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Volume 6 Issue 5

Editorial

Welcome to the slightly new look Kred, with this, the Spring issue. There's something for everyone this time,



whether you're into nudism, lesbianism, or even Yoko Ono.

Plus we have a host of competitions including a huge Buffy and Angel giveaway on the back page.

It will soon be exam time, so if you feel like taking a break from studying and doing something creative, feel free to email any of the section editors, or myself, with your ideas.

Katie Roberts

www.kentunion.co.uk

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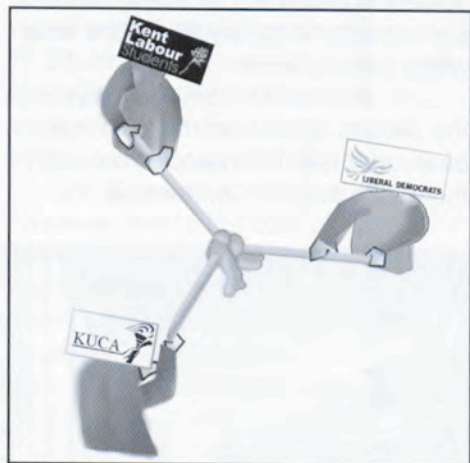
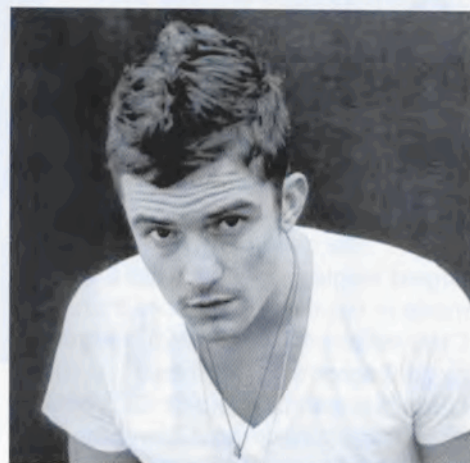


2003

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Whitefriars development taking shape

As anyone who has gone up the far end of the city will have noticed, work is well under way on the new Whitefriars Redevelopment. The first part of the project, the Fenwicks store, was opened in February 2003.

The development is the largest single investment ever made in the district, at more than £100 million. The site, bounded by St George's Street, Rose Lane, Gravel Walk and St George's Lane is also the largest site to be redeveloped in this way, comprising of some 4.8 hectares (12 acres) representing approximately 8% of the area within the city walls.

After much bomb damage in the second world war, the area had been gradually redeveloped between the 1950s and 1970s, however the



posed at second floor level on the new Whitefriars Street and Gravel Walk. In addition, 23 low cost properties are proposed on the Watling Street side.

An above ground car park providing 530 parking spaces will be provided at the western end of the scheme with parking at first, second and roof top levels. A Shop Mobility Centre will also be provided on the second floor. A

new cycle facility is proposed at the end of St George's Street that will include secure storage area and changing facilities.

St George's Lane will be redeveloped to provide a one-way road with access from Watling Street. This accommodates normal service buses, local hopper buses, Park and Ride buses and taxis only. The bus station area itself will be reorganised to provide a more organised parking area together with new bus station facilities.

The architectural design of the scheme aims for a series of individually designed buildings drawing on features from Canterbury's architectural past, but providing modern detailing so that the scheme is perceived as a 21st Century development.

Matt Pawsey



Raise a glass: 24 hour drinking is on the way!

Everyone knows that students' love of a tippale and a lorra lorra laughs lasts long after 11 O'clock: national bedtime for pubbing for as long as our collective memories can remember. So the news that the government are finally waking up to shifting trends in the UK's nightlife culture, comes as music to our beers...

The changes initiated by the government will allow pubs to apply for licences from their local councils to stay open for longer - for as long as 24 hours if the licence is approved. Predictably, the transition won't be a smooth one, held back by the envisaged scenario of out of control, drunken louts let loose on society at large — victims of misuse of the new legislation.



However, following initial teething problems, our party-going public are more likely to reap serious benefits from a continental-style drinking culture. Relaxed drinking over a longer period of time, and staggered closing times will reduce binge drinking-fuelled aggression and diffuse closing-time clashes.

Yet, these benefits may be slow in reaching Kent students' favourite watering holes. The fact that the granting of licences will pass from magistrates to local authorities has led to concerns about Kent County Council's implementation of its new powers. In accordance with its usual stringent policy on night-time activity within the City walls, Kent students face the disappointing reality that they may simply refuse applications, or seek to cash in on the initiative — costing us more pennies for our pints.

*Jon Grant and
Lara Swansbury*



architectural styles of the offices, shops and car park built were in no way in keeping with Canterbury. After solving the financial problems with the venture and numerous public consultations the current scheme was given the go ahead.

As well as the existing Fenwicks store and the planned shops, there are plans for much broader redevelopment of the area.

The layout of the area will create a series of spaces inter-linked by two new streets - a new Whitefriars Street and a reconfigured Gravel Walk. An informal public square will lie at the heart of the development with two narrow streets connecting the scheme to the bus station.

An additional 36 new retail units are proposed ranging in size. Seventeen homes, a mix of one and two bedrooms, are pro-

Festival fun in Canterbury this summer

Plans for a new two-day festival in Palace Street this summer are well underway.

The event, planned for the weekend of June 19th and 20th, is being organised by Neville Pundole, chairman of Canterbury Independent Trader's Association and will take place along Palace Street, The Borough and Northgate. He says: "We

are planning on re-branding it as Canterbury Arts Quarter."

Palace Street will be closed to traffic and shops in the area will also be encouraged to display on the pavements to encourage outdoor trading.

A trail of crowns will lead from the High Street to attract people to the festival and bring attention to this

unique historical area just feet from the cathedral which used to be termed the King's Mile.

The event is supported by Canterbury Council and the City Centre Management Association and is hoped to bring many visitors to the area.

Helen Ochyra

Mumps outbreak

As of this week, nine cases of mumps have been confirmed at the University's Canterbury Campus.

Mumps is generally a mild disease and can even go unnoticed, but it can have severe complications, predominantly for young men.



Mumps (Ziegenpeter)

The news spread quickly when the first cases were confirmed early in February and the university set up immunisations for all students and staff, who were all advised to get vaccinated against the disease by having the combined mumps, measles and rubella vaccination (MMR).

These sessions were run in the Sports Centre on the 5, 6 and 9 of February. Certain departments, including Drama, were advised to cut down on any physical or close contact exercises, as it is said that Mumps can stay in the system for up to 25 days before showing symptoms. So if you still haven't been immunised, go along to the medical centre and they will advise you of what precautionary steps to take.

Tamasine Johnson

Better off on benefits

Forget the 'Grants not Fees' slogans and 'Top up Fees' debate for just one minute and you will discover that there is **another**, more immediate reason why students in the South East are struggling under heavier burdens of debt than at any other time in history. Beneath these naturally very important problems on who is to pay for the funding of higher education, there lies a mass of disparities between the wages working students can command in the South East and the comparatively more generous wages of those elsewhere.

Recent figures, collected on behalf of the South East Area NUS (SEANUS), suggest that students at the University of Kent and other higher education institutions in the South East are amongst the poorest in the country and would 'be better off on benefits' because expensive accommodation costs leave us with fewer pennies in our pockets. They calculate that, on average, students in Kent dish out a whopping £71.15 every week on shelter alone. That is, typically, 30% higher than anywhere else outside of London, and leaves the characteristic student in the South East with a disposable income of just £25.92, compared to £35 in other places; way below the governments own recognised minimum subsistence level of £42.70, which is paid to those on job seeker benefits.

Becky Young, Kent Union's Welfare Officer, recognises that "this reflects the fact that students are going to have to work more hours to make ends meet compared to students elsewhere, and this reflects how students in the South East are massively disadvantaged".

Yet, South East students are further hindered by the disparities in pay because, as Sean Ireton the

Manager of Kent Union Jobshop explains, "Students are seen as a form of relatively cheap labour especially on (the Canterbury) campus", where the demand for jobs far outstrips supply. This manifests itself in rather miserly hourly rates of just £4.20, or £4.77 if over 22, being paid to students by Kent Hospitality, the main employer on campus. Kent Union currently pay £5.00 per hour.

Elsewhere in the country, however, where the cost of living is considerably cheaper, students can earn comparable and often favourable sums to our workers in the expensive south. At Teesside, for example, student staff can earn as much as £5.68 an hour yet the average rent is just £45 per week. Similarly, in Hull, the university pays £5.00 an hour but, after work, you can unwind with an average £33 in expendable wealth before the remuneration for that evenings toil.

