're the bosses, do something about it."

Mr March replied: "We are directors, but at the end of the day, we can't sack people because they're not working quickly enough."

The launching of the part-time officer blogs was also delayed.

Future of the Summer Party

The SC meeting touched upon the future of the Summer Party with the ongoing developments of the National Automotive Innovation Campus (NAIC) by University House.

Mr March remarked: "We are constantly thinking about [this issue]. Will it still look like a summer party?"

New venues for the Summer Party under consideration included a field in the Warwickshire region.

However, there were concerns about the safety of students on that road and concerns about the cost of renting the venue as the University does not have a license for the Warwickshire district.

Other issues raised included sexual harassment at SU events, the protection of females in postgraduate Science, the possible development of a mobile app to buy SU event tickets and concerns over the operating hours of the big screen.



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OWW aims to improve for 2014

Aakanksha Jaiswal
Euan Long

As preparations for One World Week (OWW) 2014 continue, the Boar looks at the changes being made following last year's criticism.

The ambitious overhaul has introduced a number of new policies, events and a complete reorganisation of the schedule.

OWW 2014 will feature new event Warwick's Got Talent, as well as building upon past successes such as lively forum speakers and the fashion show.

The five day format has been rearranged to host two market days as well as new additions: an international careers day, a charity day and an outreach day that will engage the local community in the cultural celebration.

In light of the 2014 Brazilian World Cup, OWW are to develop the sport focus of the event with a football tournament based on the international competition.

Societies, halls and friendship groups are encouraged to participate.

Forum events will include a controversial speech on feminism 'The F word' and an insight into information leaking: 'Breach of privacy in digital media today'.

To ensure financial success following on from last year's issues with funding, the society has involved Jackie Anderson, deputy finance manager at the Warwick Students' Union (SU), with the budget.

A last minute change on cupcake supplier left former student, Indra Balaratnam, over £100 out of pocket after her order was cancelled three days before the event.

The situation was later resolved when the society agreed to pay for the order.

The society hopes that the addition of a standard complaints procedure to their website will allow all complaints to be dealt with in the most efficient and effective manner.

A significant change in the recruitment policy was introduced in order to overcome rumors of recruitment-bias.

Applicants this year went through a formal and standardised interview.

The presence of independent members of the executive board and interview auditing ensured that friendship-biased recruitment was avoided.

Recruitment also placed emphasis

on achieving an ethnically-diverse team with equal representation from males and females and concentrated on the importance of recruiting first and second-year students to ensure a better information flow for future executive teams.

OWW has launched an improved training scheme, including a compulsory general training session for all members as well as separate departmental preparation.

Sophie Potter, ex-president of World at Warwick, commented last year that recruits had "zero understanding of the basics of event organisation, SU processes, or appropriate communication with other members of the University community".

The training this year promotes improved communications and transparency between all departments and organisers.

A new communications policy requires that all external correspondence and marketing be screened by the PR team to ensure professionalism and consistency. This content includes trailers, posters, the website, emails and social media.

The policy states: "Monitoring the overall image of OWW and ensuring that the messages we send are clear, consistent and in line with our aims, objectives and beliefs means that we need to approve all forms of media, not just the written word."

A new press policy has also been introduced for the launch of the event, with a press reception to be held at the end of term one.

Miranda Lewsley, co-ordinator of OWW 2014, said that this year's event was aiming for "quality, not quantity".

Ms Lewsley added: "It is focused on experiencing the world within Warwick."

Spencer Mintram, fourth-year Automotive Engineering student, commented: "I used to think OWW was cool."

"Last year had a few glitches but I'm sure that the team this year will make it one of the best yet."

Commenting on the incidents of the previous year, Fen Greatley, deputy head of PR, said: "As crucial events neared, communications failed..."

"It was more intense than expected."

The "biggest student-run festival" was well received with many students last year however, with their nightclub event, Ignis, and the fashion show selling out.

Warwick Uni staff to strike

Students to miss out on seminars and lectures

Bethan Erasmus
Claudia Zink

University staff throughout the UK have planned a one-day strike on October 31 due to disputes over salary.

The strike is being organised by Unite, Unison and the University and College Union (UCU).

The strike has potential to cause large-scale disruption at Warwick University as it includes lecturers, administration workers, and technicians. The number of participants in the strike is as yet unknown.

However, press officer Peter Dunn asserted: "As in past such strikes, the University intends to operate as normally as possible on that day. Heads of Departments will, as ever, use their common sense to respond to any particular issues that arise on the day."

Warwick UCU president Dennis Leech accused the University of obstructing the union's legitimate action: "The management of the University are trying to tell members that they must notify them in advance if they will strike but actually they have no right to do so."

Explaining the cause of the strike, he added: "many of our members feel very angry that they are working very effectively and achieving great things at Warwick yet get a kick in the teeth of an offer of a 13 percent real terms cut in their pay."



» Staff are to walk out on October 31. Photo: Warwick Media Library

The strike will have some impact on student contact hours.

Second-year English Literature undergraduate, Ciara Faughnan-Moncrieff, said: "Due to the fact that I'm paying £9,000 a year for tuition, missing valuable contact hours seems all the more irritating."

In contrast, Rebecca Gittins, first-year Politics student, admitted: "I fully accept that it is the prerogative of the lecturers to strike to improve the conditions in which they work."

"I recognise taking valuable contact hours away from students is not ideal, though as long as the course material is eventually covered and sufficient support is provided by seminar tutors, the proposed strike will not have much effect on the

students."

Peter O'Brien, first-year English Literature and Theatre Studies student, recognised the legitimate cause of the strike: "It is a sad thing when teachers are forced to hinder the learning of their students because of their pay, which is something so trivial compared with the knowledge that they impart."

However, he was not convinced of the success of the strike strategy: "In reality, it's just another strike for the government to brush under the carpet and it's just another few missed seminars and lectures for the student. The unions need another approach."

Whether or not the strike will significantly prevent the University from running smoothly will only become apparent on the day itself.

51 percent of students fall ill as a result of cold accommodation

Sam Hopps

A recent press release has revealed that 51 percent of students questioned in a survey commissioned by Dreamland have admitted to falling ill as a result of cold university accommodation.

Close to one third of the survey's respondents said that they would have to do without other essentials if they had to pay for heating, while 49 percent replied that they would avoid putting the heating on to save money.

In addition, the survey has discovered that 54 percent of students questioned believe that their work has been affected by having a cold room, with nine percent saying that they missed lectures because it was too cold to get out of bed and 13 percent saying that they would stop work to find a way to keep warm.

This survey tracks the issue of the rising cost of central heating and the implications this has for university students.

Cold accommodation for students is not just a cost issue, with the survey also revealing that 24 percent of those questioned said

suffering without central heating leads to depression.

James Ward, a second-year German and Business student, said: "As I was paying a set figure for our accommodation last year, I left the heating on most of the time."

"However, being in a student house in Leamington and being responsible for bills, I haven't switched the heating on since moving in. I just put a jumper on instead."

9 percent

of students missed lectures because it was too cold to get out of bed

Jim Burrows, a second-year English Literature student, said: "Our house usually puts on the heating for a couple of hours a day and I've never felt particularly chilly - the heating is more reliable than it was in Jack Martin at the very least!"

Argha Sarkar, a second-year Computer Science student, expressed how much colder his house

in Leamington is than his first-year campus accommodation: "My accommodation last year was quite warm."

"My house this year is definitely colder as we do not use central heating but use personal electric heaters in our bedrooms."

"Our boiler makes a lot of noise so we only use it for washing up."

Jordan Flynn, a second-year History student, commented: "Last year was frustrating because I had literally no control over my radiator and it was boiling or freezing at random times."

"This year my room is really cold because I have two outside walls and it's horrible."

"Also our hot water is on 'economy' so if you're not first in the shower you have to have a cold one."

Beth Morris, a second-year Sociology student, agreed: "The radiator in my room in Westwood couldn't be turned off and I was unable to open my windows enough to make much of a difference."

"Obviously I was very grateful for the heat in the winter months but in the summer and even spring, it was a nuisance and a waste of heat energy if nothing else!"

One World Week 2014



» The exec aims to improve the event after complaints. Photo: OWW

Postgrad housing crisis continues to cause concern

Displaced postgrad students are still struggling to find a permanent place to live

Selina Sykes
Anna Wilson

Half of the 200 postgraduate students who failed to receive university-managed accommodation are still struggling to find somewhere permanent to live.

Concerns among displaced students have intensified since the University has cut off its financial subsidising of temporary accommodation. Students are now paying the full price to stay in hotels and the Conference Centre.

Disappointment has been expressed by students with the short notice given by Warwick Accommodation informing them of the oversubscription for campus accommodation.

An international Psychology postgraduate who wished to use the initials 'MG' stated: "I received my rejection letter from Warwick Accommodation on September 13. I applied, paid, and received a confirmation email before the July 31 deadline."

Complaints have also been made by students regarding the slow response and the lack of support given by the University.

The Students' Union (SU) has expressed its concern about the effect the housing crisis is having on students' welfare and academic life.

MG commented: "I am at the mercy of the bus schedule. This limits my time in the library, availability for study groups, availability to meet with professors in their offices."

"I have also now had to pay £280

for a year's bus pass when my original budget did not account for that."

Lucy Gill, postgraduate officer at the SU, assured students that the SU "will be working incredibly hard over the next couple of weeks to ensure that the University are aware of the problems you're facing".

Some have taken matters into their own hands given the "limited list of rooms"

An emergency drop-in session was held on October 16 to give advice to those still having difficulties with finding off-campus accommodation.

Many students, however, have decided to take matters into their own hands given the "very limited list of rooms".

"I withdrew my request for further assistance, formally applied for a refund of my deposit, and found my own accommodation," explained MG.

"I was so aggravated by the confusion [...] it did not make sense to me that if they could not get it right the first time, why would I want to trust them to get it right the second time?"

"I found a very reasonably priced room in a house in the Canley area," she concluded.

Ms Gill said: "We're concerned that the University hasn't fully appreciated the seriousness of the situation and want to ensure that this situation does not happen again."

Students have been advised to reclaim back their £250 reservation

fee.

Peter Dunn, a spokesperson for the University, said: "The maximum number of postgraduates students in such a position at any one time over the last few weeks was in fact 150.

"This resulted from Warwick exhibiting even higher levels of popularity than usual this year amongst both prospective undergraduate and prospective postgraduate students.

"Initially these students were put in high-quality accommodation in our own residential management training centres or in local hotels but they were only charged the same rate as that campus postgrad-

uate accommodation and they were also each given £70 on their Eating at Warwick cards.

"The last of those students had moved from those hotels, or our residential management training centres, to accommodation by October 14.

"The date of notification for each of those students as to their initial accommodation arrangements would have been very varied as a number of them were late applicants to the University."

The SU has underlined that anyone seeking advice relating to university-provided accommodation or contracts is welcome to drop in to their offices based in SUHQ.



» Claycroft postgraduate accommodation. Photo: Sian Elvin

Asbestos on campus

Continued from front page

Although Warwick Accommodation staff later confirmed that the asbestos had not been exposed so it did not pose a risk to students living there, the reports over the summer have concerned former residents.

Second-year Psychology student Shareen Rikhraj, who lived in International House at the time of the incident, commented on the present situation.

She said: "I think it's a little unfair that it has become a big deal now that it's affected many more rooms.

"It wasn't seen as that big of an issue when it was only in International House.

"There shouldn't have been over six months of a gap between telling International House residents about it and the rest of Rootes."

The *Boar* further investigated whether asbestos was present in other buildings on Warwick campus.

A spokesperson for the University of Warwick said: "[Warwick] is aware of asbestos-containing materials located in non-residential buildings.

"The University carries out annual re-inspections of all of its buildings that contain asbestos-containing materials, and also carries out specific project related surveys prior to commencing intrusive works on site.

"All parts of the University which contain such materials have asbestos protection measures in place."

It is believed that over 17,000 students nationally have been sleeping in rooms which contain asbestos.

Further uni demand rises

Samuel Lovett
Josie Throup

A new report by the university minister David Willets has suggested that university places will need to increase by 26 percent across the UK in the next 20 years.

On *The Today Programme* Mr Willets said that the pressure we currently see on primary school places will have a knock-on effect on universities in the next two decades.

He also predicted that improvements in education will mean that more students will meet application standards.

Universities such as Warwick may have to expand to accommodate such pressure.

Spokesperson for Warwick University Peter Dunn expects that the University will be able to meet such demands but emphasises the fact that: "Warwick's strategy is to focus on increasing its postgraduate research numbers, not its undergraduate numbers."

First-year economics student, Edmund Robbins, saw the benefits of possible expansion.

"The more students we have, the more money the university has to invest."

Yet other students were less sure about the advantages of expansion. An anonymous student told the *Boar*: "The University is running at 100 percent right now. Warwick University is so full, we don't even have enough room for people to live here!"

In terms of the pressures upon Warwick's accommodation, Mr Dunn commented on the issue.

"Every few years Warwick's extreme popularity as a choice of university makes it challenging to meet full demand."

However, he added that: "On every such occasion the accommodation office have met that challenge."

The potential increase in students need not be a worry for Warwick students; according to Willets' report, the future economy will be more geared towards graduates.

Willets' vision of the UK's future was of "well-trained people doing high quality well paid jobs".

Willets' paper follows the revolutionary Robins report of 50 years ago when just five percent of young people went to university.

Both papers called for the expansion of universities.

Willets' paper is seen by some as the future of higher education in the UK.

Delayed SU book sale system launched

Daisy Sibun

The Students' Union (SU) online second-hand book sale finally launched on Tuesday 22 October after being delayed.

Warwick's book sale usually sees thousands of books being listed and bought by students annually at the beginning of Term 1.

This year, technical problems have delayed the sale, but the new online system will mean that students have the opportunity to buy and sell books all-year-round.

This new system was introduced by the SU to avoid heavy queuing, logistical issues and book thefts which were previously associated with the sale.

Cosmo March, democracy and development officer at the SU, insisted that the launch of the new system was proving successful: "So far, touch wood, there have been no technical problems.

"The delay of the launch was to ensure any technical problems were ironed out so hopefully this was worth it to some extent. So far lots of students have been buying and listing books."

Some students, however, felt that

the new system had launched too late.

First-year Psychology undergraduate Catherine Stokes said: "I couldn't really wait any longer for the book sale.

"It was getting too far into the term for me to not have my core textbooks.

"It's a shame because I ended up paying more money for them than I should have done."

Many others were assured that the new system was worth the wait.

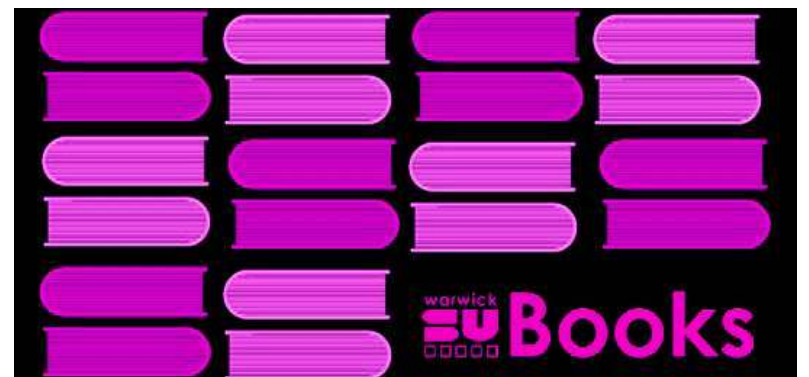
Shelby Roberts, a first-year History undergraduate, commented: "Being able to access discount books throughout the year is essential.

"I have had to buy a few books full price but I will no doubt make good use of the new improved system now it's ready."

Mr March acknowledged the inconvenience the delay may have caused students.

He told the *Boar*: "No students have contacted me directly about disruptions, but undoubtedly the delay will have meant some students have probably been paying more when they could have been saving money with the system.

"It is a shame and I am deeply apologetic for the delay, but the system is up and running now so hopefully people can start benefiting from it straight away."



» The SU second-hand book sale has launched. Photo: Warwick SU



Warwick considers US campus

Daisy Sibun

City and county officials from Roseville and Placer County, California will visit Warwick on Monday November 11 to discuss potential plans to develop a local Warwick campus in Sacramento, the state capital.

The delegation travelling from California hope that the proposition of free county land and a \$150 million financial contribution to fund this campus development will persuade the University of Warwick to agree.

The 1,157 acre ranch land property in Roseville and Placer County was donated by property developer Angelo Tsakopoulos in December for the purpose of building a university.

Kirk Uhler, a Placer County supervisor who will be part of the visiting delegation, told the *Boar* that it was Tsakopoulos who was keen to approach Warwick. Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Thrift has visited Tsakopoulos on a number of occasions to discuss the opportunity.

Warwick was not the first institution to be approached regarding the potential development.

Previously, Drexel University in Philadelphia was keen to build a campus in California. Enthusiasm for the project was weakened by the slowdown of the US economy and the death in 2011 of University President Constantine Papadakis who was a long-time friend of Tsakopoulos.

Now that the plans of Roseville and Placer County officials have shifted towards international partnership, discontent has emerged from locals in Sacramento.

Local resident Donna Williams commented: "There are many universities in the United States, and to search in the UK by financing a trip from taxpayers who can't afford to take their own vacations, to me is irresponsible."

However, the CEO of the Sacramento Area Trade & Commerce Organisation (SACTO) Barbara Hayes, who will also visit next month, insisted that discussions with Warwick will lead to positive outcomes for all parties.

She said: "We must continue to build our high education foundation to remain economically vital and sustainable."

We are encouraged by the areas of study that Warwick pursues. Science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum, and the students that such curriculum would attract

– along with Warwick's reputation – are exactly what the Sacramento region and California values, and needs more of."

Ms Hayes did add that Warwick was not the only institution to be targeted, stating: "we are speaking with other universities and colleges – nationally and internationally – about locating campuses in the Sacramento region."

The opinion of Warwick students appears to be one of general enthusiasm.

First-year Biological Sciences undergraduate Penny Tilsley said: "The expansion of the Warwick campus into the US puts Warwick's name onto a more international platform which can only benefit us as graduates. I would definitely go and study in Sacramento."

Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Thrift similarly commented that the development in the US would be a positive one for the University: "Warwick is a globally connected University that has chosen to form partnerships that are not based on geographical proximity but which help create a truly global network."



Do you think a campus in the US will be successful?

Tweet: @BoarNews

Universities looking beyond grades

Clara Rawlings
Nada Showman

Increasing numbers of UK universities are using contextual information, not just academic grades, to decide which students are given places.

This comes in light of recent controversy over the fairness of university admissions, particularly for ethnic minorities and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Research carried out by the independent body Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) shows that of the 67 institutions who responded to their survey, 37 percent said they used contextual data and most of the others planned to do so too.

The University of Warwick is one such institution that uses contextual data.

The University's admissions policy states that: "Our recruitment and application processes are designed to support students with the potential to succeed at the University."

"We are committed to ensuring that every application is treated fairly and judged on its merits."

"Contextual data will be used in selection decisions during the main admissions cycle for only a small number of pilot courses in the 2013 admissions cycle, and these pilots will contribute towards research

into possible further use of contextual data.

"Students identified as disadvantaged may preferentially receive offers from the University although the grades required will be consistent with those for other candidates."

Katie Doyle, a second-year Psychology student, does not believe personal data should be taken into account by admissions officers.

Ms Doyle commented: "I don't think [contextual data] really matters."

"I don't see why [universities] need it."

"It's quite personal. [Universities] shouldn't make a decision based on that."

Divya Puri, a second-year Law student looking back on her own experience said: "There is more emphasis on grades and some contextualisation too, but

this is quite systematic, a tick-box exercise, that almost borders on positive discrimination."

Third-year Philosophy, Politics and Economics student Patrick Mackenzie disagreed.

He said: "If contextual data in admissions is positive discrimination then I'm definitely in favour."

"Access to higher education has to be as broad as possible in order to have more diversity in senior positions in all sectors of the workplace."

The UK government encourages universities to use contextual data when giving places to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and this may be a trend that will continue at Warwick.



» Unis use contextual information. Photo: Warwick Media Library

No to Saint extension

Anna Wilson

A Leamington nightclub's application to remain open until 6am has been rejected by the council.

Saint Bar encountered strong opposition from Warwickshire Police.

Licensing officer Carline Simms stated that approving the new opening times would "increase crime and disorder in the vicinity", adding that the area is already a "hotspot for crime and disorder."

Between 1 September 2012 and 22 September 2013, there have been 41 recorded incidents, 30 of which can be directly linked to the bar.

In an interview with the *Leamington Courier*, the solicitor representing Saint, Ian Besant, claimed that "comprehensive" measures were in place to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Mr Besant also added that only two incidents in the last year listed in the police report involved violence.

In a letter sent to the council, environmental health officer Michael Jenkins, objected to the extension of the license.

He did this on the grounds that

Warwick Street is "an area recognized to be at saturation point for licensed premises".

He also expressed concern for local residents who, he claimed, would be impacted by the bar's patrons leaving at more "unsociable" hours.

Noise pollution in nearby residential areas also remains an issue, despite Saint Bar installing noise limiting measures.

A number of residents wrote to the council in objection to the extension of the license.

At present, the bar's license permits the playing of music and selling of alcohol until 1am from Monday to Wednesday, until 2am from Thursday to Saturday and until 12pm on Sundays.



» Photo: Saint nightclub

40 percent fall in part-time students

Emily Stevenson

The number of students taking part-time courses has fallen nationally by 40 percent over the last two years, and Warwick is no exception to the trend.

While there were 571 part-time undergraduate students in 2010, last year there were 528.

Lucy Gill, Warwick Students' Union postgraduate officer said: "[part-time students] are under-represented at university level."

"As a University, we should be doing more to understand the diverse needs of part-time students and be working to ensure that every Warwick student feels comfortable on campus."

Part-time courses have a massively important role to play in making university-level education open to all and encouraging lifelong learning."

A recent Universities UK study blamed reduced employer support and increased pressure in household budgets along with the trebling in tuition fees as the main deterrents against studying part-time.

There is no easy solution to this, although Miss Gill offered suggestions.

She commented: "Subsidised accommodation or cash bursaries for those from restricted income households would ease some of this financial pressure and allow more students to access university education."

"As a university, we should be doing more to understand the diverse needs of part-time students."