Sean Ireton explains this by way of the "large number of people living in Kent but earning London wages" which means "those who work in Kent earn as little as elsewhere but have to contend with higher land prices". "Unfortunately", he continues, "this is reflective of salaries paid in Kent, which are often as low as in less expensive parts of the country, and this trickles down on students, especially in Canterbury, where demand for housing far outstrips supply".

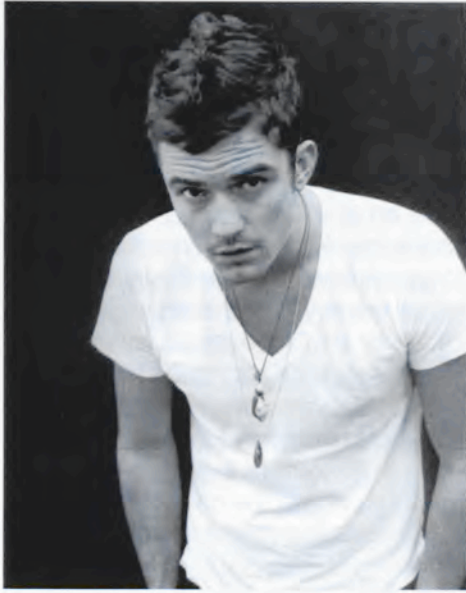
Thus, if students in the South East are to really gain a fair deal, the wages they earn to supplement their study must also compensate for the higher costs of living in the South and their student loans must counteract their comparatively low wage levels.

Jon Grant

Stamp of approval from proud mother

Orlando Bloom's mother Sonia Copeland is planning on creating a mural out of stamps collected from his fan mail.

Mrs Copeland helps to oversee Orlando's fan club from her Canterbury home and was at a loss about what to do with the 160,000 let-



ters she has received for him, when she hit on the idea of giving the stamps to a local charity, the Strode Park Foundation.

This charity was chosen as they are experts at helping people with back problems, Orlando once broke his back and feared he may never walk again.

Everyone involved will also receive a signed photo and it has been suggested that Orlando himself will visit the finished mural and meet the people who had the original idea.

Tracy Barden, fund-raiser for Strode Park said "We are thrilled that she has approached us because Orlando comes from Canterbury and we are a local charity."

Mrs Copeland talked about her son at Cinema 3 on campus in March, before the showing of 'Ned Kelly' in which he stars.

Helen Ochyra

HE shut down

Many lecturers and students across campus were on strike on the 24th and 25th February due to the governments plans for higher education.

The AUT, the union for higher education academics, called on all its members to take industrial action in response to the proposed pay and conditions of work that will come into effect due to the 'marketisation' of higher education. They believe when variable fees come into operation institutions will have the right to set their own pay rates leading to variable pay based on where lecturers work, not what they do.

The AUT joined forces with the National Union of Students for a week of action, culminating in the industrial action. A joint statement by AUT General Secretary Sally Hunt, and NUS President Many Telford, said "AUT and NUS stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight against the current attacks upon staff and students."

Matt Pawsey



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Launch night for Indie Society

Tuesday 17 February saw the launch party for the new Indie society in the Lighthouse. As a kid of indie myself I was very excited by the prospect of this, (I think we all have been disappointed by the dreary diminish of our Tuesday nights out), and so I was elated as I walked in the bar to see it full to the brim with flare wearing, pint swilling grungers dancing to the likes of Kings of Leon, Blondie and many other iconic leg-ends of rock and roll. As the DJs mixed a delectable fusion between the ages of the Stones to Franz, it was a beautiful sight. I'm glad to report that the new Indie President has secured a gig next week at the Balcony bar, so a big thank you from all us kids!

Unrelated in partnership with Local Hero Records, the Venue did us proud booking three student bands to play downstairs. Futile kicked off with Placeboic resonating bubbles of melodic rock, followed by Motion Picture Soundtrack, who peaked towards the end of their set showing much potential. Headliners Alyseia rocked hard with headbanging, scissor kicking frontman being secured in flight by the stability of the three musicians behind.

Tuesday nights have never looked so good. Let's keep it Indie!

Vicky Butcher

Student runs marathon for charity

“You're doing that?” people ask me, with a disbelieving tone to their voice. “You must be mad!” they move onto exclaiming once they realise I'm not just winding them up.

This is the main reaction I've been getting ever since I agreed to run the London Marathon, in support of the charity Help the Aged, on 18th April this year. Yes, in a couple of months I will be pounding the streets of our capital for five hours, covering 26.2 miles, in an attempt to raise over £1,250 for charity. I am undertaking this despite the fact that not so long ago, as my friends well know, I couldn't manage anything longer than a twenty minute jog without collapsing in a sweaty heap on the pavement!

I decided to run the marathon for charity after working at the Help

the Aged call centre which is based in Canterbury. Admittedly, when I began my employment there it was mainly for the five pounds an hour wage and flexible hours! However, after working there for a while it is difficult not to have your perspective changed.

On the phones you come into contact with an overwhelming number of elderly people who have some very sad stories to tell. There are people who have been mugged and are too scared to step outside and individuals who are simply too incapacitated to be able to venture out. Then there are others who simply need somebody to talk to as they are so completely isolated and lonely.

So, if anybody spots me on campus, feel free to stop me and to ask how the training is going. Any tips would also be much appreciated from you more sporty types!

Any sponsorship would also be very gratefully received! I have a site at: www.justgiving.com/HelpJenTheHen where you can do this online should you not see me around anywhere.

Jennifer Hayes



Randy students needed for documentary

Did your relationship with your aupair or nanny ever go further than you parents requirements?

Twenty Twenty Television are making a documentary for a major broadcaster about such amorous aupair encounters, and would like to hear about your experiences.

If interested, please call Vicki on 020 7284 2020 or email: vickilesley@twentytwenty.tv

Lynx launches new Touch fragrance

Lynx, the UK's leading male grooming brand, will have students everywhere paying



close attention during commercial breaks, with the launch of its most risque ad ever. The ad, which hit screens on 9 February, celebrates the launch of Touch, the new fragrance from Lynx.

To win an exclusive Lynx funky retro plasma ball just answer the following question:

What is the name of the new Lynx variant?

Send your answers, by the end of term, to: kentlynx@hotmail.com including your contact details.

Win Topshop vouchers!

Topshop and Topman has been rocking the coolest **the lock-in*** cities in the UK with their regional lock-in event. The unique after hours party was held exclusively for students at selected Topshop and Topman stores, including the Canterbury store.

The Lock-in is now over, but for your chance to win £25 worth of vouchers to spend on the new Spring/Summer range simply answer the following question:

Which London collective made the exclusive music mix just for the Lock-in nights?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004

One World Week

Respect and a celebration of cultural diversity were the focus of the best One World Week so far, writes *David Budd*

On Monday the 28th November the University of Kent's second ever One World Week begun and Kent Union brought the world to your doorstep. The aim of the week was to celebrate cultural diversity on campus and to promote respect to all who live and work here, which is exactly what it did. Each day represented one of the five continents of the world. With minimal staff and sabbatical involvement, the week truly belonged to Kent Union's cultural societies and their committees, who decided how they wanted their countries to be celebrated and worked out an entertainment and educational programme accordingly.

The week started off with Australasia day run by the JCCs (as yet we have no Australian/Kiwi societies) which started with the extremely entertaining 'I'm A Student Get Me Out Of Here' in Woody's which also launched the now infamous Immortals around the world challenge, and then finished off with the Beach party in the Venue, which came complete with surf machine and corked hats.

Next there was Asia, with the fantastic Asian fair during the day encompassing, sheesha, Japanese writing, Henna tatoos, origami, the chance to get your photo taken in a Komono, the Japanese green tea ceremony to name but a few. In the evening the entire Venue came alive with Japanese dancing, a J-pop band (who totally rocked the lighthouse),



some of the best Asian DJs and MCs, and then of course Radio 1's the Heartless Crew who brought down the house.

On Wednesday it was Africa's turn, and again during the day the venue was filled with all the best African culture had to offer and the sound of traditional African drumming rang throughout, giving it a really authentic feel (and some of the Venue staff a bit of a headache). The evening started in Woody's with a warm up party which quite literally had an explosive atmosphere (as I write the sound system is still at the repair shop) and moved on to the Venue



where the beer was authentically African (we'll do our best to get Tusker next year), the music was loud the DJs were proud and the beats went on till the early hours.

Thursday was Americas day, but in keeping with the all inclusive mood of the week there was a global market during the day loads of stalls selling goods from around the world such as authentic foods, fair trade goods, jewellery, global travel, free drumming workshops and more. The evening took on a bit more of a cheesy feel downstairs with DJ Ant pulling out the best (or some might say the worst) of hits from the USA, and in the lighthouse there was an 8-Mile style MC Battle where only the quickest witted survived and the

crowd were truly entertained.