Lucy Gill, Postgraduate officer

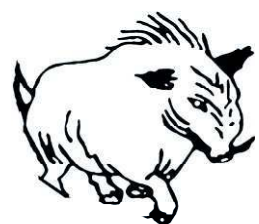
Encouraging part-time students to participate in campus life could increase their numbers at Warwick.

Miss Gill said: "We've seen a huge increase in postgraduate students getting involved in societies this year, and we'd love to see this reflected in part-time and mature student involvement too!"

At Warwick, part-time students comprise around 25 percent of the student body, with the majority of part-time degrees being postgraduate.

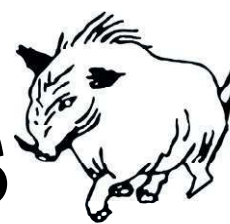


Why are there fewer part-timers?
Comment online:
theboar.org/news



theboar

Editors' Letters



STUDENT SOAPBOX

Selina Sykes
"Language Degrees"

In the age of Google Translate and English as the global language, I cannot sometimes help but feel I am being told that my languages degree is irrelevant. Everyone speaks English nowadays anyway right?

The statistics are sadly not telling me anything different. Languages courses are in free fall: university applications have plummeted and department closures are accelerating uncontrollably. Labour's detrimental decision to cut language requirements at GCSE sums up the UK's lacklustre for languages.

I am fed up with this country's perception of languages degrees being a waste of time. "Oh how nice...so what are you exactly going to do with that, spend your summer holidays in France?" I could ask you the same thing about your Physics or your English Literature degree. Few degrees follow a straight route towards one career: we have all heard about that notorious term 'transferable skills'.

I am acquiring all the skills any bog-standard arts student does, yet in another language. It is about cultural awareness, adaptability and relational thinking. Of all which are extremely relevant in this increasingly globally-connected world. Languages students study literature, history, politics and film – not to mention verb conjugations and when to use the subjunctive. We are open to new horizons and challenges. Our year abroad has proven we can adapt to change and communicate confidently and enthusiastically with others. Most importantly, we are exportable. These to me seem very attractive traits.

We have relied for far too long on the fact that English is the international language of business. Recruiters are increasingly seeking graduates with a language degree, yet the skill pool is relatively slim pickings. British graduates are losing out in the international job market due to inadequate language skills. In an increasingly competitive and international environment, English does not always cut it.

Perhaps I should be revelling in the shortage of languages graduates. It must surely make my employment prospects soar. Maybe my so-called 'hobby' will be of some use after all.



"International students are not unsociable"

Ann Yip
 Deputy News Editor

"They don't talk to White people, they only ever socialise with their own kind."

There seems to be a common perception that many international students are 'unsociable'. Consequently, international students that are able to mingle with home students are often seen as 'sociable'. This, however, demonstrates a refusal to understand international students and the circumstances they are in.

It aggravates me that all these assumptions revolving around racial discrimination are made about those who socialise inside or outside their own ethnic circles.

But has anyone stopped to think that maybe, just maybe, they are in their friendship groups simple because they 'click' together better?

From my own experience, I know that there are cultural and language barriers which make it hard for international students to successfully mingle with home students.

For some, there is the difficulty with language. Imagine being thrown into a room with people who speak a language you understand but which you are not a native speaker of - you would not be as talkative then.

I myself can speak Cantonese well, but not well enough. It is hard for me to sustain a conversation in Cantonese and I'm less motivated

to speak up in a group of people. For the majority of international students who speak English fluently, there is the added cultural barrier. I am not talking about surface barriers like food preferences and cultural experiences, I am talking about deeply ingrained ideas and experiences that form personalities and social habits.

But what many people fail to realise is that cultural differences can lead to incompatible personalities. Many from the east, for example, cannot accept the idea of casual relationships and casual sex, and this could cause conflict with those who are open to these concepts.

As a Hong Konger who never really conformed to the mainstream ideas of the place, I never really felt in my own skin living in Hong Kong - I found it almost uncomfortable. So I can understand how some international students would feel more at home with those from similar cultural backgrounds.

This does not mean, however, that it is right to cut off any effort to mingle cross-culturally, all I am saying is that I understand the ease and comfort that many international students may find in socialising with their own kind.

So think again before condemning international students for 'only sticking to their own kind'.



"Memoirs of a night in"

Daniel Cope
 Deputy Comment Editor

Lifestyle editor, Maya Westwick may well have reminisced about the trial and tribulations of a Warwick nightlife last term but in contrast I have had my fair share of Warwick nights in that I need to address vis-à-vis as it were...

An ode to the cider-stained cards on the table after a game of ring of fire and the coagulated substance that formed thereafter because I didn't attend to it... The lovely cleaner passed on my apology via some well-aimed industrial cleaning product.

My passing regards must also go to the naïve drunken me, the me who thought that clashing two bottles together to add a crescendo to my far-from-verbatim singing, was ever a good idea?

I also give a fond embrace to those times tucked up in bed watching numerous repeats of *Doctor Who* to avoid the glaring demands of Medieval Literature. But there are those nights when the Medieval Literature really can't wait any longer.

Film marathons with friends and popcorn really are the bee-knees but whatever mood I'm in, *Zoolander* will never ever be a good film. Sorry to the angry mob forming outside my door.

I treasured my nights-in during my first year the most but not just because I can actually remember

them and they aren't a mere smoky Neon haze but rather because it is was when my best relationships were forged.

Whether me and my friends want to have lengthy debates on what constitutes feminism or simply who got with who at Pop! the sky really was (and still is) the limit. And you might be surprised at the little unexpected nuances friends reveal about themselves over a late-night hot chocolate.

Since year two is now firmly established around me I can't help but look back at those nights in and without my realising until now, I have used them as a template to build on.

My nights in this year are a concoction of group *Bake Off* marathons during which you must not breathe except to laugh at Mary Berry's ludicrously sensual descriptions of food. At other times, you'll find me cursing the complexity of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* or sobbing over the ever-consistent pile of washing I have to do.

The luxuries of sharing a student house in second year are unprecedented if you know where to look. I'm looking up at our infamously-titled 'quote wall' as I write this, a conglomeration of golden witticism that me and my friends have come up with during term currently adorns the wall.

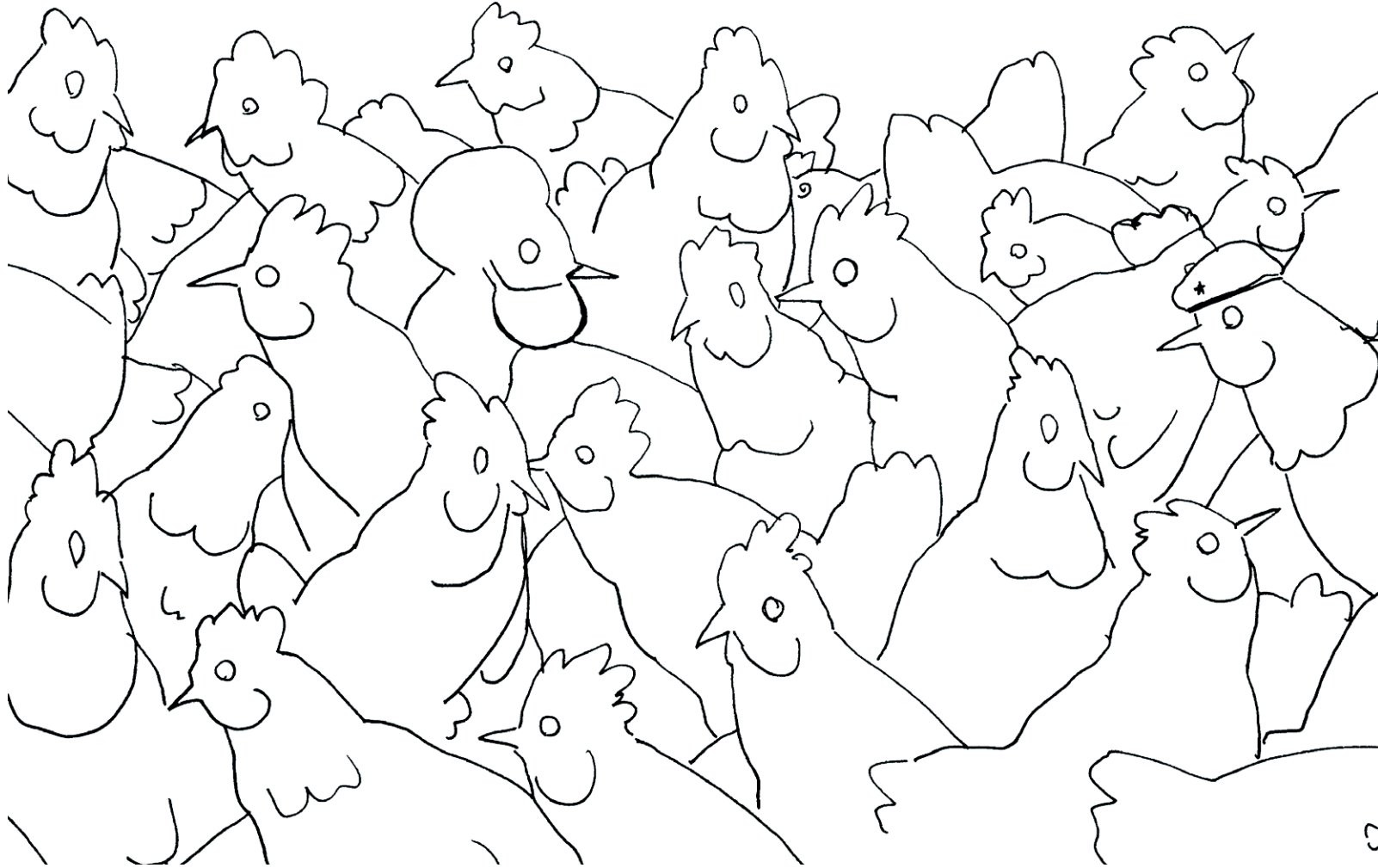
Sports initiations



zappablamma dot com



THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEFRIED



»Cartoon by Charles MacDonald

The confessions of a curious vegetarian

Becoming vegetarian is more than a question of tradition or emotion

Hiran Adhia

There has only been one on-going debate in my kitchen. How can you be vegetarian? It seems that from the people I have spoken to, it is puzzling how I can walk past a pan of fried bacon without being tempted to promptly shovel it into my mouth with a huge smile on my face. Incredibly, it isn't that difficult.

Considering I am of Indian descent, I can understand why people think that I am vegetarian because of religious reasons. And it is true that my whole family are vegetarian and we are influenced by Hinduism. The belief is that no animal should be harmed as one living thing has no right to harm another for pleasure. However, this is only a side issue for me...the real reasons are far more practical which I will discuss in a moment.

I was seriously asked if I ate grass during my first week at Warwick.

Before that, I'll break down some myths about vegetarianism. First

of all, we are not grass eaters. For those of you quizzically looking at your paper right now, I was asked this seriously by someone in my first week at Warwick... very awkward.

Secondly, we don't only eat vegetables...we also gorge down on bread, milk and cheese (excessively in my case).

Thirdly, we don't eat fish like some people commonly believe, those are actually pescatarians.

Fourthly, despite not eating meat, we get ready sources of protein from lentils, nuts and pulses which are actually better sources as they aid digestion.

Lastly, despite what my friends think, vegetarians don't have less fun than omnivores. I just thought I'd point that out.

Now, joking aside, let's get onto the real issue here. Recently, I watched a fly on the wall documentary called 'The Fried Chicken Shop' (still available on 4oD) about a fast food outlet based in Clapham, London. There were some facts about the consumption of chicken that

shocked me: "Chicken used to be a luxury. We used to eat the equivalent of just one a year. Now we slaughter 2.5 million a day.

We eat it more than any other meat and it has changed our high streets. It's the front line and bread line of Britain" The average price of a piece of chicken was no more than £2, which accounting for profit margins, franchise and distribution costs means that the unit cost could be as little as 50p. This is the cheapest that meat has ever been, how is it possible to get it down to this price?

Well, it isn't pretty. A prior warning before I reveal this, the link I am going to give you is not for the squeamish. If you YouTube "Possibly the Most Eye Opening 6 Minutes Ever on Film" you will be able to see the impact of the cheap meat market.

When I first watched it I was disturbed by the fact that you could see chickens literally being sucked up by a machine before being slaughtered. It would anyone feel

sick.

The frightening truth is that it just isn't sustainable for us to be consuming meat in this way. If we are happy to buy this cheap meat, now knowing where it has come from, can we really say that we are enjoying it? Does it not taste a little bitter? Some would now argue that eating organic and free range produce would combat this problem, but the truth is that our collective appetite seems to be insatiable.

All around the world, arable land for crops is being given up to raise livestock, which is actually reducing the absolute amount of food in weight that can be taken from the same surface area of land. It means that by continuing to pursue meaty motives, we are actually worsening the problem and reducing the efficiency of the production of other food.

Let me be clear, I am not expecting you to drop your turkey sandwiches and devote your life to munching cucumbers. But I do want you to think about the implications of what you might be putting in your mouth and the story of how it got onto your plate. Just by refusing to eat cheap meat, or by having a veggie day of the week, you can start to make a serious dent in this issue.



»photo: Flickr/ avlyxz

When hypocrites make history

Ibtisam Ahmed

On October 18, the diplomatic world reeled in shock as Saudi Arabia made the unprecedented move of turning down a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC). The Middle Eastern kingdom, which has strong ties with the permanent five members, particularly the USA, rebuffed the offer while accusing the world body of "double standards". It was particularly critical of the failure to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for not reaching a consensus on Syria.

No one was really sure how to react. Indeed, for the first twenty-four hours, this news went mostly unremarked, with the focus on the US shutdown and Syria. But, sure enough, diplomats began to weigh in. The Russian foreign minister called the move bewildering and UN Ambassadors from the Arab League urged Saudi Arabia to change its decision, stating that having a Middle Eastern country on the UNSC would better serve the region's demands. At the same time, the Arab League Secretary General Nabil Al-Araby praised the Saudi government's decision, while an unnamed French government official stated that the decision served to highlight genuine failures.

Despite Moscow's protests, there is no denying the fact that the UNSC has largely failed in its mandate. Global security is at its most vulnerable and humanitarian crises are crippling the world. The permanent five members are not immune either – the USA's debacle with wars in the Middle East and Guantanamo Bay, Russia's abysmal LGBTQ situation, and China's ongoing struggles with Tibet are well-documented problems.

However, while the refusal is a pleasant surprise, there is a fair amount of irony when you consider who did the rejecting. After all, Saudi Arabia is in no way a utopia. For years, it has had one of the worst women's rights records in the world. Women not only suffer from restricted freedom of movement, speech and expression, but face harsher penalties and courtroom bias in legal cases. Homosexuality is illegal, with penalties including stoning and forced amputations. Censorship is a huge problem, and the country has a history of denying the presence of political prisons. And these are just a sample of what is plaguing the country. Despite these issues, the Saudi government has not been held accountable due to its strategic position in the region and its oil reserves.

Given the support Saudi Arabia gets from the UNSC, allowing it to carry out human rights abuses with impunity, it is truly a case of the pot calling the kettle black for it to turn down a UNSC seat for "double standards". Or perhaps that is just politics.

Nobel Peace Prize: Political weapon of choice

Can we really consider this award for peace a Noble Prize?

Edward Halliday

Peace can be a difficult concept to define. Conflict, particularly in its armed variant, is simpler. There is certainly no difficulty in recognising the bloody Civil War that Syria is currently fighting amongst itself, nor its destructive impact on the lives of those within and surrounding the bitterly divided country.

Governments, East and West, have no compelling excuse for their continued inaction. Between the two voting blocs in the UN—one supporting the current Syrian government, the other broadly against it—there is at least agreement that peace is the ultimate goal of discussion.

Kissinger's status as Peace Prize laureate was heralded as 'the death of satire'; Tony Blair the peace envoy buried it.

However, neither side is willing to forfeit a strategic regional advantage for a lasting peace; not when the only casualties of delay and obstructionism are the Syrian people themselves. It is poker played with a stranger's money, warranting no concern over how much is lost in pursuit of the pot.

Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) should, given this situation, be seen as an unwelcome development in the nature of the debate around Syria. David Miliband makes a good case by pointing out that if the group truly deserved their laureate status, Syria should not have been in a position to use chemical weapons in the first place. A significant criticism stems from the historical connotations of a Nobel Peace Prize victory, and what it signals in terms of our attitude toward the conflict.

The Peace Prize Committee is not blind to the prestige and political capital it can endow. Throughout the years, the award has been used strategically for various political ends. Jimmy Carter won in 2002, with the Committee citing his 'untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts' as their reasoning—a thinly veiled criticism of President Bush's war-posturing that would lead to the invasion of Iraq a year later.

The EU's acceptance of the award in 2012 will have helped strengthen the organisation against internal

tensions regarding its worth, particularly in the wake of the Eurozone crisis.

Henry Kissinger's 1973 victory—ostensibly for negotiating the Paris Agreement that constructed a ceasefire (albeit temporarily) between North and South Vietnam—was an attempt to validate the treaty in the eyes of the belligerents, preserving South Vietnamese independence. Kissinger—who continued to authorise

illegal bombing raids in Cambodia—deserved it for nothing else. His status as a Peace Prize laureate at the time as 'the death of satire'; it only took Tony Blair to become a Middle East Peace Envoy to bury it.

Whilst the stories behind the laureates can be powerful and, in Kissinger's case, morbidly amusing, there is a greater theme to be exposed. The Nobel Peace Prize in recent years is often given, to address and pontificate over whichever pressing political issue is on the agenda.

Here, The Nobel Peace Prize Committee are desperate to commemorate the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons stock-

pile as a breakthrough in global cooperation. Forgetting that it was Vladimir Putin who actually organised the agreement—a contender for the Prize this year, and possibly the only man less deserving of the award than Kissinger—there are greater reasons to question the Committee's judgement in this case.

There will not be a ceasefire between the Syrian National Coalition and the government: not even a fragile two-year stop-for-breath that even Kissinger managed. Conventional weapons, from bullets to phosphorous bombs, have been and will continue to be the single greatest means of killing other Syrians within Syria.

So who could have done with winning the Nobel Peace Prize? Lakhdar Brahimi, the current UN Peace Envoy to Syria. Perhaps with the added attention and authority a Nobel Prize can bestow, his efforts to establish an authoritative and conclusive Geneva II Convention, focused solely on achieving a peaceful political solution for Syria, would be more fruitful—a completely speculative belief, but one now resigned to remain so.

As it stands, the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is less a development worth celebrating than it is a salve for the conscience of the global community, a pat on the back for the having so well arranged the deck chairs on the Titanic.



»photo: OPCW

“You two are making people uncomfortable”

An anonymous writer shares his experience of homophobia in Altoria

At 2:15 on Friday 18th October. I was the victim of a hate crime.

After such progress in the fight for equal rights following a highly publicised campaign and overwhelming support from our fellow countrymen, homosexual men and women could rejoice in the fact that by law their love was recognised and acknowledged.

Then why is it that after this monumental step forward in gay rights that not only changed the law, but more importantly people's attitudes and the way we approach LGBT issues, my boyfriend and I were escorted out of Altoria for kissing?

My boyfriend and I were escorted out of Altoria for kissing.

“You two have got to leave, you are making people feel uncomfortable,” grunted the bouncer as he awkwardly avoided eye-contact and barely hid the look of disgust on his face. We were kissing. We had left the bustle of the dance floor and were stood at the top of the stairs waiting for a friend. Our eyes met, and when our eyes meet, they fix. So we kissed.

A stolen moment of intimacy and affection, a momentary retreat from the revelry of the night, we kissed. For a few brief seconds there was no one else but the two of us, we had left this world behind. That was until we were brought crashing down by the shameful and demoralising actions of one particular bouncer. His intrusive intolerance stung me with the sudden realisation that little had changed.

Despite the new laws, damaging and backward attitudes persist, so much so that the actions of one ignorant man who believed himself to be immune to the progress the rest of us had made, unravelled the worrying truth behind our liberties. But I will not remain silent.

“As homophobia in itself isn't actually a crime, there is little we can really do about this”. The words of the police officer I met with the following morning, having officially reported it on waking. His response worried me, but I had heard it before. Momentarily, I felt trapped and very small, suddenly terrified that my personal details

would be attached to this incident. I imagined that's how things started in Russia. I imagined that's how things started in V for Vendetta.

But then his tone shifted. Having awkwardly avoided using the word 'gay' throughout the entire time we talked, although remaining impeccably polite and professional despite being so obviously out of his comfort zone, he looked directly at me and said he would personally confront the bouncer in question. There are people on our side.

That one warm look from the police officer seemed to be an antidote to all that had happened. He said all too often things like this just get forgotten about or brushed under the carpet. As he left he urged me to seek civil advice and pursue the matter further, which I am, with the help of the fabulous (in both respects) Pride reps and Student Union Advisers.

It is also worth noting that Altoria are planning a 'Gay Night' in a few weeks, which I think really needs to be discussed, because that bouncer is going to have a nerv-

ous breakdown or something, and if the management condone those sort of attitudes then they really have no right to host such an event.

It is not okay that the police claim “there is nothing we can do about it.” It's just not.

It is not okay that someone thinks it perfectly acceptable to throw people out for being gay. It is not okay that the bouncer had “more right” to throw us out than we had the right to complain about his reasons for it. It is not okay that the police claim “there is nothing we can do about it.” It's just not.

It never can be. He had no more right to throw us out than a heterosexual couple or an interracial couple. And there is no other way of putting it. We were thrown out because we were gay. This man's actions were appalling. I will not remain silent. I will not let it go. I will fight this and I implore you, reader to do the same.

If you are a victim, or know of a victim of intolerance, don't keep quiet. There are people, powerful people who are ready to back us and purge our country of intolerance, one nightclub bouncer at a time.



»photo: flickr/philippeleroyer

White Saviour™

Hiba Ahmad

Do you feel the weight of your ancestor's pressing down on you as you emerge freshly from school with excellent A-levels, a narrow understanding of the world and a sense of adventure borne of having a Daddy that can pay for your whims and wishes?

Fret no more brave youngster as White Saviour Travels is here to ease your pain! We are here to help you embark on the journey of a lifetime! Gain wisdom from various Brown People as you explore their lands and learn about their suffering while living comfortably in a Western-friendly environment!