Friday brought European day and the Venue sported the best of music from around the continent with a bit of a Latin American (We know it's the wrong continent but the two societies wanted to combine the event because the complement each other) twist that had the dance floor filled for the entire night.

The week came to a climax on the Saturday when all societies came together for Kent Union's



famous International Night, where societies proudly put forward the best they had to offer and led to a fantastically entertaining evening with a whole scope of acts ranging from traditional dancing to German cabaret singing (I kid you not) and finished off with the compare and the entire crowd singing Sitting On The Top Of the Bay and then leaving with a smile. Special congratulations must go to the Japanese society who were awarded with best act for the night for their Japanese Fisherman's Dance and will be invited to perform at the summer ball.

I would just like to take this chance to thank all who were involved in the week and made it the huge success it was. We are all looking forward to next years One World Week and with the foundations that have been laid down this year know it will be bigger and better than ever before.

David Budd



The results are in!

The count is over, the results have been announced, tears have been shed, both from sadness and from happiness, but what really happens during the madness that Kent Union calls Election week?

For two weeks, notice boards get covered, people get bombarded with 'Vote for Me and I'll...' while freshers probably regret living on campus for the first time ever when the 8th candidate that day bangs on their door and asks for a minute of their time. So why does election frenzy happen for two weeks every year? This is the most important time of the year for Kent Union, as it is the time when the students select who they want to represent them for the next year. This year we had a record 2253 voters - last year we set the South East record with 1300, and we smashed that this year. With over 60 people standing for approximately 30 positions, organising this process is no easy task what with candidates arguing about mailing lists, poster space, and the fact that he can do back flips while juggling twelve balls and she can't, and yet Jane Curbishley, Deputy Returning Officer and our very own Membership Services Manager rose to the occasion magnificently, and made these elections run incredibly smoothly. Without her, the entire process would have been extremely different - just ask any candidate who ran up to her at all sorts of odd hours of the day to ask a question, get a form signed or merely to ask what colour paper the Mandela Building had left.

Position: Winning candidate:

President:	David Budd
Activities:	Katie Morgan
Education:	Jen Warrington
Welfare:	Dre
Sports:	Stephen 'Bleeta' Lamyan
Parkwood:	Chucky
Eliot:	Ed Barham
Rutherford:	Lekan Lawal
Darwin:	Liz Tomlinson
Keynes:	Emma Powell
Womens:	Katie Hawley
LGBT:	James Hardie
International:	Leah Maina
Disabilities:	Kate Sutherland
Mens:	Sam Lane
Ordinary Exec:	Lauren Baines Ed Willmott
NUS Conference:	Chucky Sam Russell Alex Pounds Anneka Stevens Paul Prentice Sarah Carpenter Asma Alami No Suitable Candidate

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Kent Women's Football Squad shows their talent!

Our women's football squad here at Kent University has had a fantastic season this year. Not only did they win their BUSA league, South Eastern division 1A: the top women's league in the South Eastern Conference, but they have also performed outstandingly in the Kent County Cup, and beat Christchurch in Varsity. Through the sponsorship of Damlier-Chrysler, the

which shows how much more successful the club is becoming.

Our footie lasses now play Bath University to find out who will be promoted to win a place in the Premier League South, a date for this match against Bath has yet to be decided.

The BUSA Championship is made up of sixteen teams altogether, five from the Premier South, five from

the UKC lasses with a comfortable 2-0 win after goals from Hannah Marshall and Cavan Doyle.

The Women's footie team are still in the Kent County Cup in which semi-professional ladies football teams take part, such as Charlton Athletic, Gillingham, Millwall, and Ashford. As you can see from the results table, our team have made it to the semi-finals of this cup where they meet National League opposition Gillingham Ladies FC at home on the 21st March, kick off at 2pm. Although the underdogs going into this match, our Kentish lasses are not giving up hope of beating them and making it to the final against Charlton Athletic at Kent stadium.

Obviously all this success takes great team work and key players this season include the following girls: Allison Marciniak, Alice Midmore, Cavan Doyle, Elaine Bull, Elsa Quinton, Fab Jung, Hannah Marshall, Kirsty Robb, Leanna Bevenley, Natalie Mulvihill, Simona Weaver, and Francesca Beretta. Special mention goes to their coach Steve Pethick, who has also been an amazing coach. It would be great if the women's football team could have as much support as possible for their remaining matches, especially as they have a fantastic opportunity to bring home a couple of trophies.

If you would like more information on how to become a member of the women's football club then please e-mail the club captain Hannah Marshall on hm6@kent.ac.uk.

Danielle Wilson, Elaine Bull and Hannah Marshall

BUSA Match Results:

Game	Home/Away	Result
Kent Vs Reading	Away	Won 2-1
Kent Vs Portsmouth	Home	Won 3-2
Kent Vs Hertfordshire	Away	Won 6-0
Kent Vs Brunel	Home	Won 3-0
Kent Vs Greenwich	Home	Won 3-0
Kent Vs Reading	Home	Won 13-0
Kent Vs Brunel	Away	Won 3-1
Kent Vs Portsmouth	Away	Drew 2-2
Kent Vs Greenwich	Away	Won 1-0
Kent Vs Hertfordshire	Home	N/A

team have an independent established sponsor and a very attractive kit deal. Membership of this Ladies club has been flourishing year after year with a total now of 27 members.

In the BUSA league there were five other teams competing, and these were Portsmouth, Hertfordshire, Reading, Greenwich, and Brunel West London. Each team was playing for a promotion playoff into the premier league and for a place in the knockouts of the BUSA Championship if they finished top of the league, or a place in the Shield if they finished second. After playing each University twice both at home and away our Kentish lasses finally finished top of their league, unbeaten all season with eight wins and one draw. The results of these games are below. They did not need to play the last game as Hertfordshire were already safe from relegation and Kent had already won the league. This is the second year in a row that the ladies football squad here at Kent has been promoted. Last year they won the 2A BUSA league

the Premier North, and six winners of the regional 1A leagues.

Our ladies also reached the knockout stages of the Championship where they met the University of Wales in Cardiff and played away on the 25 February. This match was a tough one as UWIC came top of the Premier League South, and thus are the very best women's football team in the South. It was 0-0 after 90 minutes of play, however in extra time UWIC managed to score a scrappy goal and held onto this lead with the final result being 1-0 to UWIC. The Women's football Varsity match played against Christchurch was another success for

Kent County Cup results:

Game	Home/Away	Result
Kent Vs Maidstone Town	Home	Won 5-1
Kent Vs London Ladies	Away	Won 4-3 (Penalties)
Kent Vs Gravesend AEI	Home	Won 1-0 (Quarter- final)

Busa knockout results

It was the first day of the BUSA knockout rounds for some of Kent's finest teams.

Our ladies' football team travelled away to Cardiff, to meet UWIC- the best team in the southern premier-ship. It was a close game which ended up in extra time, where the girls unfortunately conceded the only goal of the game, final result 0-1, earning Kent 20 BUSA points. The girls played some outstanding football and we wish them all the best with the promotional play offs and the semi-final of the Kent Cup. Men's football 3rds played a gripping 120 mins, the score 0-0 after extra time; they finally won 4-3 on penalties. They now face Kingston in the last 32 of the Vase.

Men's Badminton lost at home to Cardiff 1-8, still earning us 10 BUSA points. Men's Basketball annihilated Bristol at home 87-65; they now face any team as it's a free draw in the semi-finals. Women's Basketball travelled away to LSE and won a close match 50-52; like the boys, they now face a free draw in the semi-finals.

Women's Fencing beat Loughborough 128-122 at home; the girls are now through to the semi-final of the Shield.

Men's Hockey 2nds saw a repeat of last years draw as they met Bath at home in the trophy. Unfortunately the lads couldn't quite find the upper hand and they lost 1-2, but they still gained us 10 BUSA points. Women's Hockey 2nds played Portsmouth in the shield which went to a golden goal period, where our UKC lasses dominated, with Sara Parry scoring the much sought after goal after they were awarded a short corner. They are now through to the quarter-finals of the Vase; if the girls win this game they will have a home draw for the semi- finals.

The Netball 1sts went away to play Demontfort and unfortunately lost, but they still won us 6 BUSA points. The Netball 2nds meet either Aston or Nottingham in the final 16 of the Vase next week, so good luck to them.

Men's Rugby 3rds went away to LSE yesterday and they put up a

strong fight against the London lads but unfortunately they just could not hold their own- the final score ended up 40 points-0. Never mind lads, you still gained us 3 BUSA points.

Our mighty volleyball teams both had home matches in the final 16 of the first team championships. The men beat Cardiff 3-0 and the ladies dropped one set to Southampton but still managed to win 3-1. They now face the final stages, to be hosted at Loughborough the weekend of the 12th March.

So far Kent have a total of 185 BUSA points, obviously this will increase after next weeks performances, we also have some individual BUSA championships to come including the indoor and outdoor athletics championships, climbing, full-bore rifle shooting, and trampolining. We have already gained points from the Karate championships too. We finished 34th last year, out of the 145 universities, with 212 points. I have every bit of faith that we will equal this position, if not better it by the end of the year!

Kirsty Williams



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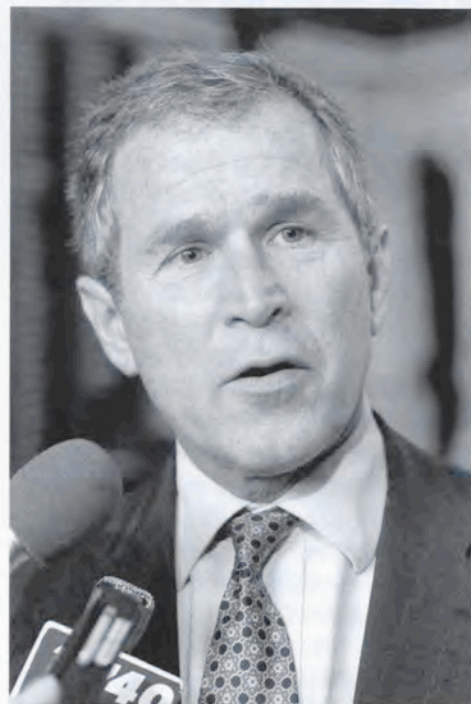
US elections heating up

The American elections have begun to heat up, as President Bush recently warned the Americans about handing over power to the Democrats in November's election. He said that they would leave the US "uncertain in the face of danger." Mr. Bush's approval ratings have recently slumped, because of fierce attacks from Democratic contenders over the war in Iraq and the economy. The economy concerns include keeping tax relief which the Republicans are using, or having higher taxes, which Bush thinks are a burden for the American people. Bush reiterated keeping the enemies out of America and defended his policy on Iraq.

The speech came a week before Mr. Bush was due to launch his advertising campaign for presidency.

The Democratic front liner John Kerry said that the Democrats had forced the president to begin his re-election earlier than planned. Kerry attacked the White House over jobs, the budget deficit and foreign policy in a speech in New York, and Bush's approval ratings have fallen below 50%.

Howard Dean recently dropped out of the presidential race as the Democrats' candidate for the White House. He came third in Wisconsin behind front-runner John Kerry and John Edwards, however he said that he would support the party's nominee. Kerry took 40% of the votes and Edwards 34%. Dean attracted a lot of grass root supporters using the Internet to attract support and raising millions for his campaign. But when he finished third in Iowa and second in the New Hampshire Primary, both of



which he had been expected to win, he decided to quit the race. Dean was seen as the likeliest to win the nomination but seen as unlikely to defeat President Bush. Now John Kerry has become the Democrats new front liner for presidency. The main issues of the race seem to be the "war on terror", which Bush claims has made America safer. The Democrats will choose their candidate by March, and Mr. Bush is likely to be selected by the Republicans for presidency. Conventions are then held over summer and there are three presidential debates before the vote, due to be held on Tuesday 2 November.

Samantha Mansi



Morocco earthquake horror

An earthquake hit Morocco on the 24th February, leaving 229 dead with the number expected to rise.

Concerns are rising for the villages near Al-Hoceima, where around 30,000 people live in mud brick houses not designed to withstand earthquakes.

The earthquake was said to be as twice as strong as the one that hit the region in 1994, and the Moroccans have asked the interna-

tional community to help them in the rescue operation launched in the region.

Al-Hoceima is close to the site of Morocco's last big earthquake which occurred in 1990. The earthquake comes nine months after a huge earthquake killed 2,000 in Algeria. Morocco's worst earthquake in 1960 killed about 12,000 people.

Samantha Mansi



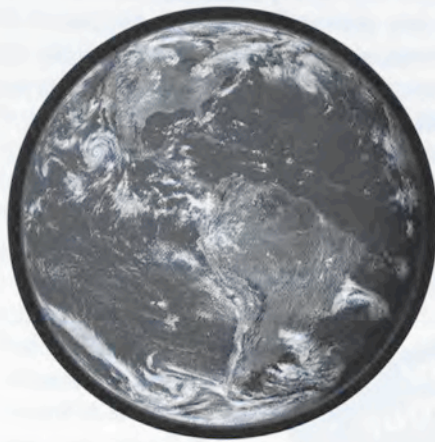
Apocalypse now?

Jon Cade looks at the potential implications of ignoring the dangers of climate change.

'Climate change' is a somewhat vague term, but a new report, circulated by the Pentagon, describes its potential effects in specific and shocking detail. The report, obtained by The Observer newspaper, could and hopefully will end the perception that the issue is an esoteric scientific concern, rather than one of urgent global significance.

According to the report the planet is carrying a higher population than it can sustain. By the year 2020 'catastrophic' shortages of energy and water supplies will become increasingly hard to overcome, and wars will be fought for control of these resources. Because these wars will be fought over the issue of survival, rather than ideology, religion or other matters, they will be prolonged and widespread. In addition to the prospect of

conflict; rampant crop failure, it is claimed, will lead to drought, famine and the mass migration of populations.



The report predicts that between 2010 and 2020 Europe will witness the most dramatic climactic change with an annual temperature drop of 6 degrees fahrenheit. Large parts of the Netherlands, the report asserts, will be rendered uninhabitable after violent storms break through coastal barriers, cities like the Hague

are expected to be abandoned.

The report also anticipates that nuclear arms proliferation will become inevitable. Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Iran, China, and Germany will develop nuclear-weapons capabilities; as a means of ensuring their survival.

These predictions will prove humiliating for the Bush administration, which has consistently denied the existence of climate change. It may force the US government to reprioritise the issue, if only because of its implications for national security.

Jeremy Symons, a former whistleblower at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), believes that the Bush administration is "ignoring the evidence [about climate change] in order to placate a handful of large energy and oil companies", this view is likely to be reiterated in the coming months by John Kerry, the democratic frontrunner. As the date of the US elections approaches, he is understood to have decided to make it an issue upon which he will stand.

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The BIG debate

From the event's conception right up to the night itself, the 'Big Debate' was just that, and it raged, writes *Mark Leach*

Organising The Big Debate was always going to be problematic at best, and impossible at worst. A first of its kind for the University of Kent, the debate was arranged by the three main political societies on campus: Kent Labour Students, KUCA (Kent University Conservative Association) and the Liberal Democrats. The three committees had a hard time putting their political views aside when it came to practical organisation of the debate. In particular, Kent Labour Students and KUCA's bitter rivalry resulted in such discourse as "I think we should hold the debate in KLT1, and you're wrong about the death penalty". "No, I think the death penalty is the ultimate form of justice." By this point the part about KLT1 is forgotten, and a full scale argument has begun. Fortunately however, the death penalty remains abolished and KLT1 turned out alright in the end.

The problems faced in planning The Big Debate were the usual sort of minor things that happen when trying to arrange society events on campus. And due to the nature of the event, the problems became inherently political. For example, an accident was made in the design of the poster which read January instead of the correct February, and immediately there were cries of "Postergate!" The mistake on the poster was seen to reflect

the failings of the New Labour Project, and the controversy of the September Dossier was alight once again. Similarly, the logo which KUCA supplied was a tiny black box, which many saw as a metaphor for the Conservative Party's identity crisis. To the credit of the Lib Dems, they stayed out of most of the political bickering; that was of course until a heinous error in the welcome slide was revealed. A large and welcoming

Powerpoint slide was projected onto the front of KLT1 on the

night, but there was a serious problem. The shade of yellow of the Lib Dems' logo was almost too bright to be seen. A fresh outrage was born, which many saw to aptly reflect the Lib Dems' feelings of inadequacy next to the Labour and Conservative Parties. At this

point however, the organisers chose to get on with the evening, as the political turmoil of all this was starting to detract from The Big Debate itself.

Each of the three panels debating included the Parliamentary Candidate for Canterbury in the next election. Representing Labour was Alexander Hilton, the newly selected candidate. The Conservatives were of course represented by Julian Brazier MP, and the Liberal Democrat's candidate was Jenny Bernard Langston. Each panel also included one student member from each society. Moderated by the enthusiastic Student Activities Sabbatical David Budd, the debate was in full swing right away.