Eat the exotic food which is available everywhere in the exotic heaven of your choice as you marvel over the sheer exoticism of it all! Take pictures of oppressed women while wearing the hottest bikini on the market and thank the heavens for being born in a civilised land.

Experience joy as you embark on your brave quest to Fix Africa/Asia/India/South America one village at a time! Build a house for the unfortunate and get a fabulous tan while you're at it! And do be sure to make friends with the locals because who knows, you might just write the next “Eat, Pray, Love”!

Remember that your story of self-discovery is the most important thing to take back from your travels! While the conditions which you might stumble upon may seem terrible, our Spiritual Mentors™ will provide you with a Positive Outlook that will help you see the beauty of it all! All those impoverished poor souls make up in spirituality what they lack in BMI and their days are simply full of meaning!

Experience it first hand and you will gain a whole new treasury of wisdom and quotes which you can later bestow upon the uneducated masses at home! Just think of all the inspiring blog posts it could generate! Your selfless act of philanthropy will become legendary and you could really save the lives of many Brown People by simply gracing them with your unique presence.

With that being said, this wonderful adventure of a lifetime will of course cost you (i.e. Daddy) a fortune, but what you lose in money you make up for in wisdom and character. And do be sure to take an unholy amount of photos with all the darling little children running around with swollen bellies and too big eyes in dirty, skinny faces. They do make the most wonderfully inspiring profile pictures!



»photo: vmproductions

Energy Prices: A Heated Issue

Milo Barnett

In the past week we have seen a rapid rise in energy prices. Companies such as Npower and British Gas have risen prices by double percentage points Npower has risen the cost of its energy by 10.4%, which is simply staggering as there's huge gap between prices rises and income rises.

Many would cite this as companies reacting badly to Ed Miliband conference speech yet this is not a recent phenomenon. Last winter the 6 main energy companies outlined price rises between 6% and 10.8%.

Simply put this is unacceptable considering that natural gas prices for example have fallen by 1/3 since their peak in 2011. The fact that this isn't some small rogue company but all the major suppliers shows us that there are fundamental flaws in the industry as a whole. The utility's industry acts not as a free market as it should be in theory but as a cartel.

I just want to say that I don't mind price rises if they are justified. For example if there had been massive increase in the wholesale price of gas then a price rise would be justified. This current wave of hikes, is not. There is no clear solution to this problem, Ed Miliband's policy may be a good short term answer to the problem but not a long term one.

What Britain needs is to invest in its infrastructure therefore having a more efficient energy sector and using a range of energy sources. Britain as an island nation should be at the forefront of using tidal energy which will not only be cheaper in long run but also better for the environment. This investment can take in range of areas to have broad and diverse energy policy. We also need a tougher regulator when Ofgem is seen by many as not fit for service.

Britain situation isn't unique, many countries face similar problems but that doesn't mean that we should ignore the problem rather we should tackle it head on and try to save money and tackle this countries over reliance a gas and other non-renewables. Government seems ill disposed to do much about it and I doubt any radical action will be taken.

Even Ed Miliband is ignoring calls for among those in his own party about re-nationalisation. This issue is a contemporary one but it's been around for years and I doubt that the next government will tackle it what's clear is changes need to be wholesale and looked at from different angles from supply to infrastructure all of which be for Britain's interests rather than having to shell out extortionate amounts that only benefits the few.

Tête à Tête

“Chelsea Manning and the leaks culture:

Praise or Punish?”

Will Tucker

Jack Simpson

This summer saw the conviction, on all but two counts, of former US private Chelsea Manning, for her decision to release thousands of classified American military documents to Julian Assange's Wikileaks. Civil liberties groups and Manning's assembled supporters have sought to portray her as a heroic individual, who stuck by her principles no matter the grave personal consequences.

This perception is profoundly wrong-headed. Although her defenders deny that there is concrete evidence of anyone having lost their lives due to the leaks, it is clear that they provided the Taliban with sensitive intelligence for them to use against the brave men and women who she had fought alongside.

Supporters of Manning – who are generally so quick to emphasise the sanctity of life when it comes to casualties of US foreign policy – would do well to remember the innate value of the lives that she, at the very minimum, imperilled. Indeed, rather than seeing the leaks as a courageous stand against a faceless military machine, it is important to consider the extreme risks to individual humans that they created, regardless of whether one agrees with the action in which they are engaged. Therefore, Manning's behaviour must be considered deeply irresponsible on this level.

Attempts made to instead somehow romanticise Manning's ac-

tions taps into the almost visceral resentment that some feel towards the American state. One can legitimately disapprove of some of the American tactics used throughout the War on Terror. However, the fact remains that the US is on the side of basic human rights in a continued global conflict against al-Qaeda, and America has the moral conviction and – as the sole superpower – the militaristic capability to contain and tackle.

Given that it was shown on 9/11 just how much devastation this cruel organisation can wreak when left unchecked, support for actions that make the War on Terror all the harder to prosecute seem incomprehensible.

If a culture of leaking sensitive intelligence ever took hold and drastically curtailed the War's scope and effectiveness, then humans throughout the world, of all faiths and none, would see their most fundamental right – the right to live, rendered much less secure.

Those critics of the US who are lining up to support Chelsea Manning should thus consider whether they are acting in accordance with the notions of human rights and civil liberties which they appropriate. They are defending an individual whose actions endangered US service personnel and promoting behaviour wholly antithetical to stemming the inhuman terrorist menace.

You may or may not have read in the news the revelations of mass surveillance undertaken by the American National Security Agency (NSA) and, completely unrelated to payments of £100m over three years, our very own GCHQ. Put simply, through the PRISM programme and others, these bodies have the power to find out pretty much anything you've been up to online – and these powers are not so much selective as a massive data-mining exercise.

Now, you can disagree with me about whether or not this is necessary. Many people think that, given the unpredictable, volatile world we live in the secret services need such powers to catch terrorists and criminals. Personally, I think the subversion of the concept of 'innocent until proven guilty' the revelations entail is a violation of our civil liberties.

By assuming everyone is a suspect until they are proven otherwise, and needing no warrant to see our online lives, the relationship between state and citizen is permanently damaged. But that's not the point I'm making here.

One of the reasons defenders of PRISM and the like offer for why we shouldn't worry about these programmes is that we live in a democracy. Therefore, goes the argument, governments won't overstep the mark in the balance between security and liberty. This is a flawed

premise, but does offer the best way to explain why this all matters.

As a citizen, we enter a contract with the state to a) keep us safe and b) protect our personal freedoms. We also give governments the right to do these things through popular votes. But if we don't know what our governments are up to, how on earth can we pass judgement at the ballot box?

The former NSA operative Edward Snowden blew the whistle on the massive and sweeping powers of the NSA and GCHQ – powers, like blanket logging of data that had previously been denied ever existed. Yet in order to make these revelations, Snowden had to flee to first Hong Kong and then Vladimir Putin's Russia – hardly a place known for its democratic freedoms.

If it takes a 30-year-old computer technician to reveal the extent of the state's power, then something has gone seriously wrong with democratic accountability. The self-defeating post-9/11 'nothing to fear, nothing to hide' paranoia that has been used to stifle any debate about civil liberties, and brand Snowden a 'traitor' (as if al-Qaeda and their ilk didn't suspect they were being spied on) is damaging our democracy.

I may be wrong. Governments may really need these powers. People may not care because they're happy with the status quo. But please, let us have a debate.

Porntastic Kasbah: Taking 'lad bants' too far Harrassment and public humiliation at Kasbah's Poptastic evening

Emma Welton

When I think of Kasbah, it is usually a colourful blur of bad dancing, friends getting their faces painted with the Mike Tyson tattoo, and the “you don't need no boyfriend, get yo'self a lollipop” singing lady. Now, however, many memories of the nightclub my friends and I share are jaded by the dark and pretty harrowing events of their 'Poptastic' night on October 7th.

Unlike other nights hosted by Kasbah like 'Kinky Fridays' and a night in March where guests were told to, “Expect strippers and a massive sex toy treasure hunt”, Poptastic isn't a night we (sadly) expected to be a super-sexualised event. On that Monday night everything was normal, until the DJ interrupted the set to say there was a new game to be played, boys versus girls. Excited for our first group night out together, two of my girl friends and one of the guys volunteered along with another boy from Cov.

The host of the game was a bravado-fuelled, swaggering lad (shock!) called Jonny. He paced up and down the stage explaining the game: lads vs ladies, throw a ball from the other side of the dance floor into the bin, you gain a



» One of the night's classiest displays photo: Emma Welton

point. If you miss, an item of clothing comes off. My friends, a little hazy behind the eyes, don't react, which I find a bit weird.

The game begins, and the two girls miss their shot (unsurprisingly, as there are fans blowing against them to jeopardise their throws), and the MC jeers at them to take off their clothes. Now what they're being asked to do clicks with them, you can see it on their faces. Afterwards one of them said to me, in tears, “We thought it was a casual dance off. We couldn't even hear what he was saying. It was so loud.”

All of us spectating, however, could. When my friend missed her shot again and she reluctantly removed her bra from under her dress, we very clearly heard Jonny declare: “That's not good enough!” Had she not abided by the

gross, degrading rules? Clearly not in his eyes, as he invoked a chant of “dress, dress dress!” amongst the boys in the crowd.

The game continued in this vein for many more painful minutes. When the boys missed, my male friend laughed and shook his head signalling no, thanks, I don't want to take off my boxers. Jonny mocked him, “Why not, have you got a tiny cock?”, as if by whacking his penis out on a sweaty Coventry stage it would validate his manliness.

At last the girls won, but not before one of my friends was left standing in her underwear under a harsh spotlight. My other friend stood in front of her, masking her confused nudity from the heckling crowd. Even though the game was over, Jonny felt the urge to interject

just once more, “Oi, stop blocking her! Stop lezzing off!”

After my friends left the stage we spent a lot of our night consoling them, initially from their embarrassment and later from crowd members, who felt the need to come up to our group and “congratulate” them. Further insult was added to injury when videos of stripping and writhing girls were plastered all over the big screens, surprising us again, thinking the night should probably be rebranded “Porntastic.”

Many of the people I have relayed this story to have said to me, “This sounds like something that would happen in Magaluf.” And they're really right. Some people might argue, why didn't my friends just get off of the stage, which from an outsider's perspective is a valid point. But it wasn't necessarily the premise of the game, the nudity, which was the main problem, even though in principle that is still obviously grim. It was the fact that when my friends did abide by the game's debasing rules, they were scorned for how they interpreted them. My friend was completely naked under her dress, and yet the artful Jonny encouraged the crowd to taunt her for not stripping nude. That night, Jonny really did pronounce for us the boundary that must be drawn between 'entertainer' and 'predator.'

It's not always (just mostly) sunny

Gena-mour Barrett is back at the *Boar* telling of her American year abroad

I write this because I, like many, was once a naive, inexperienced traveller, who viewed California as a paradisiacal land in which rain was only something a queen did. A haven for British citizens, whose culture, fashion and speech, I'd been told, were revered by hundreds upon thousands and that I would only have to open my mouth and whisper 'tea and crumpets' for strangers to come flocking at the marvel that is a British accent. On departing for the US, I was inundated with anecdotes and barely-based-on-actual-knowledge advice that only added to my perception of the US as a country where only dreams were made. Now that I have actually arrived in California and have been here for two months, I feel it is my duty to clear up a few misconceptions. After all, nowhere is perfect...not even California (although it comes pretty darn close).

I am going to be honest and confess that I was very much under the impression that I would be somewhat of a novelty in the US. British friends who had previously been on years abroad told me how they'd been stopped in the street for their accent and could rarely utter a sentence without someone shouting 'Oh my God, are you from England?!' Needless to say, I was intending to rely solely on my accent to make friends. Why be funny and engaging when I can just lie and say I've met the Queen in my best posh accent and get the same amount of friends for free? However, I have had a mixed experience in terms of this interesting idea that Americans are obsessed with British accents. On the one hand, my accent either goes unnoticed or unmentioned, leading me to believe that maybe I'm not quite so much of an alien as I first believed and that perhaps my accent isn't so obvious. I thank a cashier for serving me and she does not gasp; I speak in class and nobody stares in wonder. It is almost as if my sporadic bursts of "innit" and "bloody hell" slip completely under the radar.

On the other hand, my accent sparks untamed excitement in some people. I have been speaking in a shop and heard a girl in front of me whisper 'omg, she's British!' to her friend, I have thanked a girl for holding the bin open and she has jumped back in amazement and proceeded to tell me how much she would love to go to London, and I have had children tell me they love my accent whilst shopping. It is, without a doubt, one of the strangest experiences, particularly because I think my accent is terrible. Indeed, some people do appear to be on the obsessive side in their reaction to a British accent, but unfortunately not everyone cares if you are from England. That being said, there is not a day that goes by where someone does not mimic my accent or laugh at the way I pronounce certain words, which is a never-ending joy (spot the sarcasm).

Admittedly, as a person who comes from a country where snow can still be seen in April, the prospect of any weather other than freezing was beyond exciting. Having been told incessantly that I was incredibly lucky to be going to California because 'it's like 40 degrees over there all the time', I packed my suitcase almost identically to the way I'd packed my bags to go on holiday two months prior. Filling it with "essentials" like flip-flops and crop tops, not a cardigan or jacket was



» (Despite what Gena says) evidence of sunshine, Berkeley University photo: flickr/wallyg

in sight. Who has time for coats when you're relaxing in the Sunshine State, sipping on a piña colada and swapping childhood stories with the cast of 90210?

For those of you who have been told similar things about a place they're potentially travelling to, specifically California, do your research. Do not make the same mistake as I did and work purely on hearsay. Indeed, places in Southern California, like San Diego and LA, are hot, but I was going to Berkeley in the North. When people talk about Californian weather, nobody seems to mention the North's crazy, temperamental weather.

If any of your non-Californian acquaintances have told you California is always hot, take it from me, they are liars. In fact, delete them as Facebook friends

On my first day waking up to my new surroundings, I was met by a completely grey sky and a chilly start. I reached for one of the only jumpers I'd brought and left for my first day in Berkeley.

By noon, the sun seemed to have popped its head out from nowhere and proceeded to fry me for the rest of the day, until I could get home and change into something cooler. Using my lesser sense of judgement, I left my house for dinner in nothing but a sun dress, convinced it wouldn't get colder because the heat at that moment was unbearable, but by the evening the temperature had dropped so much that it was freezing. If any of your non-Californian acquaintances have told you California is always hot, take it from me, they are liars. In fact, delete them as Facebook friends now because those same people are the reason I left my five cardigans back in England.

Given my numerous failed attempts to adjust to the sporadic temperature changes, I learnt the hard way that the "Sunshine State" is not always as sunny as you might assume.

In addition to the weather, American food was an endless topic of conversation. It is no secret that America has the unfortunate reputation of being home to some of the biggest people and portions in the world. I was endlessly warned about my future as a whale, returning to England twice the size with only a Twinkie and a couple of Poptarts to my name. A family friend even bet me £10 that I would put on weight, just because she was so sure that I'd balloon into the Michelin man.

However, the US is actually missing some key staples from its bacon-obsessed diet. The most shocking of which was the absence of squash. As students who know how little they can afford to splash out on bottles and bottles of actual drinks, squash is a God-send. For the days when I physically could not fathom another glass of water, squash was my go-to substance. It was cheap (42p from Tesco cheap) and it seemed like it never ran out. It was only until I was met with blank stares and asked if by squash I was referring to the vegetable, that I realised that there is absolutely no equivalent here. How can a country with inventions like chocolate covered bacon and "cronuts" not have squash? Although I was crushed by this unfortunate discovery, there is a plethora of food to choose from. Mexican restaurants are pretty much on every street corner in the Bay Area and \$2 ice-cream sandwiches have become my new best friend.

They also seem to cater to a lot more food preferences. There are vegan specialist restaurants, various gluten-free options, good dairy-free products and numerous fat-free frozen yoghurt places, so if you make good decisions and have a mind of steel you can get by without transforming into a Teletubby. Plus, gym membership on campus is only \$10 a semester (Warwick Sport, please take note).

Finally, the people. I don't particularly like to say this because I think British people, particularly Londoners, get a bad rap from apparently being "cold". However, it is true what they say: people in California are nice as hell. In some cases it is actually laughable how nice. When I first arrived I was so shocked at the sheer tone of some people's voices, where a simple 'hi, how are you?' could sound as happy as telling someone you have won the lottery. My roommate's first words to me were 'are you a hugger?' and no one seems to be shy about exchanging numbers within the first five minutes of meeting.

Of course, I have met my fair share of rude people. However, I find more often that I am caught in random conversations with people on the bus and, despite my London-esque tendency never to smile whilst walking down a road, people generally tend to smile at me. In many shops they even have a specific job title for a "greeter", who welcomes people in when they enter the store and ask you how you are. Find me a greeter in Tesco and I will give you a hundred pounds.

All in all, California is beautiful and that, if nothing else, is 100% true. Although Warwick will be sorely missed, I am excited to spend my year here and am thankful for the huge reality check. Beyond everything, a year abroad is meant to be an adventure, not a fairy tale.

To read more about Gena's adventures visit londoncanyouhear.me.blogspot.com



Studied abroad – how do your experiences match?
Tweet: @BoarFeatures

Canada and her resident evil

In Canada, Kirsten-Rose Brooks was shocked by Indian Residential Schools



» PM offers full apology on behalf of Canadians for the Indian Residential Schools system back in 2008 photo: Flickr/ pmwebphotos

There is an episode in history that has been virtually ignored, that is destroying the lives of a significant group of people in a vicious cycle and is barely being addressed by the heirs of its perpetrators. It is dark, bloody and disturbing and the institutions concerned are only just starting to stumble towards acceptance and apology. Here I uncover the issue of the Indian Residential Schools, an instrument of British colonialism that began in the late nineteenth century and continued almost into the present one – the last school only closed in 1996. The ‘Indians’ I write about are the indigenous peoples of Canada, mainly First Nations people but also the Métis and Inuit populations, who live in greatly reduced numbers across Canada and still experience systematic racism as part of the legacy of colonialism.

This year I have swapped Warwick for the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. In between sightseeing and adjusting to the rigours of the North American university assessment system, I’ve been learning about the history of the province and have realised just how serious the problem of attitudes towards Aboriginal people in the country are.

At the beginning of any event, academic talk or even in the first classes of term, the speaker will acknowledge that UBC stands on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people, viewed by some as an empty gesture but by others as necessary and respectful. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which opened in BC on September 18 this year, is leading a drive for awareness and education as well as addressing the repercussions of its colonial history. Just a few weeks into my year abroad, UBC cancelled a day’s classes – for the first time since World War Two! – so that students and staff could participate in the TRC and learn about its work.

I wouldn’t be surprised if you had no idea what the residential schools were or what their impact was (and is) on First Nation society: the majority of my Canadian classmates were, and most remain, equally unaware. From the late nineteenth century, the Canadian government and national Church followed an example set in the USA and set

up a number of residential schools for Aboriginal children. They seized these children from their families and sent them to institutions in order to strip them of their heritage at an early age, to ‘kill the Indian in the child’. The children never fully learned their own language and were punished if they didn’t speak English, taught that their culture was inherently wrong and no longer relevant, and were often abused sexually, mentally, emotionally and physically. The abuse, poverty and alienation experienced by many pupils of the schools exists in a harsh cycle, passed down through generations. The parents, grandparents and authority figures of First Nations communities, especially in Western Canada, will all probably have attended the

schools and the legacy of their experiences will take generations to heal.

This September and throughout the year in BC there are no shortage of opportunities to learn about the history and experiences of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. These include art exhibitions, film screenings, lectures and public events, many of them on campus. Even last week I attended the presentation of a paper on the representation of indigenous women in Canadian film and watched a disturbing short confronting the incursion of oil companies on native land. On the day off classes I caught a bus to the other side of Vancouver with some friends to attend the main TRC event at the Pacific National Exhibition, where there were panel sessions, talks and an atmosphere unlike anything else I’ve experienced. We visited the Sacred Fire, which is lit at every TRC event (currently held annually, each time in a different city) from the ashes of the previous fire, and watched as people walked up and prayed over the flames. It was intensely personal but fascinating to watch, and it was this combination that made me feel a little like a historical tourist, almost intrusive. It emphasised just how important the Commission was to many who were attending.

It’s difficult as an outsider to understand just how complex this issue is. I walked among the art and craft stalls admiring the symbols and elaborate jewellery, yet when I came to the tables offering support, guidance and information about the event I felt I had little right to pick up the pamphlets and copies of the official governmental apology, even though the historian’s burning for witness accounts and primary sources was racing within me. We were there to learn, yet I still felt there was a firm line in place, an

understanding that we could respectfully acknowledge and celebrate indigenous culture, but not appropriate it or generalise it. This in itself was a different facet to ‘reconciliation’ and made for a powerful and thought-provoking experience. This presence of history and all its stories certainly weren’t what I expected when I applied for my year abroad in Canada, but now I’m fascinated by the ways in which such a history is being negotiated and approached.

In Britain, it seems that colonial history is skipped over or even glamourised. We may learn about slavery and exploitation but we are only scratching the surface – few of us realise that significant numbers of people are living today with the damaging effects of colonialism, of not only land seizure and displacement but concerted attempts at ridding settlements of indigenous peoples altogether, deliberately destroying their rich array of cultures. The news that the Canadian government is to formally reject a call from the UN to launch a national investigation into the sexual abuse, murder and disappearances of aboriginal women in the country is perhaps another indicator that serious problems will persist if direct action in support of First Nation peoples is not made a priority. The message of intercultural understanding was powerful. As young Aboriginals today are statistically more likely to go to jail than finish high school, the need for much better awareness has never been higher. ‘Truth’ and ‘reconciliation’ have endless meanings and implications for each person affected by the Indian Residential Schools, and while the TRC has made moves towards this, there is still a very long way to go to repair the damage done by colonialism.



» Abandoned: St. Michael's Indian Residential School at Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada, was erected in 1929. photo: flickr/ D-Stanley

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

Fashion Forward: Student Street Style

Veronika Vohlmuthova brings you her very best picks from Autumn/Winter campus fashion



Giving this outfit a very girly and elegant attitude, a big flowery scarf has vamped up this simple look. The leather boots with studs bring an added edge juxtaposed with the relaxed beige bag.



Electric blue heels with jeans and a leather jacket are what makes this outfit stand out. A perfect example of contrasting different styles and making them look great together.