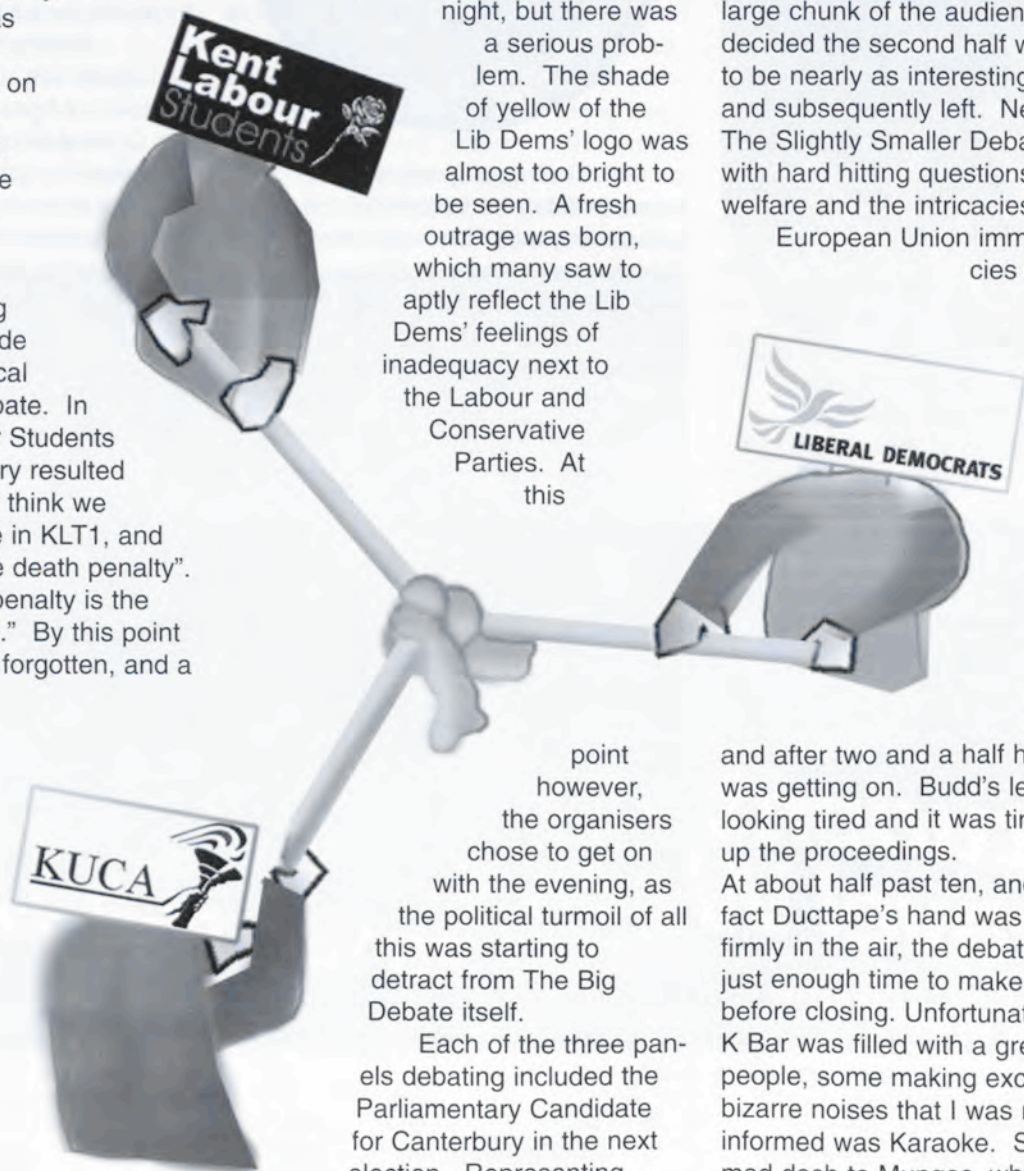
Top Up Fees were high on the agenda, as was Ducttape's hand which stayed in the air all evening. But it really wouldn't have felt right if it hadn't.

Halfway through the debate, Julian Brazier had to go, leaving the Conservative panel somewhat lacking in political muscle. However the remaining member of KUCA put up a good fight in the face of ridicule from an apparently less than Conservative audience. Perhaps more disappointing than Brazier's exit though, was a large chunk of the audience who decided the second half wasn't going to be nearly as interesting without him, and subsequently left. Nevertheless, The Slightly Smaller Debate raged on with hard hitting questions on student welfare and the intricacies of

European Union immigration policies over the last fifty years.

However, the latter was perhaps fractionally less hard hitting,

and after two and a half hours, time was getting on. Budd's legs were looking tired and it was time to wrap up the proceedings. At about half past ten, and despite the fact Ducttape's hand was still raised firmly in the air, the debate ended with just enough time to make it to K Bar before closing. Unfortunately though, K Bar was filled with a great many people, some making excruciating and bizarre noises that I was reliably informed was Karaoke. So it was a mad dash to Mungos, which was perhaps a fortunate turn of events as the neon colour scheme is politically neutral, unlike the K Bar whose deep reds would have clearly shown unfathomable bias. A drink was had by all as we congratulated ourselves on a successful evening, of which we hope there will be many more.



The boring Brits

Alcohol has just been brought back, but has it made a difference?

Kerstin Twachtmann pleads, "Bring Back the Brits of Old".

“Let me tell you ladies and gents” an excited Dr Fox exclaimed at last month’s

Brit Awards, “we’ve been watching this show backstage, and this is the greatest Brits ever. The Brits now compete with all those other awards ceremonies around the world. And we are flying the flag in London!”

Clearly, the show playing backstage was not the one playing in my living room.

In fact, this moment stood out as the lowest point in perhaps the worst Brit Awards ceremony so far, barring the time they banned alcohol. The cause of this was not only the smug comments of an ageing DJ, whose *Pop Idol* fame has led him to believe his opinions are relevant, but also that this patriotic outpouring so clearly missed what the Brits are all about, and what, in recent years, they have so sadly failed to be.

A trend the Brits are obviously conforming to is the one set by the BAFTAs, where we try to compete with the bigger, American award ceremonies. The awards see us taking tips from the Grammys and the MTV awards — the stylised nomination films, the hyped big name performances, Cat Deeley’s array of, ahem, fabulous outfits. In doing so, a genuinely great British tradition has been lost. What was once a debauched, drunken, disorganised, ego-fuelled festival of rebellions and cheap insults — in short, the best night of television all year — has been transformed into an event as dull, conventional and middle of the road as most of the music it is promoting.

Overall, the 2004 ceremony, like the Oscars or the Golden Globes, was more concerned with celebrity than artistic recognition. All too often these ceremonies uphold a tradition of

awarding stars at the height of their fame and commercial success, at a time when yet another award, especially a Brit, is to them neither significant nor meaningful. This year was no exception. 50 Cent, Beyoncé and Daniel Bedingfield all took home major awards, with the Black Eyed Peas and Outkast joining them in having multiple nominations, despite being well established and successful acts. The choice of winners also failed to provide variety, with the fifteen awards handed out on the night going to only ten winners. These included Busted and Justin Timberlake, who picked up two awards each, putting us through the boring “we have no one left to

looks like such a nice young boy/girl and perhaps buying you the CD would make her ‘down with the kids’. In labelling acts such as these our ‘brightest young British talents’ (to quote Cat Deeley’s introduction), the Brits are failing to represent a new music scene which is genuinely interesting. In fact, the only new act to receive any recognition at all at this year’s ceremony was The Darkness, and you can only applaud their heroic efforts to save the lifeless evening from the depths of tedium to which it had unquestionably sunk.

Unfortunately, the night’s other performances did nothing to help their efforts. Beyoncé, Outkast and 50

Cent all performed their most predictable hits; undoubtedly show stoppers at the time of their release, but that time has certainly now passed. 50 Cent honoured us with an introductory film, reminding us, in case we missed it the first nine-hundred times, that he is a crack-selling law-breaking pimpster from the streets who was (let’s hear it again!) shot nine times. That’s nine times by the way, in case you missed it. Only Muse and the collaborative number between Gwen Stefani, Missy Elliott and Alicia Keys went some way to representing the Brit performances as they once were; energetic and original set-pieces that didn’t leave my finger itching on the mute button.

Unless its unrivalled awfulness is taken into account, there is nothing about this year’s Brit awards that stood out or that will be remembered. The legacy of the Brits is one founded on rebellious mischief (Jarvis Cocker’s onstage cameo with Michael Jackson, Chumbawumba’s attack on John Prescott), brawling (*Blur v Oasis*), embarrassments (Geri’s boobs popping out), and cock-ups (Sam Fox and Mick Fleetwood’s disastrous presenting skills), all accompanied by plenty of opportunity to see our favourite stars drunk, and the kind of language that saw the ceremony taken off live TV. The Brits were respected at a time when they didn’t take themselves so seriously, with an inward knowledge that awards are essentially irrelevant, but are a great excuse for a party.



thank” second acceptance speech. Meanwhile, the Brits’ token nod to up and coming music — The Coral, The Kings of Leon and the excellent Dizzie Rascal, despite several nominations, all left empty handed.

Even more dull than these predictable winners was the shocking level of mediocrity. Dido, still ruling on high as queen of the inoffensive, picked up no less than two awards, and her bestselling, sadistically dreary album was nominated as the year’s best. Then there was the performance from newcomers Katie Melua and Jamie Cullum, combining the forces of two of the most shamelessly Dido-esque purveyors of unimaginative, trite music, only in circulation because your gran decided he/she

The lesbian du jour

True acceptance or fashionable exploitation? *Kirsty Parkin* seeks the modern lesbian in the eyes of the consumer.

“**L**esbianism is like yoga,” asserts journalist *Kate Spicer* in *The Sunday Times’ Style* magazine. Spicer goes on to state that female homosexuality was once “something alien and spooky, only practised in communes by people with dungarees and excess hair.

Nowadays, it’s a required activity for any evolved, image-conscious, girl-on-girl about town”. The latest designer package, lesbian chic, evolved out of the nineties’ ‘lipstick lesbian’ (epitomised by *Vanity Fair’s* 1993 evocative cover shot of *Kd Lang* and *Cindy Crawford*). Over the past few years we’ve seen *Sarah Michelle Gellar* win ‘best kiss’ at the *MTV* awards 2000 for her Sapphic snog in *Cruel Intentions*, and *Sex and the City’s* *Samantha* become a ‘lesbian du jour’.



The luscious lesbian has been glamorised in the advertising of fashion giants *Gucci*, *Moschino* and *Patrick Cox*, to name but a few, and *Tatu* climbed the charts amidst a shroud of sexual controversy. Most recently, we were even treated to some three-way action from *Madonna*, *Britney* and *Christina*! But don’t all

chasing AMY



rush to celebrate the end of the homophobic era. We really have to question this newfound popularity and consider, just what kind of lesbian has been allowed to come out in popular culture?

In the cult film *Chasing Amy*, *Ben Affleck’s* character *Holden* is told that society has “got this bull picture of lipstick lesbians in their head” and that “most of them look more like you”. Although the film seems to identify lesbian chic as commercial hype, it ultimately reaffirms the butch stereotype. It also seems to validate that old homophobic chestnut: that the lesbian can be ‘turned’ straight by the right bloke. And hang on, isn’t this the same plot of *Affleck’s* recent flop *Gigli* in which he woos *Jennifer Lopez* from a life of lesbianism?

Ben Affleck’s testosterone must be intoxicating! In *Chasing Amy*, pseudo-lesbian *Alyssa* becomes alienated from her (notably more butch) friends when they discover that she has fallen for a man. The lesbian community are again depicted as bitter and belligerent when *Holden’s* roommate compares *Alyssa*—the “male-affectionate, easy to get along with, non-political agenda lesbian” to the *Easter bunny* and *Father Christmas*, saying that they are all fakes. He then asserts that the lesbian’s sole identity is as a “man-hating, angry as hell, agenda of rage, bitter dyke”. The film proves him right.

Hollywood ‘chick flick’ *Kissing Jessica Stein* also epitomises lesbian chic in its depiction of a journalist and

gallery owner as two trendy apprentices of lesbian-lite. The women exchange style tips and compliments and the film reaches a new level of cringe when *Jessica* states: “I didn’t realise that lesbians accessorised so much”. And as busy *Jessica* finds *Helen* through a lonely-hearts advertisement after a string of comically unsuccessful dates, the film suggests that lesbianism is merely a desperate measure for the career woman. Female homosexuality is presented as a combination of the singleton’s anxious desperation and the notion that being ‘anti’ is just so not this season! No surprises at the end of the film when their relationship has become sexless, they vow to remain best friends and *Jessica* resumes dating her ex-fiancé.

But maybe I’m being too cynical. Perhaps the proliferation of images in popular culture of fashionable, sexy women with lesbian preferences gives female homosexuality fresh representation. Maybe this commercial revamp has the potential to banish the stereotype of the militant, man-hating butch. But one does have to be wary that the glitz and glamour of lesbian chic could result in trivialising lesbianism, commodifying it into a fashion accessory, and making it a fad as opposed to a life choice. It seems that today, in our increasingly post-modern age, lesbianism, like the mini skirt or *Mohican*, is a volatile commodity, rotating on the fickle wheel of revival fashion.

Let's get free with naturism

In these modern stressful times, you too can be at one with nature, writes *Ben McClelland*

I'm sure that through some medium or another, most of you will have heard of the concept of naturism, which is also referred to by some as nudism.

Generally, the term nudism refers to the practice of going naked in the company of other people - be they spouse, family, friends or whoever - other than for the purposes of sex. So you can be an at-home nudist, if you go naked in your own home with your significant other even when you're not getting cuddly. You can be a social nudist if you go skinny-dipping (mixed company or not), go to nude beaches, that sort of thing, like me. The term naturism describes choosing to live the clothes-free lifestyle in the sense that you are giving something back to nature, not being naked just for the fun of it. In my opinion, the difference between the two terms has no real significance, as it only serves to separate those who believe themselves to belong to a different ideology, when in reality they are derived from the same thing.

So now you have an idea of what it's all about, or what it means at least. However, you may still be thinking 'why?'. It all started for me when I was about fifteen. I was in bed, it was summer and it was uncomfortably warm at night. The only reasonable solution was to sleep naked in a bid to cool down. After that it became more of a habit to strip off every night and, personally, I found it more comfortable. By allowing air to travel freely over the entire body, the body is better able to distribute heat. This allows you to actually be

warmer in the winter (under blankets of course) and cooler in the summer. After sleeping nude, I began to feel more comfortable with nudity and I tended to care less where I got changed or whether or not I had a towel on to go back into my room after having a shower. But the big step came when I went to Spain about two years ago; it was then that I went to my first nudist beach and I've been hooked on the lifestyle ever since; I've even started to do some life modelling. Take my word for it, it pays well! If you're still in doubt about the whole idea, I've comprised a list of compelling reasons which will hopefully have you convinced.

Swimming nude is better:

You don't have to fight the waves to keep your swimsuit on.

The water feels better against your bare skin than a wet swimsuit.

When you leave the water, a swimsuit is all wet, cold and takes ages to dry, making your towel wet too.

When swimming nude you won't get sand in your suit.

Fewer clothing and laundry hassles

Nudity reduces laundry costs and god knows we need the money!

Less washing reduces wear and fading, which in turn reduces how often you need to buy new clothes.

Eating nude considerably reduces the chances of spilled food staining and ruining your garments.

Deciding what to wear becomes a trivial decision instead of an often stressful one.

Sunbathing nude is better:

Sunbathing nude prevents those nasty tan lines and allows the entire body to benefit from the positive effects of the sun

Nudity may improve fertility

Being nude allows the male sex organs to better adapt to changes



in temperature. Tight, restrictive clothing inhibits the body's natural mechanism for doing so, which could cause reduced fertility

The main thing is not to associate nudity with sex, as is the common misconception. After all, we shower nude and are nude when getting changed without the issue of sex interfering. Nudism or naturism is a preference, just the same as a favourite colour or the way you dress, and should not be socially stigmatised. It doesn't matter if you're male or female, tattooed, pierced or otherwise: it's all about body acceptance and appreciation.

Living clothes-free is still your choice, however, and it's not something that I'd force upon somebody. I would urge you to give it a try though. After all, we only live once! You don't even have to wait until you next go on holiday to try it. There is a swim in Dover every Sunday as well as Silverleigh, Eureka and Invicta Sun Club, all of which cater for the nude lifestyle. If you want to know more, feel free to email me at bjrm2@kent.ac.uk. Oh and by the way, it's not like you haven't seen it all before!



Breathe and stop

Katie Roberts says 'no' to smoking in public, and hopes that you, and the government, will do so too

On 20th January of this year at Kent Union's Annual General Meeting, a motion was proposed to ban smoking on all Union premises where food is served. Due to lack of support, the motion was rejected.

Despite this, Kent Union's recent decision to create a non-smoking area in The Lighthouse indicates the increasing concern of such businesses for their non-smoking patrons.

There is great controversy over whether a total ban on smoking in public places, including pubs and restaurants, is an infringement on human rights. However, bans such as these have been successfully enforced in both California and New York in America, and a ban will come into place in Ireland on March 29.

No doubt if the government were to act on the increasing demand from the general public for a public smoking ban, there would be outrage from those amongst us who smoke. However, as a non-smoker myself, I feel that if smokers were aware of the often terrifying statistics on the effects of passive smoking, they may themselves agree that they have no right to cause that scale of damage to others.