Black trench coats are a favourite for university students. What makes this outfit stand out is the blue scarf paired with leather gloves, taking the look from casual to effortlessly cool.



Combining Nike shoes with a military jacket and throwing on a cosy sweater and a backpack: mix-and-match at its best! Prints and colours that shouldn't necessarily work come together to produce something interesting.



Where to start? Talk about making a statement; this outfit is bound to catch your eye. A special mention goes to the slipper shoes that have a similar pattern to the lower seam of the jeans. Love it.



This outfit is very smooth, focusing on nude colours. A furry short jacket is an ideal piece for autumn. The over-sized satchel pulls the entire look together and screams ombre-chic.



A red scarf is something you should definitely consider owning. It screams courageous and makes a very simple outfit with leather accessories look absolutely stunning.



Leather jacket, bag and boots, check! This look is a classy combination of a shirt and sweater. The outfit seems very grown up but a playful touch is introduced by the tartan print grey sweater.

It's time to trend it up!

Alisa MacLachlan on Autumn/Winter fashion

Nights are drawing in faster, leaves are falling and it's becoming more of a chore layering up against the cold weather. Autumn is here. But that does not mean that fashionable clothing has to take a back seat. Luckily there are a few key trends that can save you and your wardrobe this winter season.

Tartan
Yes, you're right in thinking that historically this has been a trend confined mainly north of the English border, but this is the 'it' trend this season. Tartan is a lot more versatile than you would originally think. It can be added to most things you already have in your wardrobe thus making it cost friendly as well as fashion friendly.

Don't think of tartan as 'eugh...tartan', think of it as any other pattern that you have in your wardrobe and dress it accordingly. There are many subtle tartan prints that are available in many high street shops, so if the thought of going out in a bright red tartan skirt scares you, have no fear, this trend is still accessible to you.

Navy and darker green tartan are a lot more subtle and could be seen as with more versatile due to them blending in with a classic staple colour of winter: good old black. So just remember, you don't have to go 'all

» photos: top left: Veronika Vohlmuthova, top right: Flickr/goMainstream, bottom S. Elvin



out' for this trend... a kilt is not necessary.

Burgundy
Burgundy, crimson, dark red, maroon. Call it what you will, this is another big trend for the winter season. Say no to the black and navy coats that you will see in abundance in every shop, be it high street or designer, and say yes to the burgundy coat that grabbed your attention when you first walked in. If it caught your eye, it's bound to catch everyone else's.

Similarly, if you already have a black coat, a cheaper alternative is to invest in a burgundy scarf, a simple yet effective way of updating an autumn look. This coveted colour should not just be confined to outerwear, no, no, no. Like tartan, this trend can be added to most things you already have in your wardrobe.

Navy
Navy is the new black. I know what you're thinking and yes, it's another colour trend, but before you start to protest, navy is the most versatile trend of them all. Seen all over A/W catwalks this season, navy has filtered down into all high street stores, therefore there are no excuses as to why you shouldn't be wearing it by the end of this week. Don't be afraid to swap a black top for navy, more importantly don't be afraid to wear black and navy together! Go navy and go big!



Haven't you heard? The only way is Warwick

Mareike Zollner and Raveena Kaur provide a peek into the fun they had during Fresher's fortnight



Having been interrogated at the airport after my scissors were detected in my luggage and almost missing my flight, I should have known this was an omen for things to come. Once I had boarded, I could relax knowing that when I finally got off the plane it would be as an international student studying for her Masters degree at Warwick University.

My first weeks as a new postgrad student went a little like this:

Umbrella? Check.

Passport? Check.

Fresher's Passport? Crap, sold out.

Arriving on a campus which I had only previously seen on Google Earth with 40kg of life in a suitcase to pull, I already felt in strong need of a holiday. Met with a marathon session of signing papers, queuing for keys and food and getting confused about

events and directions I had been through more than enough to tip me over the edge and make me long for the days of airport interrogations.

I can assure you my freshers experience was not all doom and gloom, meeting so many great, fun and inspiring people from all around the globe made the settling-in phase a lot easier. What followed the friendly introductions were 14 days of crazy, intense partying, sightseeing, bonding, dating and Irish dancing.

Mareike Zollner



Share your freshers' experiences
Tweet:
@BoarLifestyle

With all the hype and hysteria surrounding student life, the moment I would finally arrive onto campus was wildly anticipated. Despite the Fresher's Passports being the reason for my lack of sleep, they proved to be little gems getting me into every event of the fantastic fortnight.

A highlight definitely included the Paint Party. However, I will say that when you're just over five feet tall, being sandwiched in a room full of too many people and not enough oxygen is definitely not ideal.

Messiness aside, the hardest part of being a Fresher is getting used to the fact that you can no longer rely on your mother to cook for you. This finally hit me in Week 2 when I had run out of ideas for jazzing up a loaf of bread. To avoid cooking and the imminent hunger, I found myself back in the Copper

Rooms night after night to partake in another manic night of shenanigans; I figured a night of frivolity was equivalent if not better than anyone's five a day.

Another part of my Warwick initiation involved circling. No matter what anyone told me before attending, I was certainly not prepared to continuously 'down it, fresher'. Weeks later, even the thought of a sip of the infamous drink of 'Purple' has the capacity to make me shudder. If you haven't tried it yet, approach that violet-coloured concoction with caution!

Although I have only been a student here for a few weeks, it feels like a lifetime. Warwick is beautiful. Where else can you stumble across a taxi man sitting in his car alone, belting his heart out to Chaka Khan's 'Ain't Nobody'?

Raveena Kaur

Keep calm and carry on spending

Richard Brown offer a completely different approach to student budgeting

We live in an ever-increasingly expensive society, one that can cause consternation and despair, particularly among the student community. 20p for a Freddo – are you having a laugh?

Coming to University can symbolise many things: a chance to reinvent yourself, freedom from the authority of your parents, but perhaps the most important aspect of 'going solo' is, for many people at least, control over your own funds.

As hard as you may try to budget and allocate yourself certain amounts of money for certain aspects of your life, it's never that simple. If you embrace everything university life has to offer, the first few weeks of term are likely to be some of the most expensive you will experience. Upwards of £20 on societies, more than £50 to join Warwick Sport (more if you join the gym), a small fortune on course books, never mind buying your own food and the inevitable rush of nights out. It is easy after a month of uni to panic about the state of your finances. But fear not. It doesn't last.

Simply put, the longer you spend in that environment, the less you spend. Once you find a routine that works for you, no matter how strict or casual it may be, you will for the most part stick to it, and with fewer big one-off purchases, your expenditure will plateau into a state of serene comfort. Or at least that's the plan.

Once you find a routine, your expenditure will plateau into a state of serene comfort

If you don't quite reach that level, then don't worry because there's an abundance of tips for students to tighten the purse strings without compromising too much on standard of living.

Part of the quintessential student experience is the ability to spot bargains: the 12p loaf lurking in the corner of Tesco that no one visits, the own brand, double strength squash at a fraction of the price of Robinsons. You get the idea.

Never, ever, ever take a card on a night out! Once you know your tolerance, you know how much it will cost for a big night, if you're in the mood for one of course. Take that much money out (plus maybe a few quid for that drunken kebab on the stumble home), and leave your plastic demon on your bedside table.

If you take a card, you're asking for trouble; £20 rounds of Jagerbombs start to mount up. No matter how generous a drunk you may be, your bank balance won't be thanking you the next morning.

Despite your desire to stay 'in the black', always stay stocked up on food – there's nothing worse than coming back from a long day of work to discover an empty fridge. Hunger does bad things to good people and before you know it you'll be on the phone to the takeaway. If you have food in, more often than not, you'll feel obliged to eat it.

Put simply, if you're not an utter moron with your money, then you'll be fine. Don't buy a new jumper every week, don't spend a tenner on Waitrose Finest Stuffed

Vine Leaves, and please, above all else, don't be that guy in Saints buying bottles of Moët. Easy.



How do you keep on top of your finances?
 Tweet: @BoarMoney



» **Budgeting can be a pain. At the start of term, costs roll in thick and fast - try not to let this get you down! photo: epiclaunch.com**

What's the deal with...

...arbitrage trading?

Benjamin Shaw

Traditionally defined, arbitrage trading refers to the simultaneous buying and selling of an asset in order to achieve a profit from price differences. If you can buy a share in Apple for £500 from one seller, and sell it immediately to another for £600, you execute an arbitrage trade that yields £100 profit.

A related concept is market efficiency. Markets are said to be efficient if the prices of traded assets correct themselves for new information that becomes available. In an efficient market, arbitrage trading is not possible...theoretically. This is the 'law of one price' – all identical assets should trade for the same/one price. Need a little more explaining? Okay. Picture this:

You're hanging pretty bad from a night in Smack. You managed to find yourself a suitable partner for the night, and have spent the night taking shelter in their humble abode. After bidding your counterparty farewell, you decide to venture into Tesco to sedate your growing hunger pangs. Now, hung-over food cravings can be strange. Some days you fancy a banana milkshake, others, a rather sizable bag of éclairs. Today however, you feel peckish for a little chicken.

You head over to the 'Hot Deli' section, to find a full chicken labelled for £3.99. A FULL chicken! At Nando's, they sell full chickens for £12.50! Being the budding entrepreneur that you are, you decide to take advantage of this apparent mispricing. You buy a whole chickens from Tesco at the lower price, walk outside Nando's, and begin to sell your wares on the street for the newly marked-up, 'Nando's price.' Customers love it and you're making a cool £8.50 on every chicken you sell. This would be an example of arbitrage.

Making a cool profit, you decide to expand; you start to buy in bulk. As with the financial markets, the price of Tesco's chicken would increase to reflect the increased demand, and would keep rising until it was equal to that of the price of Chicken in Nando's. Tesco's and Nando's full chickens are now equal price and no arbitrage opportunity is available - this is the law of one price! Back to the banana milkshake.

For an arbitrage trade to work however, the assets being traded must be absolutely identical. If you like a lemon and herb coating on your ½ plate of chicken wings, then you best make sure your Tesco purchase comes equipped with the same coating, else your arbitrage trade will not work.



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Open to first and second year students

Deadline: 13th November 2013!

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Can't put a price on that!

Nobel Prize for Economics awarded to pioneers in Asset Pricing

Oshin Menon

During the recent 2009 financial crisis, economists had faced widespread criticism of their failure in trying to predict and consequently avoid the global credit crunch. However, last week, the Nobel Prize committee addressed this by awarding the coveted associated award for Economics to Eugene Fama and Lars Peter Hansen of the University of Chicago and Robert Shiller of Yale for their pioneering work in the operations of financial markets, asset prices and behavioral economics.

Fama, Shiller and Hansen have all researched separately on the topic of financial asset pricing and thus predictability. Fama, the senior member of the trio, started this work on the theory of efficient markets, finding that, when markets work well, asset prices reflect all the latest information. Thus attempts to profit by picking stocks were often fruitless.

However, two decades later Robert Shiller continued the work by finding that market efficiency was less enduring over time. Instead, he found that asset prices appeared to be much too volatile to be justified by fundamental information such as dividends.

Lastly, Hansen confirmed Shiller's preliminary findings on

bubbles as he developed a statistical theory called 'generalised method of moment' to test whether the historical share prices were consistent with the best known asset-pricing model at the time. He found the methods being used must be rejected because they failed to explain share movement. Therefore, it was finally described as the "perfect balance" between Shiller's inefficient market theory on one side, and Fama's proposal of efficient markets on the other.

As quoted by the Nobel Prize committee: 'their research showed that while it is difficult to predict asset prices in the short term, prices can be predicted in broad terms over longer periods, such as three to five years.' Finally, when looking forward, the work established now will create strong foundations for possible Warwick economics enthusiasts to continue future research or even apply the knowledge in the future.



» Eugene Fama, Lars Hansen & Robert Shiller. Winners of the 2013 Nobel Prize for Economics
 photo: leblogalupus.com

Four fantastic comic books

Tanika Patel assembles a marvellous team of comics to unleash your inner superhero

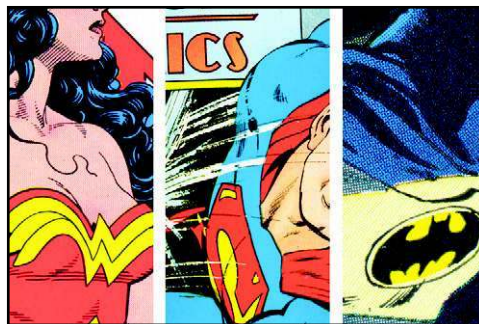
With comics and graphic novels becoming increasingly popular and being considered as a legitimate literary form, the genre has attracted more and more new readers. However, comics often have a long back-log of continuity and events to catch up on, which can make it daunting to pick up an issue. One way to find a starting point is to pick comics based on characters that you like, and then research their first appearances. Marvel released 'Marvel NOW!' and DC released their new '52' in order to entice new readers. Both companies have regenerated their comics, making them accessible to new readers. DC has several titles, most of which began publication in late 2011. Marvel did something similar, meaning that these comics contain new storylines and don't require you to have any previous knowledge of the DC and Marvel universes. If you really want to brush up on some background knowledge, this is where Wikipedia comes in handy, providing you with a quick summary of a character or team's past, and listing the comics that these storylines feature in.

For anyone who wants to jump in now, here's my pick of four starter comics:



» photo: smscs.com

1) *The Walking Dead*, more popularly known as the AMC TV show, actually started life in 2003 in comic book form. Published by Image Comics, the novel follows police officer Rick Grimes as he wakes from a coma in a zombie apocalypse. Whilst the TV show does follow the comics to some extent, the graphic novels have a wider range of characters and storylines that wouldn't be possible to execute in a show. The comics are available in trade paperback volumes, each of which contains several issues. Right now there are 19 volumes, so you can start building up a collection. The art style, story arcs and writing style really pull you into



» photo: legionsofgotham.org

the world on the page, and can give you as much tension as we see on the screen version. A warning to those who watch the show, reading the comics may reveal some spoilers!

2) *The Runaways* is a Marvel Comics publication which started in 2003 and was cancelled in 2009. It follows a group of kids who escape from their parents when they find out they are part of a criminal group. This series is almost completely isolated from the rest of the Marvel universe which makes it perfect for new readers. The characters are fresh and they develop with each other as the series goes on. You'll really start to connect with *The Runaways* from the first few issues, and every adventure they embark on reveals another facet of their personality. Artwork varies but holds a high standard, along with the story arcs and writing style, it'll keep you hooked right until the end. With a good balance between action, comedy and sentiment, *The Runaways* is well worth the read. You can purchase volumes, issues or even download them onto your smart devices through the Marvel comic app, which contains a huge database of comics.

3) For those who don't want to read about superheroes or apocalypses, next is *Locke and Key*, this series is written by Joe Hill (Stephen King's son) and published by IDW Publishing. Released in 2008 it is on-going but nearing the end of its run. The story follows the Locke family and their experiences in the Key house, which is full of keys with magical properties. You can definitely tell that Joe is Stephen King's son with the subtle, disturbing themes within this series. The art style in particular creates an intense atmosphere as it contrasts so heavily with the dark themes, likening it

more to a graphic novel than a comic series. This is a great doorway to comics of all kinds, as it teaches you to experience the words and images fully, like a film, but leaves your imagination running like a book would. The characters are depicted so realistically, with the different ages so varied and complex that character development is the driving force of the narrative. The writing and art can be, at times, genuinely frightening, and with all the mystery surrounding this family, you'll be searching for answers constantly. It's easy to catch up, with volumes available to purchase online.

4) Lastly is *Wolverine and the X-Men*, a personal favourite of mine, published by Marvel Comics in 2011. It is an on-going series part of the Marvel NOW! movement. All of the characters in this series are thrown into new situations, joined by a cast of new mutants. Set in the Jean Grey School, we follow the staff, students, and the forces that threaten them. There are several cross-overs with other X-titles, which does help in keeping the reader up to date with what's happening outside the world of the school. There can be issues where the art is rocky and the writing unstable, but there are some great issues which establish a community that you'll want to stick with. Writer Jason Aaron maintains a fair balance between the action and conversation, and much like other Marvel titles, humour is an important part of the series. Only 35 issues in, readers can catch up by purchasing volumes, issues or reading digitally.

Comics blend the description and imagination of books with the vividness and imagery of film; it's a great medium for discovering new characters and worlds, so don't miss out on all this genre has to offer!



» photo: comicbooked.com

Booker Prize winner announced

Jess Devine gives us the lowdown on this year's Man Booker Prize winner: Eleanor Catton's *The Luminaries*

The much anticipated winner of the Man Booker Prize was revealed last week to be Eleanor Catton, the prize's youngest winner to date. Her winning novel *The Luminaries* is also the longest book to claim the title, weighing in at 823 pages; it is epic in both scale and ambition and has been recognised and rewarded justly. The New Zealander took just over two years to finish the novel, received the award along with a £50k cheque and was said to be stunned and awed as she walked to the podium with "a dry mouth and trembling knees".

The Luminaries, the 28 year old's second novel, is a murder mystery tale set against the New Zealand gold rush of the 1860s. It explores themes of love, deceit and conspiracy and triumphed over more established authors

such as Colm Toibin and Jim Crace. Catton also structured her 800 page epic according to astrological principles, so that the characters are associated with signs of the zodiac and interact with each other according to the predetermined movement of the heavens. It is an investigative pastiche on the classical Victorian sensation novel that asks questions about the nature of fiction itself, which is said to have been the reasons the judges were so taken with Catton's work.

Robert Macfarlane, chair of the judges, said, "It is a dazzling work, a luminous work. It is vast without being sprawling...the pleasures it yields in those simple ways are immense as well." Though readers may be daunted by its size and scale, the win should see a soar in sales for Catton and a clamouring of people

wanting to delve into this ambitious work.

Since the announcement last month that from next year the Man Booker Prize is to include American writers, controversy and debate had threatened to overshadow the contenders for this year's prize. British writers have argued that with this change the prize will lose its distinction, having previously only been open to British, Irish and Commonwealth authors. However, Catton's win has managed to claw attention back to where it rightfully belongs and has sent ripples of excitement and intrigue through both the literary world and out into the public domain, with everyone wanting to get their hands on this winning novel and devour this epic tale.

Pint of purple



Music editor
Michael Perry takes on our bookish questions this

What book are you reading at the moment?

Before term began and an avalanche of course books came my way, I was about halfway through Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, and loving its exquisite mixture of madness and pathos. Sadly, I've had to leave behind Yossarian and co. in the face of the final-year workload, but come the Christmas holidays, fingers crossed I'll find the time to dive back in.

Who is your favourite literary character?

I was a big Stephen King buff in my teens, and so I'm quite tempted to plump for Roland Deschain from the *Dark Tower* series. Roland is a tremendous and iconic creation: a lone gunslinger who walks a path towards both vindication and damnation. He's stoic and brutal in action, but there's a fractured morality at his core, as well as a deep well of pain which he finds it increasingly hard to numb himself from. (Honourable mentions go to Lennie Small, Rob Fleming, and Christopher John Francis Boone.)

What is the first book you remember reading?

Beyond all the shapes and squiggles of various picture-books, I can vividly remember being obsessed with Roald Dahl's *The Twits* from a young age. I'd class it as one of my favourite ever reads: it's just a seamless stream of mischief and mayhem, completed by the skewed visual imagination of Quentin Blake.

What is your all-time favourite book?

Naturally, I can't bring myself to pin down a definitive favourite, but as of right now, I'd say I've been most captivated by Richard Adams' *Watership Down*. It's still fresh in my mind after reading it earlier this year, and there's such a rich, fulfilling mythology within the novel's universe that it moved me quite profoundly. It pulls off a beautiful marriage between escapist fantasy and a commentary on human behaviour, in addition to rendering the rabbit species' seemingly mundane lives into a work of great beauty and gravitas.

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

"There's No Shame in Reading on the Toilet." That way, in one fell swoop, I've clarified my standpoint, and reassured the reader(s) that I'm totally cool with my life story being bathroom fodder. I'd also like to have a cheeky inscription to W.W. inside the sleeve, but that's another story...

Kindle vs. Book?

Both. Someday, the two will simply learn to set aside their differences, and come to coexist harmoniously. Can't we all just get along?!

How much is a pint of purple?

Ever since a debacle which followed my first circle, I'm never going near one of those things again. But Ben Sundell says they're £1.50, so let's go with that.



Richard II: David Tennant takes to the throne

Gregory Doran's production for the RSC reaches new heights as King Richard faces his calamitous tragic fall, says Rebekah Ellerby



» Bolingbroke (Nigel Lindsay) takes the crown from Richard II (David Tennant) to become Henry IV, in the RSC's production of *Richard II* directed by Gregory Doran (photo: Kwame Lestrade)

David Tennant and director Gregory Doran are reunited at the RSC for this sell out run of *Richard II*, after Tennant's extraordinary performance of *Hamlet* five years ago. The tragic history play considers the last two years of Richard II's reign until his death. It moves from the quarrel of Thomas Mowbray (Anthony Byrne) and Henry Bolingbrook (Nigel Lindsay) to their subsequent banishment and Bolingbrook's disinheritance before Richard's tragic decline, deposition and death.

Tennant naturally excels in the role of the King, who begins the play with an immature aloofness as he makes grand decisions without apparent thought, backed up by a self-interested inner-circle of advisers. What finally draws us in to sympathise with Tennant's Richard is his tragic fall into the second half; yet before this he seems arrogant, whimsical and lacking credible or just motivation for denying the banished Bolingbrook his inheritance to fund a war with Ireland. The success of Tennant's portrayal is that despite this we can ultimately become close to him, particularly when he starts to use humour as a coping mechanism for the threat of Boling-

broke and in his speeches in the second half. Though not usually soliloquies, he often addresses these to us, looking out at the audience, and sometimes to purposefully turning his back on the new King. Leaving his back turned to the other characters onstage is an action Tennant uses throughout the play as a symbol of his pride, but in the second half it becomes an act of defiance toward the usurping king, provoking our sympathy at his undoing. This comes to its climax as he gives over the crown to Bolingbroke, flinging it out in his hand and at first triumphantly refusing to face his usurper.