Environmental Tobacco Smoke, or ETS, is made up of the smoke exhaled by smokers, and the 'side stream smoke', the smoke that just burns off the end of a cigarette/cigar.

This ETS alone contains up to 4000 chemicals, 200 of which are poisons such as carbon monoxide and arsenic. All of these nasty ingredients make second-hand smoke a 'Class A carcinogen', a carcinogen being a cancer causing substance.

Although a smoker's main given defence is that they are only harming themselves by smoking, it has been estimated that up to 85% of

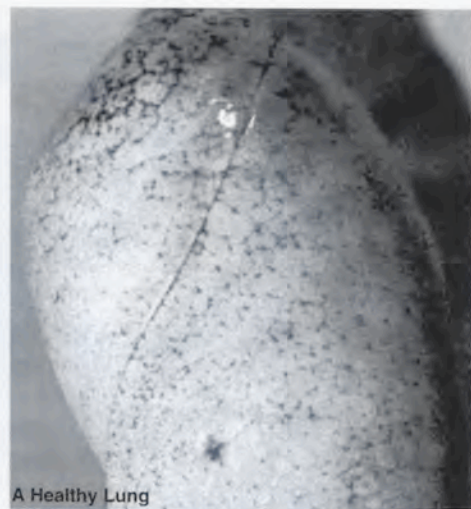
smoke from a cigarette is left hanging in the air for anyone to breathe. The inevitable passive smoking that follows causes up to 600 lung cancer deaths and around 12,000 cases of heart disease in non-smokers per year in the UK.

But if these facts and figures haven't convinced you of the need to ban public smoking, how about a couple of my personal anecdotes. I quit my much needed job in a certain local drinking establishment earlier this term, in large part due to the adverse effects smoky air was having on my health. By the time I finished work, my throat was raw and I could barely talk, not to mention the stinkiness of my smoky clothes and hair.

More recently, I was forced to glare and cough irritably at a very rude woman who insisted on holding her cigarette by my face as I tried to eat a meal. I'm not saying all smokers are this inconsiderate, and I don't even think it is the responsibility of smokers to protect the health of non-smokers. This responsibility lies with the government, and for this reason I feel it is only right that a public smoking ban will most likely be in place in the UK by 2010.

Of course, a public smoking ban wouldn't just protect innocent bystanders from passive smoking. It would also go a way to protecting smokers from their own habit. The shock tactics used in anti-smoking TV adverts are all very well, but surely the best way to stop people smoking is to make it more difficult for them.

So, to address some of the inevitable complaints to the suggestion of a public smoking ban. Firstly, isn't it sufficient just to have non-smoking areas? The answer to this question is a resounding 'no', unless the two areas are completely separated by a wall. Even then, workers would still be put at risk if expected to work in a smoking area. Although The Lighthouse management should be commended for accepting the need for a non-smoking area, it is a sad fact that a mere velvet rope between areas is not enough to prevent vile and relentless cigarette smoke from per-



A Healthy Lung



A cancerous lung

meating the entire room.

Another argument might be that if non-smokers choose to go to a pub, they must accept that people there are going to want to smoke socially. Apart from the fact that smoking is actually a very anti-social and unattractive habit, at least to non-smokers anyway, why should people who have the good sense not to indulge in an incredibly unhealthy activity be put off from a night out for fear of being fatally damaged by other people's smoke?

The truth is, smoking is an exceptionally harmful activity that kills smokers and non-smokers alike, and thus costs the already over-burdened and under-funded NHS billions of pounds a year in treating preventable illnesses. It seems that for once, Britain should follow America's example, and make the UK a smoke-free zone for good.

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Oscars through the ages

Andy Farrant takes a look at the history of the Oscars, culminating in this year's 76th event

By the time you read this the 76th annual academy awards will be over, and if there is any justice in the world, Bill Murray will have won a best actor Oscar. In (potential) celebration of this momentous occasion, here's KRED's very brief history of the Academy Awards. The Academy Awards have been taking place since 1929, just after the movies had started to talk.

The first ceremony took place at a banquet held in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel with an attendance of 250 and tickets costing \$10.

Surprisingly for an Oscar ceremony, the event was not hosted by Billy Crystal. Back then, the winners were known prior to the event.

Results were given in advance to the newspapers for publication at 11 p.m. on the night of the Awards. In 1940, guests arriving for the awards could actually buy the 8:45 p.m. edition of the Los Angeles Times and read the winners. As a result, the academy adopted the sealed-envelope system the year after, which remains in use today.

However easy it was to predict the winners of the 1940 awards, by just reading the results and announcing the facts to your impressed looking friends, the awards are a lot harder to second guess today. In 1989 the Academy did a short segment entitled "Oscar winners of tomorrow", whereby they wheeled out 19 young actors they thought had it in them to win an Oscar in the future, and then made them dance around for a while. To put this in perspective, not a single one of them has won, or even been nominated for an Oscar yet, and the list included queen of white trash, Ricki Lake, Rob Lowe's less talented brother Chad, and Corey Feldman dancing like Michael Jackson. Corey Feldman? Nice pick, Academy.

The coveted Oscar weighs 8.5 pounds and stands 13.5 inches tall and depicts a knight holding a crusader's sword, standing on a reel of

film with five spokes, signifying the original branches of the Academy: Actors, Writers, Directors, Producers and Technicians. The name is rumoured to have begun after Academy librarian and eventual executive director Margaret Herrick said that the statuette looked like her Uncle Oscar. Despite being named after a librarian's terrifying foot-tall, eyeless, gold-plated shrieking uncle the awards quickly became highly prized and one of the major reasons for the decline in kickass zombie movies, and the rise in the number of films about people with terminal dis-



eases and low I.Q.'s. So highly prized in fact, that on March 10, 2000, 55 Academy Awards mysteriously vanished en route from Chicago. Nine days later, 52 of the stolen statuettes were discovered next to a skip in the Koreatown section of Los Angeles. The other three were never found, although surprisingly no-one thought to search Robert Downey Junior's house.

Throughout the years the Oscar has changed somewhat, Walt Disney was awarded a normal sized statuette and seven miniature versions in recognition of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, a popular ventriloquist was awarded a wooden version with a moving mouth, and dur-

ing the war, recipients were given plaster statues to be traded in for gold ones after the hostilities ceased.

SPECIAL FEATURE! HOW TO WIN AN OSCAR!

In a recently conducted poll, 100% of the people in my living room would like to win an Oscar. Well now you can, simply by following this blueprint from your friends at KRED!

Director: Ron Howard

Cast: Tom Hanks, Russell Crowe, Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt

Plot Synopsis: Tom Hanks plays Jimmy Niceman, an orphanage architect with a psychic but intellectually subnormal son that he must teach the difference between right and wrong while trying to get over the death of his wife from a mysterious wasting disease. His best friend Fighty McSensitive, played by Russell Crowe, is a rough and tumble schizophrenic ex civil war general, whose gruff exterior belies his emotional and sensitive interior as he seeks to bring down the racial barriers that are tearing his town apart. Meanwhile, local waitress Helen Hunt has glasses and slightly untidy hair. And perhaps a prosthetic nose. At some point she will take off the glasses and let her hair down and Jimmy Niceman will fall in love with her. But watch out! Jack Nicholson is Cranko Gruffly, a bluff old curmudgeon deadened inside by his rise to the top of the international supervillainy business who is trying to steal her away. Include at least three of the following:

- 1) Tearful death bed scene
- 2) Two characters running out into the rain and shouting "What is it you want from me?"
- 3) One of the characters reconnecting with the innocence of their childhood
- 4) Symbolic shot of a wilting rose
- 5) An awkward father/son relationship that says more through pregnant silences than mere words ever could
- 6) Two kids trying to reunite their divorced parents with the help of a sassy orang-utan, escaped from the zoo
- 7) Robert DeNiro

And there's your Oscar! enjoy, and don't forget to thank me when you're up on that podium. Damn ungrateful Spielberg...

The spin-off phenomenon

With favourite characters making popular programmes, is the spin off more successful than the original?

The spin-off series is an interesting phenomenon. It occurs when the makers of a series realise they are on to a good thing and decide to find a way to exploit more money out of it. Thus the spin-off series is born.

This has a strong enough link with the first series to capture the audience's interest — usually one of the characters crossing over — creating enough of a following to keep making money. But the important question surrounding them is... are they any good? Are they actually worthwhile viewing or do they just exist to keep the hardcore fans of the first series happy? When the words 'spin-off series' are mentioned, one show with its multiple spawning springs to mind: Star Trek.