Richard's fall is made manifest in this production with a clever bit of set: a midair walkway across the proscenium arch, which works well to elevate Tennant on his grand throne, until he is finally cast down to a dungeon prison beneath the stage. The rattling produced on the metal bridge as actors walk across it is a minor irritant, but no matter. Doran gives Richard a final heroic flourish as he fights off the assassins in prison, only to be literally stabbed in the back by Aumerle (Oliver Rix), his cousin with whom Richard has a truly close relationship. At one point,

while facing ruin at Flint Castle, Doran has the pair kiss and Richard playfully goes to put the crown on Aumerle's head. The backstabbing betrayal of friendship rung in the audience almost as resonantly as the beautiful live voices that lifted through the scenes.

Indeed the choral, religious music of the three sopranos alternating with the blaring trumpets of regal fanfares suggests the tensions prevalent in this play. Doran presents the production beautifully, with the set of silver stranded bead curtains lit with projections to create the columns of a church, and a coffin draped in black centre stage, as the Duke of Gloucester's wife mourns her husband's death. This emphasis on the mourning court, all in dark period costumes, and the black humour of Richard's speedy change of subject to the issues of state emphasises his youthful irresponsibility. His insistence on majesty and divine appointment is not only encapsulated in those regal anthems, but in his beautiful blue and gold dress-robe and long, Christ-like hair.

Despite its stars, the RSC is a company and the veterans of the stage put in some of the greatest performances in *Richard II*. Particu-

larly funny is Oliver Ford Davies as Richard's uncle, the Duke of York, charming in his grumpiness. When his wife (Marty Cruickshank) and son (Oliver Rix) are praying for the new king's forgiveness, and he praying against them, the image onstage is framed as three supplicants; his movements comically mirror the gestures of his wife as she utters her emphatic prayers to the King.

This is a play characterised by mirrors, not least in the vanity of Tennant's Richard who peered at himself in the mirror in the first half, in a court where appearances are everything and flattery is a means to fulfill ambitions where the King promotes his favourites. This vanity was painfully repeated in the second half, after he had been forced to abdicate, and instead of reading out a list of treasons he looked at his face in the mirror instead for sin. By using the mirror in the first half we feel the true weight of his fall.

Posing existential thoughts to his subjects, Richard declares, 'mock me not.' There will be none to mock this reverend production.

Richard II moves from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to the Barbican in December and there are day tickets available.

What's on

Paul Klee: Making Visible	Frankenstein: NT Live	Astonomy Photographer of the Year 2013	The Green and Pleasant Land	The Mousetrap	Road
Until 9 March 2014, Tate Modern, £13.10 for Students A magical painter, giant of the 20th century and radical figure of European modernism	31 Oct & 2 Nov, WAC, £5.50 for Students Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller star, shown again for the NT's 50th birthday	until 23 Feb 2014, Royal Observatory, FREE Awe-inspiring collection exploring the mysterious universe that surrounds us	until 12 Jan 2014, Leamington Gallery, FREE Explores changes in the Warwickshire countryside over the last 200 years	4 - 9 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, £9.50 Record-breaking production of Agatha Christie's whodunnit tours the country	13 - 16 Nov WAC, £7.50 for Students WUDS present Jim Cartwright's modern classic of a Lancashire community in 80s Britain

» Welcome to Planet Zogg, Sir Quentin Blake (photo: The Herbert Art Gallery)



Quentin Blake

Emily Rowland reviews *As Large as Life* at the Herbert Art Gallery, showcasing Quentin Blake's illustrations. Until 3 November, FREE. Read online at theboar.org/arts.

Terry Alderton moves to Albert Square

The comedian spoke out about the hardships of touring in his Spa Centre show, reviewed by Isaac Leigh

Whatever adjective you use to describe him – quirky, weird or just entertaining – Terry Alderton is unlike any other comedian you will see.

A former goalkeeper for Southend United, Alderton has also had a nomadic career in the entertainment industry, presenting on Capital Radio and performing in a production of *Shawshank Redemption* at this year's Edinburgh Fringe.

But at the end of his Hobgoblin Leamington Comedy Festival performance on Friday 18 October, he confirmed that he was leaving the stand-up comedy scene for the time being. Why? Because he was struggling to pay his mortgage and so accepted the offer of a contract with *Eastenders* for the next year, where he will play Cockney taxi driver Terry Spraggan. Although he will surely thrive in this smaller role, it is still a waste of an innovative entertainer who revels in his own ingenuity.

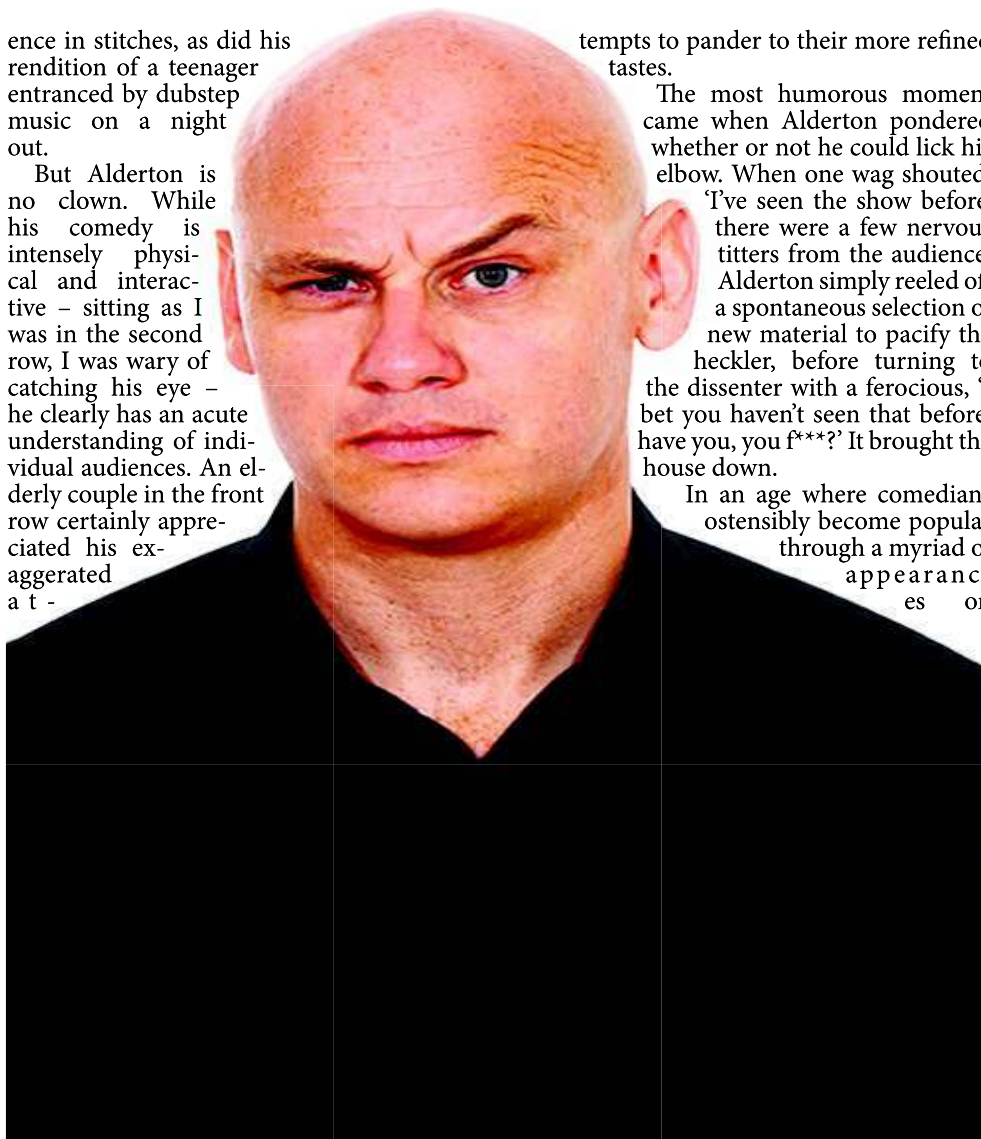
In a heartfelt gesture of thanks to the Royal Spa Centre audience, Alderton admitted that the life of a comedian on the road, performing in front of half-empty crowds, was just too gruelling. He then proceeded to spray water into the audience before making a dramatic departure. In many ways, it is a shame that this overshadowed one of the Essex-born entertainer's best performances.

The 42-year-old is best known for his uncanny impersonations, retreating to the back of the stage to simulate conversations about how his show is going. His range of noises is something to behold, too: a five-minute rendition of a Formula One race had the audi-

» Terry Alderton strikes a pose (photo: terralderton.com)

ence in stitches, as did his rendition of a teenager entranced by dubstep music on a night out.

But Alderton is no clown. While his comedy is intensely physical and interactive – sitting as I was in the second row, I was wary of catching his eye – he clearly has an acute understanding of individual audiences. An elderly couple in the front row certainly appreciated his exaggerated a t -



tempts to pander to their more refined tastes.

The most humorous moment came when Alderton pondered whether or not he could lick his elbow. When one wag shouted, 'I've seen the show before' there were a few nervous titters from the audience. Alderton simply reeled off a spontaneous selection of new material to pacify the heckler, before turning to the dissenter with a ferocious, 'I bet you haven't seen that before, have you, you f***?' It brought the house down.

In an age where comedians ostensibly become popular through a myriad of appearances on

panel shows and small slots on Michael McIntyre's *Comedy Roadshow*, Alderton is, or was, one of the last comedians to eschew attempts at commercialisation and remain true to their comedic self.

Alderton doesn't reel off contemporary one-liners: he stands on his head and or-

Alderton was struggling to pay his mortgage and so accepted the offer of a contract with *Eastenders* for the next year, where he will play a Cockney taxi driver

chestrates a conversation between his shoes. He didn't have a fortunate upbringing, nor does he appear on television: he is 14 stone, shaven-headed and reliant upon gigs in small venues over the country. But I'd go and see him any day.

I'm sure that Lee Mack produced a polished display on Saturday night as the headline act at the Leamington Comedy Festival 2013. I have no doubt that Jimmy Carr, performing at the Warwick Arts Centre on the same night as Alderton, sold more tickets and told gags about sex and tax evasion that everyone smirked at. But give me a choice between that strange Terry Alderton and the smooth sell-out performer you see on television every week, and I'd plump for the former every time. It's a shame I might not have the chance to do so again.



What do you think about Alderton's move to TV?
Comment online:
theboar.org/arts

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Passion to Perform



Horror in disguise: *The Before* trilogy

Adam Tindall reveals what lies beneath the romance in Richard Linklater's new film



John Darnielle introduces the little-known Mountain Goats' song about the breakdown of communication in a relationship, 'Star Dusting', by describing it as a "horror story". This phrase and the song's lyrics constantly echoed through my mind this year whilst watching Richard Linklater's latest film, *Before Midnight*, the third in what has now become the critically acclaimed *Before* trilogy. Observing the arguments between two characters to whom I felt very connected, whom I had seen grow and grown up with, was nothing short of horrific.

I first saw *Before Sunrise* (1995) and *Before Sunset* (2004) when I was fifteen and immediately resonated with them, as any young wannabe romantic would. The appeal of French Céline (Julie Delpy) and American Jesse's (Ethan Hawke) romance is difficult to convey. They meet by accident on a train passing through Vienna in the first film. After a remarkably honest and interesting conversation, they decide to spend the night walking and talking in Vienna before both must depart in the morning. It's the very definition of a whirlwind-romance.

Before Sunset continues nine years later, where their promise to see one another again has been broken. Unable to overcome the momentousness of their meeting, Jesse has written a book about his one night with Céline with which he is touring. It is because of this he once again meets Céline in a Parisian bookshop. Inevitably the two find themselves walking through yet another beautiful European city, discussing life, love and their feelings towards each other (no surprises as to what those are).

Now if you're willing to pull your cringing body up from the pile of sick it lies in, I will explain why these two films are so phenomenal and not the collection of romantic clichés I have no doubt made them appear to be. Like most films, the writing is paramount; Linklater takes a lot of the intellectual and philosophical ideas present in his debut *Slacker* (1991) and to a lesser extent *Dazed & Confused* (1993) and provides them with

a more solid framework by filtering them through the viewpoints of Jesse and Céline. Indeed, *Before Sunrise* functions very much like a narrowing-down of Linklater's first two films; the plot-less *Slacker* is based around loosely connected vignettes with no main characters to speak of, whilst *Dazed & Confused* features an ensemble cast with many interconnecting storylines centred on the last day of an American high school in 1976. Although the cast is reduced to two main characters in the *Before* films, Linklater maintains the ability to cover many topics by deftly constructing the dialogue to flow from one subject to the next, facilitated by the complexity

They render lines that in other contexts might appear heavy-handed into something both subtle and honest.

of the characters.

And this complexity is made abundantly clear through the quality of Delpy and Hawke's performances. They render lines that in other contexts might appear heavy-handed into something both subtle and honest. Furthermore, Linklater's trademark unobtrusive and passive direction allows the performances and thus the characters to really shine; one of the most memorable scenes from *Before Sunrise* is a long take where Jesse and Céline listen to a record in the back of a music shop, furtively looking at each other when they think the other isn't before looking away.

The unobtrusiveness of the direction and the way in which the stellar performances are able to accentuate the script's natural changes in topic can be seen most clearly throughout *Before Sunset* (which, along with *Before Midnight*, was co-written by Delpy and Hawke). *Before Sunset* is a tour-de-force of real-time editing, the film itself being little more than a single long conversation as Céline and Jesse walk through Paris, where the complex in-

tellectual talk only momentarily halting as Céline breaks off mid-sentence, points and says "This way."

Before Sunrise and *Before Sunset* became the high watermark by which I would measure my own romantic relationships. I was Dorian Gray and these films were the book Lord Henry gave him which told the story of his life before he had lived it. Whenever my own conversations or experiences aligned with those depicted in these films – such as the day I spent walking around London with a girl, constantly engaged in conversation except from when she would break off to declare a direction to walk in – I knew I was in love.

It was with this same girl I first saw *Before Midnight*. Another nine years have passed and since the end of *Before Sunset* Jesse and Céline have finally got together. They have beautiful blonde twin daughters and are holidaying in Greece at a writer's retreat due to the success of Jesse's literary career. The film is successful for all the same reasons as its predecessors; one scene near the beginning after Jesse drops off his son from his previous marriage at the airport is a long take of Céline and Jesse driving back which lasts over ten minutes and is never once uninteresting. Unlike the other films, *Before Midnight* introduces an array of characters with which Céline and Jesse individually interact with at the beginning of film, adding another layer of complexity to their characters and a contextual view of how their relationship has affected them. Everything seems to be going fine.

And then the arguments start. After bidding his son farewell, Jesse voices the thought of perhaps moving his family to America in order to be closer to his son. This, along with the jealousy borne from Jesse's success and that success being due to Jesse writing about their personal lives, transforms the once almost wholly sympathetic and relatable Céline into an irrational monster who launches into tirades regarding her unwillingness to live in Chicago and buy peanut butter. The most

heart-breaking scene of the film shows how what was supposed to be a romantic night in a hotel dissolves into one huge argument; after Céline leaves, Jesse observes the wine they were supposed to be drinking as if contemplating how the night should have been. It's convincing. Believable. Inevitable.

When I was younger, I never understood how two people in love could argue. Why would they? If you love someone and someone loves you back, that should be the end of it – everything is perfect and you live together happily ever after etc. Over the past year I've become acutely aware that this is not the case.

Being in a relationship with someone, especially for a long time, and having to negotiate your love with the practicalities of living can give rise to a whole plethora of issues which result in arguments. The reality of these arguments seems even more apparent after *Before Midnight*. Seeing two believable characters that were so in love, and still are, argue so venomously confronted me with the horror of the inevitable breakdown of communication in relationships.

But this is not the end. As Céline relents and allows Jesse to continue his charming if immature attempt at reconciliation, the camera pulls back, revealing just how beautiful the Grecian café they sit outside in is in the moonlight. The *Before* films have never been much for definitive endings, but *Before Midnight* ends with the greatest amount of hope for the future. The communication in their relationship may have broken down, but it seems as if the damage is not irrevocable. The bright hope of reconciliation is the only thing I can cling onto in the face of the horror.



What is your favourite on-screen romance?

Let us know.

Tweet: @BoarFilm

» photos: skip.at

The golden age of Mr. Cage

Matthew Kent argues for the man who stole The Declaration of Independence

Whether you hate him or love him, everyone knows Nicolas Cage. This is partly due to his inability to stop working, meaning he usually has about four films coming out each year.

He's also increasingly known for the countless number of internet memes and videos devoted to him – the most popular being: 'Nicolas Cage Losing His Shit' and 'The Evolution of Nicolas Cage's Hair'. Both videos play brilliantly to the intense tunes of 'Lux Aeterna' and 'In The Hall of The Mountain King' respectively.

It's safe to say that he has enjoyed a fair amount of parody in the last few years and yes, it's hard to see this as undeserved after watching films like *The Wicker Man* and *Ghost Rider* – though don't be fooled he knows about this and is definitely in on the joke.

However, amongst the truckload of mediocre films Cage has chosen to ham it up in, it's easy to forget that in a career lasting

more than 30 years he has created many compelling characters in quality films.

Perhaps the biggest criticism thrown at Nicolas Cage is his tendency to overact. But his scene-chewing eccentricity is also his greatest strength and films that embrace and use his unique abilities in the right way are often brilliant.

Take the Coen Brothers' hilariously offbeat and absurd comedy *Raising Arizona*. Cage's brand of acting is perfect for oddball comedies and he is fantastic in the film as ex-convict Herbert, a man who wants nothing more than to see his wife happy raising a baby (that he stole).

Another example of a film that uses Cage in just the correct way is Spike Jonze's *Adaptation* where he plays Donald and Charlie Kauffman, a pair of identical twins. Donald is carefree and optimistic whilst Charlie is neurotic and obsessive allowing Cage to display great range in a quirky and off-centre role.

What these roles and his method of acting

show above all else is a certain fearlessness as an actor. So many people are content with playing the 'straight' guy or slight spins on that, whilst Cage will take an unusual role and go the full way with it.

This is not to say that eccentricity is his only quality. Hidden in the depths of his larger-than-life performances, Cage can on occasion show surprising amounts of subtlety.

Take Werner Herzog's *The Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*. Playing a corrupt, crack headed cop might sound like classic Cage but he is able to make him oddly sympathetic even when threatening to kill two innocent women. There is an inner pain to his frantic outbursts that is hard to find anywhere else.

Similarly, David Gordon Green's *Joe* which recently played the festival circuit and is due out in Britain later this year has drawn praise for being one of Cage's most subtle, restrained and complex performances in years.

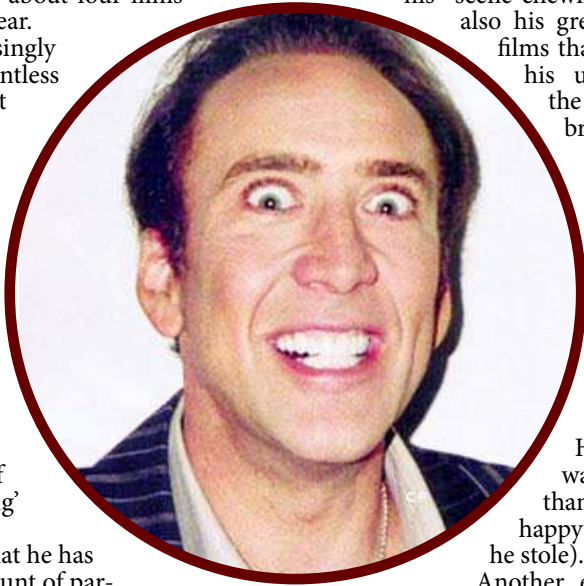
Renowned film critic Roger Ebert once commented that when we think of the greatest living male actors Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Jack Nicholson come to mind, but we should also take note of Nicolas Cage. Whilst I wouldn't go as far as to group him with these actors it's hard to argue against the fact that Cage is one of the most daring and unafraid actors out there and deserves more recognition than all the internet parody and terrible thrillers would have people think.

Let us not forget, the man has an Academy Award, which he received for his extremely

harrowing portrayal of an alcoholic spending his last days drinking himself to death in *Leaving Las Vegas*.

Amongst the usual number of action thrillers Cage has signed up to, he has some interesting projects coming up, which will hopefully showcase his talents. As well as the aforementioned *Joe*, Cage is attached to reunite with his *Adaptation* writer Charlie Kauffman for *Frank or Francis*, a Hollywood satire that will hopefully carve another bizzare but

beautiful performance.



» photos: Top: wikia.com
Bottom: artfix.co.uk

Selling the wildest product: nature

Hayley Westlake reviews *Project Wild Thing*, a documentary for a November day

The battle between the man-made and the organic is one which tends to be rather one-sided. Why would we want to step out into a cold November day when we can sit in front of a screen and escape into any kind of sunny virtual reality we choose? It is this dilemma that has got David Bond worried. As director and protagonist of the new documentary film, *Project Wild Thing*, Bond takes this cold November day, brands it, packages it, and tries, quite literally, to sell it to children. Taking on the role of Marketing Director of Nature, Bond aims to get children disconnected from the virtual world and reconnected with the natural one. After failing to tear his two young children away from their screens to go outside to play ("my own family doesn't use my product!" Bond exclaims), he sets out on the challenge to compete with the big brands and the mighty monopolies in selling a product that came way before even the original iPod. Nature.

Bond directs us on his journey from initial idea to the final *Project Wild Thing* product with the help of the many people he encounters. From scientists and specialists such as BBC *Springwatch*'s Chris Packham, the individuals that shine the most are the diverse range of children Bond interacts with. Some of the most delicate, natural and thought-provoking cinematography is of these young stars. Not long into the documentary, Bond visits the Hebridean Island of Eigg, where the outdoor world is a measurably larger part of the Island's inhabitants' lives. A young boy, one of the children from the local primary school, sits on a tree trunk surrounded by the greenest foliage and the single sound of bird-

call; he picks and eats the leaves from a plant growing next to him. The young boy's innocent munching is made to appear totally natural and undirected and for me, this moment is just one of the seemingly "captured" instances which literalise what it is Bond is aiming to do throughout: get more nature into children.

The number of different children featured in the documentary, ranging from Bond's own family to the teenage girls of a London secondary school, provide a lot of the bitter-sweet humour drizzled throughout. One particularly memorable individual is ten-year-old Mason, who guides Bond around his East-London housing estate. Portrayed as a place of confinement, the bleak car park and small patch of grass littered with dog mess is Mason's outdoor world. Ball games, he says with such light-heartedness, would probably result in getting an ASBO. Although Bond's focus in the documentary up until now has been to change children's opinions of nature, here he comes to a turning point. Mason demonstrates the desire for children to run free and be wild and how this is just sometimes not available to them in the concrete jungle.

As well as some lovely moments of stillness, the documentary also offers us an insight into the bustling world of branding, marketing and just how influential these are in our daily lives. Now, you might expect that a documentary fighting for the appreciation of our natural environment would demonise technology and its displacement of the outdoors. Surprisingly, this is not the case. Instead of using the same brainwashing, bewitching spell that Apple has cast over our generation to block out the competitors, *Project Wild Thing* actu-

ally invades the enemy territory and demonstrates the benefits of technology to spread an idea. Bond's creative team design a website, an app and even a rap video to really develop the seed of *Project Wild Thing* into a fully grown and flourishing, cross-platform 'brand'. This is what I found to be one of the more clever aspects of this particular documentary – of course the irony of using a film to get us outside is not lost on David Bond either. Letting us sit for 83 minutes and engage with *Project Wild Thing* is perhaps why I then felt guilty enough to choose the longer, more scenic walk to my lecture the next day.

Perhaps my only criticism of the film would be the ending. Although seeing Bond's two

young children stuff welly boots on his feet and drag him outside is a sweet enough image, I didn't believe what I was seeing. The ending of the film feels a little unfinished, with the question having been posed but not entirely answered. However, it is understandable how a documentary will feel somewhat incomplete when attempting to divert the impenetrable force of the consumer away from their screens ("You've bought enough iPads now!", Bond yells outside an Apple store) – not a simple task for anyone. It could be that the ending of *Project Wild Thing* intends to promote a idea of what it hopes can be the reality in the future – children desperate to get outside and have an adventure rather than get lost online.



Play these games if you dare

The Boar Games team treats you to a host of games this halloween

Braid is not a scary game in the traditional sense. It can even appear beautiful at times with its Picasso inspired backdrops and quaint, humble protagonist. But this initial cheeriness gradually deteriorates as the narrative reveals that there is more to this story than we realise. To say any more of what makes the plot so chilling would be to enter spoiler territory but the gameplay itself can also bring us into a bizarre world which brings us face to face with the idea of inescapable fate. The game plays with time travel in a variety of manners, some of which go beyond what most people will have ever witnessed in video games. From the standard 'reverse time to before you died' and the 'complete an

obstacle with your double' we go beyond this to the levels with obstacles controlled by your movement in the game, frozen if you remain still and a magic ring that slows time around where it is dropped. The gameplay often leaves you feeling trapped in an eternal loop which leaves a chilling reminder of the inescapable power of fate. Not a traditionally scary game, but one which will definitely send a shiver down your spine. **Patt Gill**

Super Mario Galaxy 2 - Gabi Watt

So I know what you're thinking - little Italian plumbers dressed in dungarees collecting Power Stars across the galaxy are definitely not scary, so what on earth is *Super Mario Galaxy 2* doing in this article? Just sit back for a moment and let me explain... In June 2010, less than a month after the game's release, a player stumbled upon something very disturbing on a level named Shiverburn Galaxy - while scanning the surrounding area in first-person mode, he noticed things upon the edges of the level's cliffs. These 'unidentified objects' do not move, yet their gazes seemingly follow Mario no matter where he is on the level. Always watching. They

have no purpose and they are never mentioned in the game. Sounds creepy, huh? Sounds worse when a player hacked into the system and discovered that these 'objects' are actually a part of the sky texture of that level, which was aptly named: "Beyond Hell Valley." Apparently these are trees but they sure don't look like trees to me. Moreover, the game's developers, Nintendo, have denied that these 'phantoms' were their creations. It appears that nobody knows where they came from. Think about that the next time you don your plumber's cap and Wii remote, and pick up your first mushroom...

Amnesia - Joe Baker

Imagine waking up in a creepy castle with no memory of who you are or how you got there. Now imagine you are being hunted by hordes of ghoulish monsters who drive you insane the more you look at them. Sound scary enough for Halloween? For several reasons, *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* is truly the stuff of nightmares, although if you're anything like me you'll be lucky to even get to sleep after playing it. No other horror game has ever made me feel so helpless; alone and unarmed apart from a dwindling torch, you must hide from enemies to survive, which means that every encounter becomes a terrifying game of cat and mouse where being caught always leads to the same fatal outcome (and, if you're anything like me, screaming). Throw in

perplexing physics-based puzzles, labyrinthine levels and a sanity meter that decreases every time something spooky happens, and you have an experience that is often stressful, but constantly exciting. For those who prefer tension and atmosphere to jump-out scares, *Amnesia* is the perfect Halloween treat, and a game you won't soon forget (ironically).

Life is never easy, but poor little Isaac is even more unlucky than most. Not only does his mother receive a message from God demanding Isaac's life (you can see where the inspiration's coming from) but the only escape route is through a labyrinthine basement... which of course is teeming with thousands of your brothers and sister driven insane by the very same mother. A premise certainly fit for an ancient pagan festival of the dead. *The Binding of Isaac* is an interesting, top down, roguelike game brimming with grotesquely cute (or cutely grotesque, I'm not entirely sure) artwork and dark humour. Following a time honoured formula set down by *The Legend of Zelda* independent develop-

ers Edmund McMillen and Florian Himsl, of *Super Meatboy* fame, have brewed up a treat for these grey October evenings. Succeeding in making "difficult" and "entertaining" synonymous, the hectic gameplay is hair-tearingly addictive with mountains of reply value. Each new game is composed of randomly generated dungeons and there's even an achievement for completing the game 300 times... so it's certain to take your mind off those ghouls and ghosts wandering about on All-Hallowed Eve. Both manic and macabre, this little indie gem is the perfect way to while away the time between Trick-or-treaters.

The Binding of Isaac - Scott Evans

I like to think of myself as a rational, logical, analytical person. So why was I sat with my flatmates last Halloween, covering my eyes and whimpering every time there was the slightest noise? *Slender*, that's why.

Psychological horror is very clever, but often, implication isn't enough to incite true fear. That's why *Slender* is so effective. The premise is simple - you're in a forest, attempting to collect eight notes relating to the antagonist Slenderman. For the most part, there's no indication that the ambiguous villain is near you. No ominous music, no shadows on the wall. You turn a corner. Nothing. Another corner. Nothing. The final corner and BAM, Slenderman is there. No weapons, no fangs, not even a face. When you find him for the first time, the static starts. And then the panic. Every new corner could bring you face to face, or perhaps he'll be no more than

a silhouette in the distance, faint crackles nipping at the edge of your screen.

No one really knows what Slenderman wants to do. All we know is that the more notes you find, the closer he gets. I know one other thing as well - nothing has ever terrified me quite as much as *Slender*. If you're looking for a way to stay awake in Term 3, a fifteen minute stint will set up your insomnia perfectly.

Slender - Helena Morretti

I have recently started *Vampire: The Masquerade - Bloodlines*, a game based on the *World of Darkness* pen and paper RPGs and within half an hour of game play I was forced to turn on my lights, open my curtains and invite a friend over to play the game with me. As well as being an extremely well developed RPG in which stats are rewarded by completing a quest allowing freedom of choice in how it is completed, it is also a sinister view into an imagining of nocturnal Los Angeles. The game has less of a focus on gore and instead toys with supernatural tropes such as

vampires, zombies and ghosts. The game has what I believe is one of the best crafted horror levels in which your character (whichever type of vampire he or she may be) must enter a haunted hotel to retrieve a diary witnessing a host of poltergeist activity and repeated scenes of supernatural trauma throughout. Another of the most creepy quest lines requires your character to explore an asylum filled with insane test subjects and allows you to discover theories linking to Freudian psychology to the vampire society of the Camarilla. This may be an old game but the dark, gritty graphics only add to the sinister atmosphere; if you enjoy proper pre-*Twilight* vampires, add this to your Steam library.

Vampire: The Masquerade Bloodlines - Gabi Hayhurst



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Harvest Moon: A New Beginning



Gabriella Watt gives her impressions of the new Harvest Moon title

September 20th will, for the most part, be remembered by the vast majority of the gaming community as 'the third day I sat in my underpants playing Grand Theft Auto V. That day I was staying with my boyfriend and his housemates - all three of them had in their possession hard copies of the game and had temporarily transformed into button-mashing vegetables. But that was fine. I couldn't give a monkeys - I was snuggled up in my Pikachu onesie, wielding a 3DS in hand, planting my very first turnip. AND BOY, WAS THAT A MOMENT.

It's been a long time coming to the UK - over a year and a half, in fact, what with three very frustrating delays from our friends at Natsume Inc. (whom I've always envisaged dressed in dungarees, chewing corn as they programme) - but *Harvest Moon: A New Beginning* has finally arrived. Following the same classic formula, you as the player are a young farmer who arrives in a derelict, failing town to make your living. Along the way, you will encounter many characters, most of whom are 'unlocked' by completing certain tasks, usually by constructing new houses, because in this game, you're also a master architect (how cool is that?!). Depending upon your sex in-game, 6 of these characters become available to you as marriage candidates. Cue frantic gift-giving to raise their friendship! There are, however, many great untraditional additions to this game that will make *ANB* a worthy extension



to your virtual farming collection. Graphically, *ANB* departs from the style of its predecessors, featuring both a more intimate ground angle as well as including the bird's-eye view, which we can alternate at will. Though the 3D effects are nothing to write home about, they at least are not distracting and as I prefer my experience without the 3D, this wasn't a major flaw for me, personally. But from a gameplay perspective the visuals shrink in comparison with the Herculean addition of free movement around the map with the circle pad and... jumping. That's right, feel awesome, because now we can jump over chickens, over crops, over fences - hell, we'll jump over anything. If you have played a *Harvest Moon* game, you will understand what I mean when I say freedom is bliss, and bliss is what *ANB* dishes out in spades.

When we wake up and step outside that farmhouse and pick that first ripe crop, that's our moment of triumph

So what else? Well, for one, *Harvest Moon* is getting more accessible for a young audience, which is brilliant. Spread peace, love and agriculture across the generations! While I remember progression in the very first *Harvest Moon* DS game to be a real arduous slog, two months in-game on *ANB* and my farm is thriving. This is made so easy by the fact that your first cow barn already exists - you don't have to pay for it and build it! - and you're given a FREE COW. I was so excited that in a fit of ecstasy I inappropriately named it

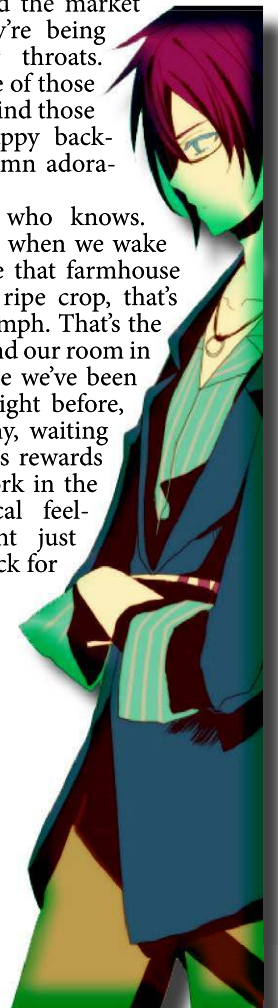
Carrot. Moreover, customisation has hit its grandest scale yet: character hair style and colour, skin tone and clothing are all changeable, and once your workshop is unlocked, you can freely change the appearance of your farm and the whole town. You can't delete the villagers' houses, though, because that's just mean...

It's also all about some of the smaller things. For a weeaboo like myself, I almost died when I found out that new types of crops now include Japanese-inspired wasabi. You don't have to grow potatoes all the time; now, so many varieties of crop exist, you can pick and choose based on what you like to eat. Forest exploration has become a walk in the park with shortcuts and, overall, the money-making process stays infinitely engaging while there are so many ways of going about it. My favourite addition has to be bee-keeping, but there are also fish-traps, paddies and several new types of livestock, including alpacas and lamas.

It's official then, if you like the *Harvest Moon* franchise, I recommend *ANB* wholeheartedly. But what brings a smile to my face more than the game itself is the knowledge that it exists because my childhood dreams of owning my own farm are obviously still thriving in a new generation. I wonder, what is so great about virtual farming? *Farmville*, which spawned from *Harvest Moon's* legacy, has taken Facebook by storm and it's just so goddamn addictive, but golly, we can't figure out why. Maybe it's a desire to return to our natural roots and take the quaint, quintessential life - virtually. Maybe it's a want of the antithesis of the dark, gruesome, combative games

that have conquered the market and feel as if they're being shoved down our throats. And maybe it's none of those things, and we just find those chibi faces and happy background tunes so damn adorable we can't stop.

Whatever it is, who knows. All we know is that when we wake up and step outside that farmhouse and pick that first ripe crop, that's our moment of triumph. That's the time we dance around our room in our pyjamas because we've been playing since the night before, eyes red and blotchy, waiting to reap the delicious rewards of a hard week's work in the fields. That magical feeling of achievement just keeps us coming back for more.



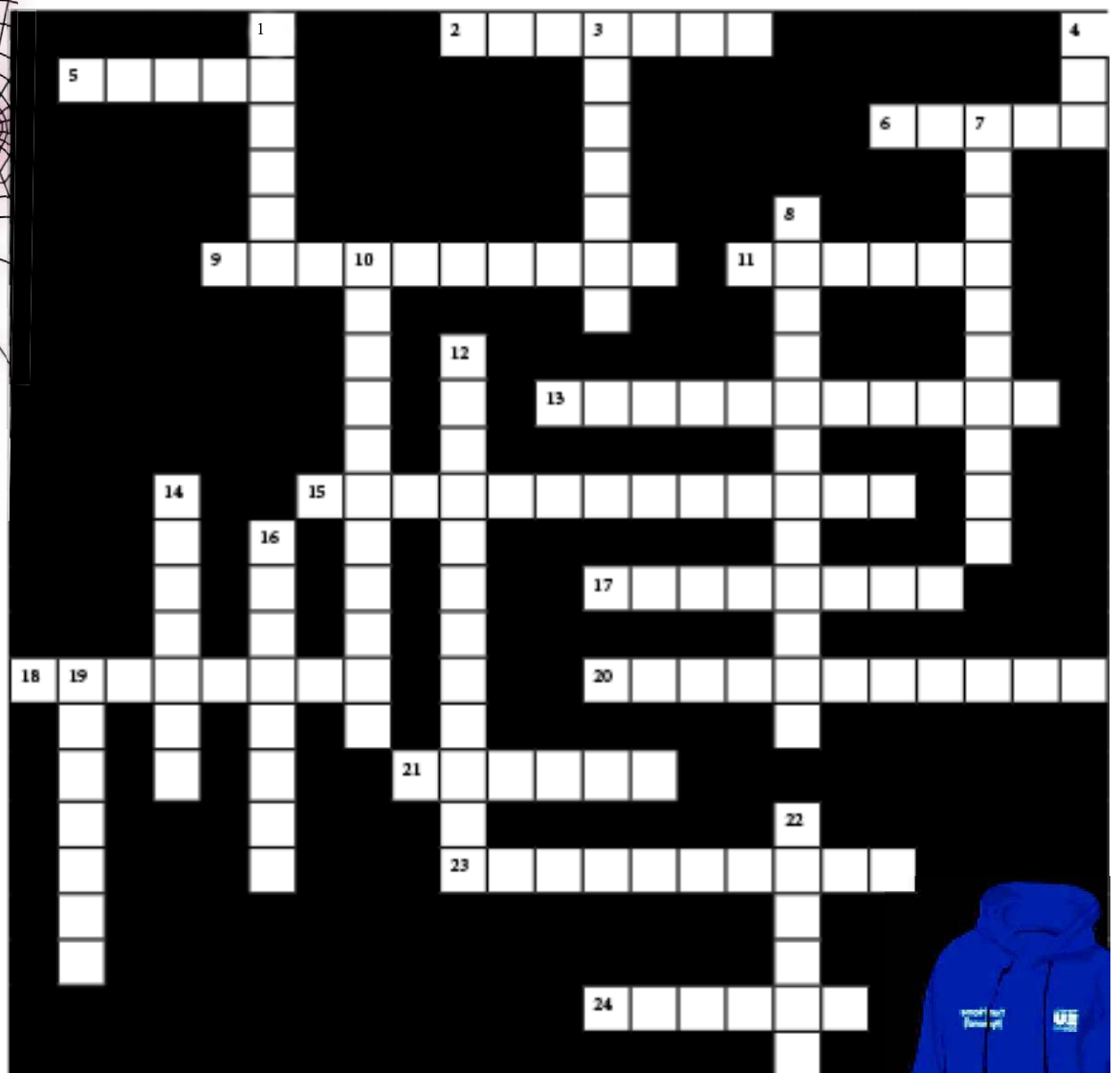
The Boar Games Halloween Crossword

Across

2. 'Double, double toil and trouble' (7)
5. Board used to contact spirits (5)
6. Collective term for a group of witches (5)
9. Creator of Dracula (4,6)
11. Weapon carried by the Grim Reaper (6)
13. Film voted as the scariest of all-time by IGN (3,8)
15. Seasonal event held in the Copper Rooms (9,4)
17. Scary creatures, or _____, Inc. (8)
18. Michael Jackson's iconic Halloween hit (8)
20. Scottish poet who wrote 'Halloween' (6,5)
21. Frankenstein's first name (6)
23. Where on campus can you study human bodies (6,4)
24. Trick or Treat for _____, charity programme (6)

Down

1. Friendly ghost (6)
3. Irish female spirit, omen of death (7)
4. Number of films in the 'Halloween' franchise (3)
7. Hugh Jackman's vampire hunter (3,7)
8. Name for a carved pumpkin (4,1,7)
10. Zombie Hunt is taking place in this part of the Arts Centre (4,7)
12. A fruity game to play (5,7)
14. What you are if you're suffering from Porphyric Haemophilia (7)
16. Used to make potions (8)
19. Show being held in the Copper Rooms by the Oriental Performance Society (7)
22. The kind of bullet needed to kill a werewolf (6)



For your chance to win a free Warwick hoodie, email answers to games@theboar.org



Instrumental benefits

Nicole Davis asks if learning an instrument should be compulsory

» “Which one would you like, Lisa? Viomalin? Tubamaba? Oboemaboe?” Aaah, the wonders of choice... photo: en.wikipedia.org

No doubt we're all aware of the fickle nature of children. We were once younglings ourselves, after all. I distinctly remember doing exactly the opposite of what my mother told me to do a lot of the time, such as putting my hand on the cooker because I was warned it was too hot. (Yes. Yes it was.)

So, it's easy to imagine that many children would run a mile whenever the word “forced” comes into play. Especially if “instrument” and “practice” follow suit. Learning an instrument is much like eating spinach. Something with many added benefits, but not altogether appealing.

Musical instruments, after all, are still besieged by very middle-class connotations. A piano ushered into the corner of a tastefully cream-coloured living room. Private school followed by afternoon cello practice. The eight-year-old girl throwing a tantrum (much to the chagrin and embarrassment of her well-groomed mother) prior to a Grade 2 violin exam. She is tired. And frustrated. She has had ballet and French lessons alongside violin practice this week, and the last thing she wants to do is enter a room and be forced to play scales and arpeggios in front of a stern, bespectacled gentleman. Just because her mother says she has to. It's rare you combine the image of a council house estate or teenage delinquency with the sound of a well-practiced clarinet.

Perhaps that sounds a tad presumptuous, but the tiger-mum and her well-rounded (but exhausted) child are something to be wary of when encouraging the enforcement of playing instruments. I'm not suggesting that kids give up social time or watching [insert generic cartoon title here - I don't want to show my age as a '90s kid by plumping for *The Tweenies*]

in lieu of three hours a day strumming on a guitar, just to appease pushy parents.

I'm careful, too, not to court the sentimental vision of a musically harmonious utopia; that wielding a harpsichord or hornet would suddenly enable us to overcome all societal problems. However, it is a culturally enriching and developmentally enhancing experience, and one which should be made available for all to partake in.

Learning a musical instrument better literacy rates, discipline and application to a variety of activities. Studies have proven its impact on the memory's capacity and ability to listen. In addition, according to an article from the *Telegraph*, “new research suggests that regularly playing an instrument changes the shape and power of the brain and may be used in therapy to improve cognitive skills.”

Learning to play a musical instrument is a culturally enriching and developmentally enhancing experience, and one which should be made available for all to partake in.

Schools from a wide range of economic backgrounds should set up initiatives that enable children to play an instrument, whether that's via instrument rental, reduced rate classes, or free practice with a tutor. Anything that gives them the option that might otherwise not have been open to them can only be positive. Andrew Lloyd Webber recently backed a similar scheme to implement compulsory musical instrument lessons in selected secondary schools.

I often see children with Game Boys, iPads, and various other technological gadgets

attached to their persons as if they are limbs. It keeps them quiet and out of their parents' hair. It's certainly quieter than the beat of badly played drums on a Sunday afternoon. Nevertheless, it's also potentially symptomatic of lazy - and less interactive - parenting. It seems to me to be far more rewarding for a child to show a parent a song that they've mastered, rather than, say, a new level completed on an Xbox game. And, later in life, it will be far more romantically rewarding to whip out a guitar to serenade a special someone than inviting them over to your house to kick ass at *Call of Duty* and expect a second date.

The lasting effects of playing an instrument are, quite frankly, mind-boggling, and make me wish I had stuck with the cello or keyboard for longer than I did in my youth. Developing patience, perseverance, co-ordination, concentration, self-confidence and creativity ... the list could go on and on.

It needn't necessarily be about wealth or class, or that rich kids are better at life just because they can play a musical instrument. Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Cash and Ringo Starr all came from impoverished backgrounds, plagued by neglect and hardships, but found the means to better their lives through music.

Instruments aren't - or at least, they shouldn't be - a signifier of money or an upbringing by well-to-do parents. It's about passion and dedication to a craft: two things which everyone is surely capable of.

People often go on about giving our future generations the best start in life. When that something is the gift of guitar-playing, or being capable of performing a solo in a school orchestra, it seems ridiculous for it not to be placed at the top of the parental agenda - but only for the right reasons.

Boar Jukebox The Horror(s)...

Back in 1993, Jack Skellington merrily sang “this is Halloween!” Two decades on, however, we've started to gravitate towards creepier musical fare for the yearly ritual...

Radiohead: ‘Climbing Up the Walls’

Radiohead's *OK Computer* is a masterpiece on all fronts, but none of its songs come close to matching the eerie beauty of ‘Climbing Up the Walls’, influenced by Thom Yorke's time as an orderly in a mental hospital. The distorted vocals and spidery guitars - alongside a chorus pickled with references to lobotomies and mental illnesses - create a song so inherently claustrophobic that it is rarely performed by the group in a live capacity anymore.

Miranda Wilkie

Rammstein: ‘Mein Teil’

Heavy metal riffs? Check. Scary German vocals? Check. A music video banned in several countries, due to explicit imagery (such as a man being felled by an angel) for a song about one cannibal cooking and eating another's penis before murdering him? Check. Based on the case of Mewes and Brandes, ‘Mein Teil’ has got to be one of the most frightening songs ever. With lyrics like “because you are what you eat, and you know what it is”, and the single cover being a knife and fork, this song will definitely give you nightmares.

Nick Cun-Yu Zhang

Christina Aguilera: ‘Birds of Prey’

Take a vocal powerhouse and some chic Liverpoolian melody-makers, and what do you get? The effortlessly oneiric ‘Birds of Prey’, which is perfect for a cold Halloween night. Ladytron's deep synths and whirling pools of electronica meet Christina Aguilera's whispery octaves to form a cracking autumnal feast, which tells the tale of the sordid side of the music industry. Perhaps not ideal for a Trick or Treating night out, but certainly perfect for a cosy night in (with the treats!).

Faizan Sadiq

Kanye West: ‘I Am a God’

“Hurry up with my damn croissant,” scoffs Kanye West on the stand-out track from *Yeezus*. Hardly one for modesty, the rapper's latest work sees him transition into full-blown megalomania, spitting lines about chatting to Jesus above a sinister bedrock of bass. The shrill screams that conclude the song confirm what its opening verses imply: this is an insight into the darkest recesses of a colossal ego, and it's utterly terrifying.

Sam Carter

Joy Division: ‘Decades’

For better or worse, commentaries on Joy Division will forever be overshadowed by the suicide of Ian Curtis. Yet, even removed from this tragic context, the music of the band's second (and final) studio album sounds stalked by the spectre of death: such is the level of despair clenching its heart. *Closer's* darkest moment arrives at its conclusion, within the otherworldly horror which seeps through ‘Decades’. When the funeral organ rises at 3:59, it's the aural equivalent of peering into a sheer abyss: desolate, terrifying, and utterly, utterly lonely.

Michael Perry

Cloud Control
Dream Cave ★★★★★



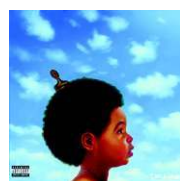
With *Dream Cave*, Cloud Control have expanded their sound with a heady concoction of psychedelic harmonies. 'Dojo Rising' and 'Scar' straddle the disparate influences of guitar riffs and electronic loops,

as the Australian band use vivid splashes of electronica to colour the edges of this record. Creating an album that strolls this confidently through multiple genres is an ambitious undertaking. Even more impressive, though, is just how well they've pulled it off.

MP3: 'Dojo Rising', 'Scar'

Sam Carter

Drake
Nothing Was the Same ★★★★★



Drizzy has done it again. In 16 excellently-crafted tracks, he's managed to take a genre of music notorious for focusing on bitches and blunts, spin it on its head, and produce a brilliant medley of

sounds, which evoke feelings I wasn't aware music had the power to convey. The accurately-titled *Nothing Was the Same* is a work of art, which has cherry-picked the very best aspects of contemporary genres and fused them all together under an urban umbrella.

MP3: 'Own It'

Maya Westwick

Paul McCartney
New ★★★★★



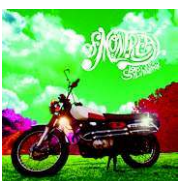
In spite of its moniker, another Paul McCartney album hardly seems to be a novel idea. Nevertheless, though the majority of the tracks sound like vintage Beatles or Wings offcuts, there is a sense of renewed life in his latest

effort, perhaps in reflection of this new chapter of his personal life. This was certainly aided by a production team which consists of A-list names such as Mark Ronson and Paul Epworth, who have brought their own perspectives to these Macca jams.

MP3: 'Queenie Eye', 'Alligator'

Nick Cun-Yu Zhang

of Montreal
Lousy with Sylvianbriar ★★★★★



The gradual evolution in of Montreal's sound has been a varied and brilliant one. As a result, the almost complete conventionality of *Lousy With Sylvianbriar* comes as a bit of a surprise, especially as it's really quite good. The previously omnipresent synths have been replaced by a '60s-emulating rock-and-roll ensemble, with Rebecca Cash providing moments of introspection as she uses her calm vocals to counterbalance Kevin Barnes' frenetic falsetto.

MP3: 'Belle Glade Missionaries'

Sam Evans

Katy Perry
PRISM ★★



Something about *PRISM* leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Whether it's the excessive use of by-the-numbers song structures, the sheer monotony of the production, or the inane lyrics, Ms Perry's third album certainly

does not live up to its high expectations. Still, there are some gems to be found: 'Spiritual' is a heartlessly emotional pseudo-ballad, whilst the CeCe Peniston-tinged 'Walking on Air' provides the ever-needed jams for a good night out.

MP3: 'Walking on Air', 'Spiritual'

Faizan Sadiq

Trivium
Vengeance Falls ★★



Vengeance Falls takes the more accessible elements of Trivium's sound to extremes only fleetingly explored in the past. Big (if not overly exciting) riffs, slightly naff lyrics and Disturbed-style choruses

abound for the first half of the album, before 'At the End of the War' provides a promisingly energetic passage. *Vengeance Falls* reflects a band turning a new corner stylistically, but even though this may put off some of their more elitist fans, there's plenty to like here.

MP3: 'At the End of the War'

Joe Wallace

Live Review

Everything Everything

The Institute, Birmingham

18/10/13

Whether in the throes of *Arc's* sonorous melodies or nailing the glitch-pop tracks of their polyrhythmic, hyperactive debut *Man Alive*, when onstage, Everything Everything exercise thorough control over their gorgeously honed hooks and wily vocal meanderings.

From the hypnotic opening notes of 'Undrowned', moving swiftly through to the erupting refrains of 'Torso of the Week', EE have us in the palm of their collective hands, even during the exposure of their softer side, be it in the form of Jonathan Higgs' intimate solo rendition of 'Tin (The Manhole)' or the haunting pianissimo of 'The Peaks'. With two virtuoso albums under their belt, the band wears a kind of brazen confidence onstage, and don't for a moment look like slowing down.

At the centre of EE's dazzling stage show is, of course, the inexhaustible Jonathan Higgs, whose vocal acrobatics and graceful flourishes command the unadulterated attention of his audience. Higgs' trademark falsetto holds up amazingly over a lengthy and fast-paced setlist, simultaneously pitch perfect and roughened by emotion, reverberating desperately in the hysterical, wordless cries of 'The Peaks'.

Grinning like a Cheshire cat, Higgs confides to the crowd: "I wrote these songs in my bedroom... it's crazy to hear you all singing them back to me", referring to our valiant effort to keep up with infectiously singable fan favourites, 'My KZ UR BF' and 'Duet'. Fortunately, the canopy of bright lights and the hedonistic fervour of the audience never overwhelm the dystopian, ecological anxieties of *Arc's* album tracks. Higgs himself is keen to emphasise this, squaring up to the crowd to cast the despairing indictment of 'Radiant': "You could make a difference so easy. You could make a difference, but you don't".

It's also reassuring to see that EE have remained faithful to their oldest and most beloved material, unafraid to feature *Man Alive's* more disorienting album tracks like 'QWERTY Finger', even when it seems to chafe with newer and more accessible material like 'Don't Try'. Balancing attention to both of their albums inevitably lent the show a lack of symmetry or predictability, but such is the wizardry of Higgs and co. that in the midst of this panoply of hues and textures, EE pieced together a taut and deeply gratifying evening of captivating music and showmanship.

Proving themselves to be head and shoulders above most of the lacklustre nominees for this year's Mercury Prize, both on record and onstage, EE are surging forward in what promises to be an outstanding career for these dark horses of British indie.

Sophie Monk



» Men live. photo: flickr.com/Stew Dean



"Have you met Lydia?"

Well, Sam Carter has, and can offer a sterling review of Lydia Baylis' recent Coffee House Session at Curiositea

» Lydia Baylis: for fans of Virginia Woolf and the Brontës. photo: coffeehousesessions.

Lydia Baylis isn't your average performer. Following Lucy Mason's Coffee House Session of a fortnight ago, this latest Curiositea performance sticks to the same formula: one café, one guitar, and one outstanding voice. In many ways, though, Baylis is a very different artist from the Australian Mason. And with Virginia Woolf and the Brontë sisters among the Welsh singer's sources of inspiration, there's a distinctly cerebral edge to her work, which she describes as "dark cinematic pop" during her post-gig interview with *Boar Music*.

There's no prolonged soundcheck this time, as we're launched straight into the opening chords of her song 'Whitehouse'. Based on Victorian melodrama *Murder in the Red Barn*, it sees Baylis standing tall in the centre of the intimate locale, an assured nod of the head and an occasional lifted eye-

brow acting as the cue for her remarkably deep pitch to sweep through the café. Her voice, at times sounding like it was ripped straight out of a Bond theme tune, forms the steadiest of canvases for guitarist Ross to play over. Naturally, I had to ask how one corner of Britain could produce so many powerful singers. "It's interesting isn't it?" Baylis muses. "Maybe it's the mountains or the dragons – something like that!"

If Baylis' opener is a showcase of unfaltering confidence, 'Show Me the Light' is a gateway to insecurity. Her wry smile as she delivers the line "a single look inside me and you knew me well" is evidence that the 23-year-old has experienced a lot more than her age would suggest. "I wanted to write about things that were above and beyond the traditional girl-meets-boy story," she tells me. It's in this vein that the John Dryden-inspired

'Happy Man' strolls along on a waltz rhythm, with shifts in momentum and sudden stops allowing Ross to find space between verses for some elegant guitar melodies.

It appears that these literary inspirations were partly cultivated by Baylis' academic background, as she recounts the difficulties of balancing work and music while studying History at Oxford. "There were definitely some teething problems, but I found a balance after a while. As you know, your degrees are demanding, but you do also have quite a lot of time to focus on personal passions."

Baylis concludes her set with upcoming single 'Life Without You', setting off on careening folk-pop rhythms and lyrics that flit between regret and conviction. She practically snarls at the prospect of past mistakes now, later elaborating on the song's honesty during our interview. "It's definitely the most directly confessional song I've ever written, but it was therapeutic to write and perform."

With the performance over and the sun now casting shadows over the concrete steps outside the SU, Baylis reveals that this isn't her first visit to Warwick, with her last venture here coming in the form of an open day at the age of 17. "I think it's just charming; I love it." And her thoughts on today's setting? "I could spend all of my money in here drinking hot chocolates all day!"

There's little time for that, though, given Baylis' career trajectory. 'Life Without You' is set to be released in November, while debut album *A Darker Trace* is "98 percent there," according to the singer. "It's just a matter of choosing how to arrange the songs. People don't really tend to listen to albums in sequence any more, but I would definitely like it to flow in a way that I'm happy with, just in case one person does!"

For more information about Lydia Baylis and her music, bean on over to her official Facebook page here: [facebook.com/lydiabaylis](https://www.facebook.com/lydiabaylis)

Nobel Prize 2013: The winning laureates

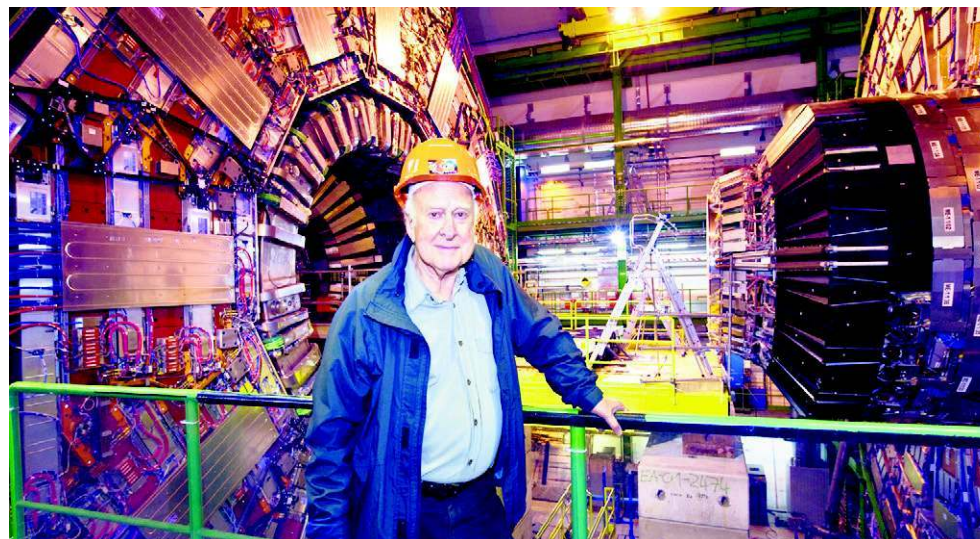
Hayley Simon covers this year's Nobel Prize announcements and who won the six coveted awards

Since it was first envisioned in the handwritten will of Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Prize has gone on to become one of the most prestigious awards on the planet. At the heart of the award is a simple idea with the capacity to inspire millions. Given only to those who have "conferred the greatest benefit to mankind," a list of previous winners rapidly turns into a who's who of twentieth century history. From Albert Einstein to Martin Luther King, it is a prize that strives to recognise the truly exceptional members of the human race.

With 6 awards up for grabs (Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Economics and Peace,) speculation in the run-up to the announcement was rife. Twitter conversations bounced from person to person, articles appeared discussing possible outcomes and the same question burst from everyone's lips - who would be taking home the prize in 2013?

The week-long series of announcements began on Monday 7th October. In a live broadcast, The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet declared that the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine would be awarded jointly to three scientists: James Rothman, Randy Schekman and Thomas Südhof "for their discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in our cells".

The prize was awarded for a series of discoveries that pieced together how cells organise their transport systems. Each of the three recipients unravelled a different part of the



» Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics photo: flickr/ marc_buehler

mystery. The central theme running through the research was the idea of a vesicle: a tiny packet used to transport molecules inside a cell, or from one cell to another.

As Tuesday dawned, it was the turn of the physicists to anxiously await the decision of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. After a slight delay, the honour was shared by François Englert and Peter Higgs "for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles..."

Earlier this year, scientists working at CERN's Large Hadron Collider confirmed

the discovery of the Higgs boson – the so-called 'God particle'. The 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to the men who first formulated a theory involving the Higgs. The theory seeks to explain how particles obtain mass and forms a central part of the Standard Model of Physics, a description of how the world is constructed.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences took centre stage once again on Wednesday. They declared that the recipients of this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry would be Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel "for the development of multiscale models

for complex chemical systems" The Chemistry prize acknowledges the achievement of combining classical physics with quantum physics to develop computer modelling techniques. The computer programmes developed by these three men are used widely by chemists to simulate molecular systems. This has allowed for many significant chemical advances.

With the conclusion of the three science awards, attention turned to the writers. On Thursday 10th October, the Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Canadian author Alice Munro. She was described by the awarding body as the "master of the contemporary short story". Before the weekend break, The Norwegian Nobel Committee presented the Nobel Peace Prize to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons". The final golden prize of 2013 was handed out on Monday, bringing an end to the week-long prize giving. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel went to Eugene Fama, Lars Hansen and Rober Shiller "for their empirical analysis of asset prices".

With the final prize awarded, so concluded another Nobel cycle. Around the world, scientists, economists, writers and politicians will soon be gearing up for 2014, hoping that it might be their turn to receive that most noble of titles and to call themselves a Nobel Prize laureate.

TEDx Warwick - 'Ideas worth spreading'

Ellie May reviews the recent Tedx Warwick Salon and the eye-opening technology discussed

Boasting an impressive 16,500 talks in over 133 countries, Tedx conferences are becoming increasingly popular – and for good reason. Their slogan 'ideas worth spreading' held strong in the recent Tedx Warwick event, where four speakers gathered to speak about technology in a truly innovative and inspiring way.

Designer and self-proclaimed 'futurist' Tobias Revell opened the event, explaining how all humans 'world-build', projecting ourselves in, to fiction to create a dialogue between ourselves and how we imagine the world could be. His art built on this concept, constructing futuristic worlds to show that the outcomes of technology are vastly different from their initial intentions. The talk surprised me - its philosophical manner wasn't what I was expecting from a technology conference. Yet it was a fascinating start to the event, forcing us to imagine the future outcomes of technology.

The second speaker, Tobias Preis, took the event in a different direction, talking about his own research project. His idea that Google could predict the stock market through

tracking how often words such as 'debt' are searched was exciting – the world of finance would be completely reformed with such basic technology. Elements of the previous talk still lingered, as Preis discussed how Google, initially intended as just a search engine, could have an entirely different function in the future. The current age of technology increases our productivity and makes life far more convenient, but digital traces of our everyday behaviour remain online. If Google can be used to analyse human behaviour on such a large scale as the stock market, could it also be used to predict our behaviour or even influence it?

David Chatting, designer and technologist, was the next to share his ideas with us. He focused on his idea of *Everyday Tomorrows* discussing the bridge between useful and useless technology, and how prototypes being made now will have a huge effect on our everyday lives in the future. By creating basic prototypes of gadgets that have no particular use yet, he allowed the public to speculate on how they may become useful, and their effect on society as a whole. Chatting suggested a gadget that could track

every step-counter, giving you information on the runner using it. He then developed this idea in to a short film set in the future where people go 'runner spotting' as they do bird watching. Chatting's ideas were fascinating, bringing up the moral issues with new technology, and challenging the idea that engineers decide what technology becomes, insisting that instead that we must take responsibility.

The final talk was given by Nicholas Dale, talking about his own research on combating strokes. He presented us with a wide range of statistics, explaining that strokes cost the UK economy up to £9 billion every year, and yet there is still a distinct lack of medical technology that can combat strokes quickly. Suggesting numerous ways of faster treatment, Dale shocked us with how close we could be to developing life-saving technology and how desperate our world is for it.

Torgyn, an engineering student, gave her thoughts on the event. Impressed by how each speaker adopted layman's language so well in order to express their ideas to the students, she concluded that it was overall en-

joyable and inspirational.

Speaker Tobias Preis also enjoyed the event, believing it to be just as interesting for those hosting as for those watching. As a scientist, he enjoyed the idea-sharing involved and the opportunity to have an insight in to the disciplines of the other speakers.

In my experience, attending the Tedx salon was eye-opening, introducing me to ideas surrounding technology that I had never considered before. The wide variety of speakers and disciplines gave me a rounded view of every aspect, from potential inventions in the future to the moral issues surrounding them. From the moment it started I was gripped and, although I was learning totally new concepts, I never once felt overwhelmed by the subject matter. I wholeheartedly enjoyed the experience, I will definitely be attending again, and I recommend that you do too.

Tedx are hosting the second TEDxSalon on November 23rd, Saturday of Week 8.

» photos: Qi Peng



Avoiding the scams in Bangkok

Georgina Lawton

Bangkok is a place which remains etched on the memories of all who visit it; a place of mind-bending surprises and eye-watering juxtapositions. It is a frenetic circus of bustling markets, spicy food and neon-lit clubs. It is also a tranquil space of stunning temples and beautiful architecture. This year Bangkok is the world's most-visited capital city, and with such a varied landscape, no wonder many travellers start their Asian adventure with a stint in the country's animated capital. But how easy is it to stay in a place known to some as 'scam city'? According to Sarah Peth,

Senior Pro Consul in Bangkok, 180 British nationals were arrested and 231 hospitalised in Thailand last year – but should this really act as a deterrent for those on a quest for Thai culture?

Khao San Road is Bangkok's backpacker hub, where you can zig-zag between raucous bars and street performers, haggle for clothes or indulge in a street massage and watch the world unfold before your eyes. The food carts perched on the pavements offer a diverse selection of Thai cuisine; huge portions of pad thai (flat noodles with chilli and egg) for around 60p, and mouth-watering tropical fruit kebabs. Just make sure meat dishes are served piping hot, and the fruit and vegetables fresh. If you'd prefer a fine dining experience, Bangkok's restaurants boast a plethora

of global food; three courses and a cocktail is less than £10 – and that's at the top end of the scale!

The shopping experience in Bangkok is unlike any other. The Khao San Road market is an overwhelming display of the trashy and tremendous where you can find anything from tie-dye t-shirts to knock-off DVDs. Don't be afraid to haggle but always be respectful – Thai people don't like losing face. The Chatuchak weekend market is half an hour from the city centre and offers a slightly more authentic shopping experience, so set aside a few hours if you want to explore this 35-acre market-maze which sells snakes and second-hand items.

Getting around Bangkok can leave tourists susceptible to the most popular scams.

Three-wheeled open door taxis called tuk-tuks are popular amongst tourists, but always agree on a price before you hop in. Emilia, a student at Oxford Brookes University, was caught out by a local tuk-tuk scam.

She said: "On our first day in Bangkok, a man selling maps told us that the best way to see the city was by tuk-tuk. He brought us over to one of the cars and agreed a price with the driver – about 20p for the whole day, which was so cheap"

Unfortunately this bargain price was too good to be true. The tuk-tuk driver took Emilia and her friends to the agreed place but also stopped off at a tailors, a jewellery shop and a fake tourist information shop where the girls were persuaded to make a booking for activities and handed over £170 each.

However, upon returning home, they researched the information centre and found reviews advising them not to trust the shop. The girls had handed money over to an unofficial tourist agent called 'ITAT' – in Bangkok the official tourist bureau is called 'TAT', but Emilia and her friends had been brought into one of the many imitation shops which lure travellers in with fake logos and uniforms. A number of local businesses in the area work in conjunction with tuk-tuk drivers to increase tourist exposure to their shops, and drivers will often stop at places not originally agreed on the route or leave travellers in the middle of nowhere.

When Emilia and her friends returned the next day to demand a refund, the man with whom they had made the booking wasn't there, and the other travel agents refused to hand back any cash.

It's vital when travelling abroad that you research the local laws, customs and potential scams before you arrive. The FCO regularly updates its website with travel advice and helpful tips on every country around the world. There's also information on how to plan and stay safe on your gap year.

More detailed advice is available on the FCO website at www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo
 Facebook: [facebook.com/fcotravel](https://www.facebook.com/fcotravel)
 Twitter: @fcotravel



» Thai street markets are a great place to find a bargain photo: Jeremie Amoroso

Bowled over by Moldova: a volunteer's experience

Nicola Paling

Until a few months ago, I have to admit that I'd barely even heard of Moldova. To me, it was a name that only seemed to crop up in Eurovision or vaguely referred to in the final rounds of general knowledge quiz shows. And there is no way I could have told you where it is.

But despite how little I knew about it, I went on a two week volunteering project during the summer with a charity called Mission Direct where, as a small team, we built a house that would become a day-care centre for children and a refuge centre for teenage girls.

Obviously, this type of volunteer work is relatively common in developing countries, but the fact that this kind of work needed doing in Europe was what first intrigued me to

go on the trip. Faced with a brochure bursting with volunteer trips worldwide, as well as having officially caught the bug after my first voluntary experience in the Dominican Republic the previous summer, there were so many countries to tempt me. In the end, though, it was the uniqueness of Moldova that drew me in.

The truth is that Moldova is Europe's poorest country, with levels of poverty comparable to that of African nations. The unemployment rate is shockingly high and it is a country crippled by debt. Moldova was also a former part of the USSR and didn't gain independence until 1991; for this reason a lot of community spirit has been destroyed by communism.

Before I went, I was warned that the people in general are quite reserved and unhappy. Whilst I was there, though, everyone seemed incredibly happy and grateful for what little they had.

The tourism industry in Moldova could be seen as limited, but that doesn't mean there is nothing of interest. With famous vineyards, a beautiful monastery and a historic market in the capital selling Soviet memorabilia, there is a lot to entice the average tourist.

To add to this, the scenery in Moldova is stunning; with field upon field of sunflowers and views that could be straight from Italy, it would be the perfect place for a walking holiday – and I got to experience all of this whilst still making a real difference.

I'm sure you've heard the clichés about volunteering trips before, but it really is an incredible experience. There is no other feeling like it and, realistically, you probably won't get that many chances to build a house in your lifetime!

It is also the fact that you know you are making a real, physical difference to people's lives that makes this so rewarding. It was great helping out in a country which is oth-

erwise relatively unknown and really needs help.

There are so many unique experiences I will take away from the trip, such as staying in an abandoned asylum for a few nights (not as scary as it sounds!) and using an outside shower which was often shared with a few frogs.

More important, though, is the amount of happiness we managed to bring to the children in the village where we were staying – in the afternoons we organised crafts and games with the children and they would play merrily for hours.

Even though Moldova might not be at the top of your travel bucket-list, I'd definitely recommend going. Volunteering in Europe might not seem nearly as exciting as going across the world, but it's just as rewarding. And it's another destination to tick from your 'off the beaten track' list too!

Bake Off kneads some improvement

The final episode of *Great British Bake Off* fails to rise to Poppy Rosenberg's expectations



» The cast of this year's *Great British Bake Off* at the start of the series – but how do they compare to the class of 2012? photo: Flickr/ antoniahawken

The baking royalty have ruled – and they have declared Frances Quinn as the winner of the *Great British Bake Off* 2013.

After weeks of intense competition, the 31-year-old clothes designer from Leicestershire finally proved she was capable of producing bakes with both flavour and flare in time to win her the coveted crown.

But amongst all of the hype on Twitter and in the media surrounding the much-anticipated finale, it felt like a rather disappointing curtain call. Let me explain why, after all the weeks of mounting expectation, I was left so underwhelmed.

An hour before the hotly anticipated finale kicked off, the BBC made the somewhat foolish decision to air a rerun of the 2012 *GBBO* final – a decision akin to stealing someone else's custard on trifle week.

Not only did this repeat episode remind us of how much more fun and charming the class of 2012 were, but it also illustrated the superior standard of baking, ingenuity, and deliciousness that was on offer last year.

In a weird way, BBC Two were placing last year's series and this year's in direct competition – a contest that had only one outcome.

For me, the structure and technical challenges throughout the *Great British Bake Off* 2012 were of a much higher standard and produced far more exciting television. Last year, the challenges had fun and clear-cut themes,

which spawned baked goods that part-time bakers (such as myself) had a reasonable expectation of reproducing.

In the most recent series, we watched a show whose weekly challenges were far more vague – they were technically difficult and required a list of baking equipment long enough to make even Nigella Lawson blush.

Last year's standards of baking, ingenuity, and deliciousness were superior

What's more, whereas last year saw the likes of John Wait's "heaven and hell" cake, this year's showstoppers seemed to lack the wow factor. Come on ladies – it's the finale, get your piping bags out. Alas, there was neither a sugar-basket nor a blowtorch in sight.

The 2013 final itself provided the anti-climax that I half-expected.

I'm sure I speak for the majority when admitting my disappointment in Ruby's average performance. She started off promisingly, producing an impressive picnic pie (I say impressive as if I knew what a picnic pie was before the show...) but that was as good as it got for the former model.

The fact that the judges didn't give the baking title to the 21-year-old came as a shock to most. From the outset, Ruby had been singled out for her youth amongst a much older

cast of bakers than in the previous series, as well as for her scandalous flirtation with a certain silver-haired baker.

I admired her skill and confidence at a relatively young age, but her self-deprecating manner began to grate on me as the show progressed. In the final episode, she was caught saying, "It's just lemon [cake.]" Come on Ruby – you know you rock!

I feel like any judgement I make about Kimberley will inevitably be tinged with bias. I found her smug and overly competitive throughout – qualities that aren't particularly synonymous with the newest of British institutions!

Nonetheless, even the staunchest of Kimberley supporters (whoever you are) will have been forced to admit that her baking in the final was not worthy of the title. Despite producing an impressive showstopper, she fell foul to the most cardinal sin of *Great British* baking: the dreaded soggy bottom.

Her decoration may have been good, but it was nowhere near the standard that drives a woman to create edible confetti, and she never justified being pre-show favourite.

So, on to the winner herself: Frances. Although I had found her uninspiring early in the series, her performance in the final brilliantly demonstrated her ability to learn from the judges' criticism and produce visually beautiful cakes with flavour and subtle presentation. As it was, the competition in

the final week was limited, and the fact that her showstopper (which was fantastic, by the way) secured her the title is evidence that this year just didn't live up to the hype of its predecessor.

As always, it was the show's staple personalities that kept the audiences flocking in their millions.

The presenting duo of Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins were characteristically brilliant throughout, whilst Mary Berry continued to dazzle viewers and contestants alike with her impressive "cakesperts" and range of marvellous blazers.

It was Berry's male counterpart, Paul Hollywood, who had a slightly different effect. Hollywood seemed to have taken a decision to adopt a Simon Cowell persona for the new series, but instead of endearing him to the audience, it had the opposite effect.

I love a good baking innuendo as much as the next person, but I feel he crossed the line of professionalism. His continued flirting with Ruby raised a lot of eyebrows, and resulted in the latter responding to criticism in a piece in the *Guardian* shortly after the final. After all of the sweetness that *The Great British Bake Off* provided, this left a slightly sour taste in the mouth.



Were you disappointed in this year's *GBBO* final?
Tweet: @BoarTelevision

The jury is out on the 'Paralympic legacy'

Luke Brown discovers that the benefits of the 2012 Paralympic Games at Warwick are just "hyperbole"

Earlier this month the chairwoman of disabled charity Scope, Alice Maynard, declared that the 'jury was out' on the 'legacy' of the Paralympic Games.

Her verdict, delivered so soon after an entire nation rallied around the achievements of our Paralympic heroes, seemed particularly damning and surprising. So I decided to undertake an investigation of that much-fabled 'legacy' here on campus.

Fortunately, the Warwick Wheelchair Racing Academy agreed to have me attend one of their training sessions, held at Westwood running track.

I joined them on a cold wet Sunday, slightly regretting the fact I hadn't elected to remain at home. But by the end of the session I was delighted I had braved the elements, such as the infectious enthusiasm of everybody I spoke to.

The group pride themselves on their inclusivity, and I first spoke to the parents and grandparents of two junior racers: nine-year-old Hollie and ten-year-old Jessica.

A common theme of these discussions was the hefty financial implications of disability sport. Hollie's grandmother told me of the difficulty in winning sponsorship for the construction of a custom-built racing chair for Hollie: 'it feels like begging', she told me.

The need for better chairs was typified by Jessica's continuing struggles: it took a good 20 minutes for her borrowed chair to set up properly according to her needs. This was 20 minutes well spent



» David Weir, quadruple gold medal winner, at the Paralympic Games 2012. photo: David Poultney

however, for she later set a personal best of 30.7 seconds in the 100m.

17-year-old Ben Rowlings also mentioned the financial struggles disabled athletes have to contend with.

He's currently seeking sponsorship for a £3500 replacement to his current racing-chair 'Bruce' ('I spend more time with him than I do my family, so I had to name him', he told me).

It appears these financial implications can be overcome, however. He has competed in Abu Dhabi and Switzerland, and travels to campus from Shropshire twice a week, as well as training in Kenilworth on Monday nights. And I thought getting up for a 9am lecture showed commitment.

In his final year of A-Levels, Ben is currently navigating the UCAS system, far tougher than any race

for sure.

He tells me he's aiming for a place at Coventry University, because of its close proximity to the track and the university's good reputation for disability sport.

Warwick doesn't seem to share this positive reputation, which can't be helped by a total dearth of information regarding disability sport on both the Warwick SU and Warwick Sport websites.

In just the session I attend, Ben completes around 30 laps of the track, explaining why his biceps are about the same size as my neck. Unsurprisingly, Rio 2016 is a serious target for him.

I asked Ben why he travelled to Coventry instead of staying closer to home. "This is a career for me", he said. "I travel from so far away because this is the quickest track around, as well as because of Job's

own back pocket. His enthusiasm is constant as he speaks with a quiet and firm confidence about the future of the group. I ask him about the legacy, initially the point of this article, but he shakes the question off.

He refers to Job King, coach and founder of the group set up in 2011. Unassuming and understated, Job tells me that when the group started, they had only about three or four members, and that the team was informal and amateur.

Now, Job presides over an eclectic and dedicated team of athletes. He's coached Ben from his first race to international tournaments, and he tells me that this is one of the aspects of his job that he enjoys the most. 'It's nice to see athletes being successful when you've seen them start out', he says.

Of course steering the group to success hasn't been an entirely painless endeavor for Job. Initially competitions and racing chairs were hard to come by; the chairs the club currently own have either been donated by other racers or have been paid for by Job out of his

own back pocket.

People speak about the 'legacy', but if there was a legacy it happened before the Games, he says. 'I try to ignore the political stuff and focus on the sport'.

He does, however, believe attitudes to disability sport have changed for the better. 'Disability sport is no longer seen as a hobby, and the people who train here are now seen as athletes'.

My conversation with Job brought my time with the group to an all-too-soon conclusion. I came to the training session with the intention of learning everything I could about the Paralympic 'legacy', believing it to be the biggest issue in disability sport.

However, I now realize this to be too naive an intention. After the conversations I had with people, it struck me that the 'legacy' seemed nothing more than media hyperbole, a political statement and concern, with little relevance to the sport itself.

The extreme enthusiasm and commitment disabled athletes demonstrate has not changed, nor, unfortunately, have the funding issues that preceded the Games.

It is time to move on from this cyclical discussion of 'legacy'.

Women's Football score 15 to humiliate Coventry

Isaac Leigh reports on an incredible 15-0 win for Warwick Women's Football to avenge Varsity defeat

After a devastating 6-0 defeat in their Varsity 2013 clash, Warwick Women's Football second team could have been forgiven for going into their encounter against Coventry on Wednesday 23 October with apprehension.

But on a sunny day at Cryfield, Warwick gained spectacular revenge with one of the most one-sided triumphs over our local nemeses in recent memory.

So dominant were the hosts that Coventry wanted to forfeit at half-time, only to be ordered back on to the pitch by their angry captain

Ruby Compton-Davies, centre-back and last year's captain, admitted that "we were really apprehensive about this match due to a 6-0 loss at Varsity last year".

However, their fears proved unfounded as Warwick raced into an 11-0 lead by half-time.

A sumptuous team move expertly finished by Erin Bullions within the first five minutes opened the floodgates, and two first-years - Divya Pathak and Eleanor Cuigo - netted on their debuts for the club.

It was also a special occasion

for goalkeeper and fresher Cecilia Cavanagh, whose first appearance yielded a clean sheet.

Camilla Taylor was on target four times, while Bullions went on to complete her hat-trick.

Woman-of-the-match Annie Stone, who is also a first year, scored twice and assisted several of the other goals. Ella Cahoon scored twice, as did captain Lauren McHale.

We showed Coventry what we are going to hit back with, and had them quivering in their studded boots last week

Coventry were so demoralised that they wanted to forfeit at half-time with the score at 11-0.

"All of the Coventry team except the captain and goalkeeper were refusing to come back on the pitch," Compton-Davies said.

"But in good spirit the captain stood in the net and would not

move until her team agreed to play the second half and return to the pitch."

Compton-Davies, who has returned to the team after deciding not to go on her year abroad at the last minute, had some sharp words for Coventry.

"This season UWWFC are bringing a tenacious and ambitious second team to the league," she said.

"We showed Coventry what we are going to hit back with (after the Varsity defeat), and had them quivering in their studded boots.

"All I can say is bring on second term!"

Four members of the team who played in March's 6-0 loss appeared in last Wednesday's demolition, including delighted captain Lauren McHale.

"We absolutely smashed it," she said. "I'm so pleased with the girls and we deserved to be named team of the week."

Elsewhere, men's lacrosse firsts got their season off to a flying start with a 6-4 win over Leicester at Cryfield on Wednesday 16 October.

After a morale-boosting pre-sea-

son including a charity Tough Mudder challenge, as reported on by *The Boar*, president Jenny Harris stated that she was confident in the team's camaraderie - and it came to the fore during a match which constantly fluctuated.

The two teams had never met each other before Sean Pillai settled nerves with an early goal after slaloming through the visitors' defence, before Richard Gold added a second.

Leicester scored twice in the second quarter to draw level, but Pillai edged Warwick in front again with another dodge and shot.

Leicester maintained the topsy-turvy nature of the encounter by equalising for a second time to make it 3-3, before debutant Paul O'Connor weaved through the visiting ranks for a fine solo effort to edge Warwick ahead again.

Leicester equalised with two minutes to go, and a draw seemed the likeliest result at this late stage.

However, captain Rhys Hill led by example by picking up his short-stick, having played with his long-pole all match, and danced through

the visiting defence to send his team into raptures.

Jono Fernandopulle then sealed victory after being brilliantly teed up by Hill.

"We've really improved our ground ball wins and clearing to attack, which have been major weaknesses in previous teams," said president Harris.

"Deelan Maru in goal demonstrated his excellent shot-stopping ability and brilliant distribution to the rest of the team.

"I was also really proud of Osajie Oboh, Paul O'Connor, Malik Fahad and Michael Engelen on their first-team debuts; they weren't daunted by the occasion.

"Jono Fernandopulle was great on his return from a nasty Achilles injury too.

"There were many positives to take from the match, and it gives us a solid platform to work from before the next match."



How did your sports team get on?
Tweet: @BoarSport

Wasps centre is no big-time Charlie

Sophie Freestone speaks exclusively with former Warwick School captain Charlie Hayter on his rise

It is a common perception that the gulf between supporters and players is ever-widening in this age of celebrity.

So often, sportsmen and women forget where they have come from. As players sign more lucrative contracts, they become more out of touch with the people who support them every week.

This, though, is not the case with Wasps centre Charlie Hayter, who was more than happy to talk to the *Boar* in an exclusive interview about his career.

The 24-year-old former Warwick School student has come a long way in a short space of time since lifting the Daily Mail Cup in 2007.

After studying Geography at Nottingham University, his career has taken him from Nottingham to Worcester Warriors, and then from Moseley to playing alongside the likes of Christian Wade and Tom Vardell at Adams Park.

“When Wasps came in and offered me the chance in January to sign for them I jumped at it”



» Wasps centre Charlie Hayter on a buccaneering run against Bayonne last weekend. photo: Richard Lane

“It has been a really enjoyable time,” he said.

“Having signed with Moseley for the start of the 2012/13 season I had a goal to gain a Premiership contract through exposure in the Championship.

“When Wasps came in and offered me the chance in January to sign for them I jumped at it. They are a fantastic club and have a really exciting set of players to be involved with.”

Hayter has a connection with the local area, too. He was captain of the 1st XV at Warwick School, scoring the winning try against Barnard Castle in the 2007 Daily Mail Cup final at Twickenham to secure a 24-23 victory.

He also opened the scoring after less than a minute with a drop goal, and was widely praised for driving his team on to victory.

And he admits he has fond memories of his time there, and still keeps in touch with his former team-mates.

“My time at Warwick was a massive aid to me, especially the Daily Mail run we had,” he said.

“Having that pressure of a Cup environment with friends you have grown up with was awesome.

“I still keep in touch with the boys from school, a lot of them live in London now so it is easier to get to see them.”

After leaving school, he did not dive straight into professional rugby, but went to complete his education.

“After Warwick, I went to the University of Nottingham to study Geography,” he said.

“Whilst I was completing my degree I played both at the University and for Nottingham Rugby Club, but I wasn’t exposed to that much game time at Nottingham and was unfortunate with injuries.”

It is clear that whilst Nottingham formed a part of his sporting education, loan spells at Stourbridge and London Scottish were extremely significant for his career.

He only made one Aviva Premiership appearance for Worcester Warriors after leaving Nottingham - against Northampton Saints in 2012 - before temporarily dropping down to the lower leagues.

“I believe that [the loan spells] were both a huge part in my development,” he said.

“I felt I needed to be playing regularly to get some much needed game experience.”

After starring on loan, he was signed by Moseley, an RFU Championship club based in Birmingham.

He quickly established himself as the star player there, and head coach Kevin Maggs admitted that he couldn’t stand in his way when the call came from Wasps in January 2013.

“He has done fantastically well for us but you can’t stop him progressing,” he told the Birmingham Mail after Hayter’s departure.

“Put him in a team with Christian Wade and Tom Vardell and

you are developing a very dangerous backline.”

And Hayter himself has confessed it was difficult to leave Moseley after just a few months there.

“It was hard, because it was a good club up there,” he said.

“Kevin was an excellent coach to have, especially for me as he has vast international experience for Ireland at inside centre which is my preferred position.

“It is also difficult to leave a side halfway through a season. Having said that, the opportunity with Wasps was one I couldn’t turn down.”

Hayter scored his first try for his new club against Sale Sharks in February in a 33-30 LV Cup defeat, and admits that playing at Premiership level has helped him to enhance his game.

“I think being in a full time environment where you have great players and coaches around you to help develop your game has been the most rewarding thing,” he said.

“It has been good settling in. There is a good team spirit down here and the boys helped me to fit in straight away even though I was new half way through the season. Fortunately I didn’t have to do any kind of initiation!”

Hayter has locked horns with the likes of Leicester Tigers centre Manu Tuilagi and Sale Sharks fly-half Danny Cipriani, but admits that he can’t decide who has been his toughest opponent during his time at Wasps. With a smile, he de-

scribes it as a “tough call”.

But he is a little more decisive about his proudest moment in rugby.

He was named in the RFU Championship XV team of the season after star performances for Moseley, and played against the New Zealand Maoris in November 2012 in a 52-21 defeat.

“That was a really good day, even though we lost!” he said. “The Daily Mail Cup win with Warwick is also high up on the list.”

For Hayter, though, it is time to look forwards rather than backwards. Although Wasps have made a slow start to the season - they are currently second-bottom, with only Hayter’s old club Worcester below them - he has high hopes for the rest of the season on an individual basis.

“Personally I think this season is about getting as much game time as I can under my belt with Wasps and try and establish a position within the team,” he said.

A modest reply from a player who has clearly managed to keep his feet on the ground throughout his dizzying recent journey.

But it is clear that the 24-year-old is going places. Who knows where the boy from Warwick School could be in a year’s time?



Do you feel that sports facilities at Warwick help professionals?
Tweet: @BoarSport

Results

16th-23rd October 2013

Badminton

Warwick	H/A	Opp	W	O
Men's 1st	A	Cambridge 1st	4	4
Men's 2nd	A	East Anglia 1st	1	7
Men's 3rd	H	Nottingham 1st	3	5
Women's 1st	A	Oxford 1st	1	7
Women's 2nd	A	Lincoln 2nd	7	1

Basketball

Men's 1st	H	B'ham 1st	60	96
Women's 1st	A	Cranfield 1st	42	51

Fencing

Men's 1st	H	B'ham 1st	95	135
Women's 1st	A	Leicester 1st	P	P

Football

Men's 1st	A	Loughborough 3rd	0	1
Men's 2nd	A	Oxford Brookes 1st	3	1
Men's 3rd	H	Coventry 2nd	0	1
Men's 4th	A	Aston 2nd	2	2
Women's 1st	A	Derby 1st	2	4
Women's 2nd	A	Coventry 2nd	15	0

Golf

Mixed 2nd	A	Oxford 1st	2.5	3.5
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Hockey

Men's 1st	A	Nottingham 3rd	3	1
Men's 2nd	H	Coventry 1st	4	4
Men's 3rd	H	Notts Trent 3rd	2	3
Men's 4th	A	Anglia Ruskin 1st	3	4
Women's 1st	A	Coventry 1st	2	3
Women's 2nd	A	Oxford Brookes 3rd	1	4

Lacrosse

Men's 1st	A	Northampton 1st	6	7
Men's 2nd	A	Cambridge 1st	6	14
Women's 1st	A	Birmingham 2nd	16	5
Women's 2nd	A	Bedford 1st	25	4

Netball

Women's 1st	A	Notts Trent 1st	25	43
Women's 2nd	H	Leicester 1st	35	25

Rugby League

Men's 1st	H	Lincoln 1st	44	6
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Rugby Union

Men's 1st	H	Bedford 1st	48	15
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Tennis

Men's 1st	A	Cambridge 1st	2	10
Men's 2nd	H	Nottingham 2nd	2	10
Men's 3rd	A	Nottingham 4th	6	6
Women's 1st	A	Nottingham 2nd	10	2
Women's 2nd	A	Coventry 2nd	12	0

Let us know how your sports club are getting on.

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