This is not the only one though, there was also Buffy The Vampire Slayer, which of course spawned Angel; Casualty which spawned Holby City; Happy Days which spawned Mork and Mindy, and Friends is due to spawn Joey when the show comes to a close later this year.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer started in 1997 as a mid-summer replacement to break the cycle of repeats being shown, and ended up a cult show. It focused around a teenage girl, Buffy (Sarah Michelle Geller) and her double life as a high school student and a vampire slayer. The show follows her dealing with

both the everyday problems of being a teenager and the problems of being the slayer. One of the most interesting dilemmas Buffy faced was one most girls experience, that of having an older boyfriend that rather obviously her mum wouldn't approve of. The difference for Buffy is that Angel, her boyfriend, is about 120 years older than her, oh, and also he's dead. It was from this dilemma that the idea of the spin off series grew. Angel (David Boreanaz) was an immensely popular character, not just for his extremely good looks but also for his clear love for Buffy. When he moved to Los Angeles because he could not be with her, the new series was born — imaginatively entitled Angel. Buffy, after its seventh series, has finally come to a close but Angel is still going strong and is arguably the better of the two.

Casualty, BBC1's medical drama has been on our screens for years, with several generations following the lives of people like Charlie, Baz and Duffy through their work in A&E in a hospital near London. This is one of the most successful dramas the BBC has ever produced, so when it was announced that there was a spin-off series being made dubbed Holby City, there were some misgivings. But to the relief of fans everywhere Holby City has become almost as popular as the original. It is set on a ward in the same hospital as Casualty so there is often a crossover between the characters and story lines, making it compulsive to watch both.

Friends, follows the same imaginative naming scheme as all the programs mentioned, and is one of the most famous series ever created, starring six people — all friends - Rachel, Joey, Phoebe, Monica, Ross



and strangely feminine Chandler going about their lives in New York. This show is currently in its last series and has been so popular that the spin off series (which you had to expect) has been made to try and keep the phenomenon going and the money rolling. Already serious doubts as to the quality of this show are being voiced. A lot of people believe that the reason Friends worked so well was because of the chemistry between the six people. In a show about just one of them this will inevitably be lost, but as all of the other five members have pledged to make guest appearances, fans will inevitably tune in anyway.

These are just a few of the most memorable spin-off series around today, and needless to say with producers always wanting to make more money, I doubt these are going to be the last. What next I hear you ask, will brand new series be written with a spin off series already in mind even before it has gone to air? The spin-off series is a marvel which will always be around so long as the die-hard fans will be there to watch them. Whether they are worth the time and money they take to make can only be decided by future audiences...



Family Guy monster box set

Family Guy, one of the most outrageous animated shows on tv, has been released in its entirety in a 10 disc box set. The box contains all three series in the same format as their separate dvd releases, but also contains a collection of bonus material.

The highlight of the bonus discs has to be the 'Series Overview' featurette, covering all areas of the series, including the writing, voices and censorship issue. 'Family Guy Uncensored' goes into more depth about the problems with creating such a close to the bone comedy, and there is another behind the scenes featurette with more extra information on the show.

The bonus material also includes a 'Plot Pitch' showing the original version of episode one, complete with crude animation and bizarre looking characters, and there are lots of animatics, showing how each scene is planned before being fully animated.

One very welcome feature of the box set which wasn't in the original releases is a series of directors commentaries. Both bonus discs contain a combined 14 episodes with commentary by Seth MacFarlane, the creator, and several of the voice actors from the series. Add to this a collection of TV Spots and the bonus material really makes this a great box set.

If you already own all three series separately, it may prove quite expensive to buy this set just for the bonus material alone, but if you are quite new to family guy, or have only just started your collection, this compendium box set really is worth getting if only for the series themselves.

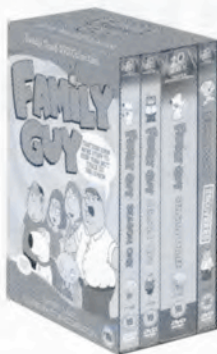
KKKKKK Series
KKKK Bonus Material *Matt Pawsey*

Competition!

To win yourself a brand new Family Guy box set, answer the following Family Guy question:

In which town do the Griffin family live?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



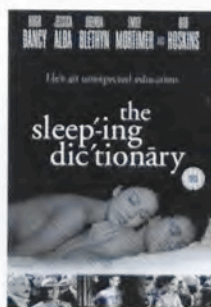
Sleeping Dictionary

The Sleeping Dictionary has never had a theatrical release and was unfortunately branded 'straight to video'. The reason this is unfortunate is not that the film is amazing, but given the above average cast (Bob Hoskins and Emily Mortimer among others) and a more than adequate production, The Sleeping Dictionary would probably have fared well on a general release.

The Plot is centred on a young Englishman (Hugh Dancy) who moves to Borneo in the 30s to teach them an English education. IN order to do so he needs to pick up the lan-

guage in the easiest way - enter Jessica Alba as the sleeping dictionary, apparently the English learn better when sleeping with their tutor. A standard romance ensues, but not one that will over bore. A good film for the quiet nights with a loved one.

KKKK *Matt Pawsey*



DVD Reviews

Angel Season 4

The cult TV show Angel is now in its fifth series, with Angel (surprise surprise!) still battling the forces of evil. The season's opening episode is refreshingly different, with a character-swap from Buffy taking place, meaning that viewers yet again get to sample the delights of Harmony and Spike (who becomes a major character in the season). The Spike/Angel plot works well this time around and manages not to become too trite even in the big show down between the two in the final episode. The actual storylines of the episodes are a bit dubious at times, leaving the viewer pulling unconvinced faces as they unfold, but for a show in its fifth series it does well to reach the standards that it does. If you are a hardcore Angel fan I doubt you'll be disappointed.



KKKK *Jess Slack*

The Best of Buffy

Watching Buffy on television is all very well but it's nice to be able to watch Buffy whenever you fancy (I should know!). The DVDs of Buffy the Vampire Slayer contain the selection of episodes, as well as having some intriguing extras, including trailers for episodes and, more interestingly, interviews with the cast and people behind the scenes. Anyone who likes Buffy, or has an interest in the background of the storylines will enjoy watching the interviews. They give away amusing stories from behind the scenes, and insightful thoughts about the characters. If you're an avid Buffy fan, you should definitely get your hands on the DVD version of the series; even if you know a lot about the series, you may learn something you don't already know!



KKKKKK *Stephanie Davies*

Competition time!

Max

Pathe Distribution have given us three copies of Max, starring John Cusack, to give away on DVD.

To enter, answer the question below:

John Cusack starred alongside Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman in which recent cinema release?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004

Max is out to rent and buy now



Texas Chainsaw Massacre

The remake of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre is out to rent and buy from 29 March 2004 and we have two copies on VHS to give away care of Entertainment In Video.

To win yourself one of the videos, answer this question:

In what year was the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre released?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



X-Files Season 8

We have two copies of the X-Files Season 8 box set on DVD to give away, from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.

To enter, please send us the answer to this question:

Which start of Terminator 2 plays John Doggett, Scully's newest partner?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004

The X-Files Season 8 box set is out to rent and buy from 15 March



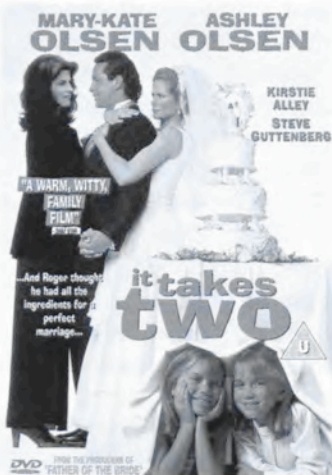
It Takes Two

It Takes Two, starring Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, is out on 29 March, and we have two DVDs to give away courtesy of Entertainment In Video.

To win yourself a copy, complete the following title of their hit TV programme:

So Little...

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



What's Eating Gilbert Grape?

What's Eating Gilbert Grape will be re-released on 29 March on DVD and Entertainment In Video have given us two copies to give away.

To win one, simply answer the following question:

In the film, who plays Johnny Depp's love interest?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



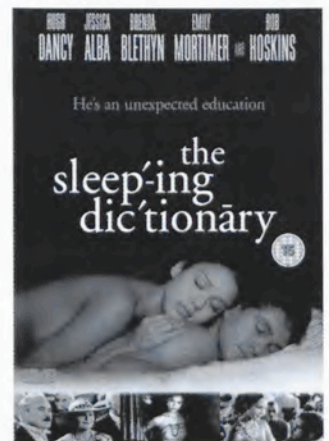
The Sleeping Dictionary

The Sleeping Dictionary, starring Dark Angel's Jessica Alba, is out to rent and buy from 29 March and we have two DVDs to give away thanks to Entertainment In Video.

For your own copy, answer this question:

Question to go in here!

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



Mellow's 'Perfect Colours'

Launching their long awaited third album, Patrick Woodcock from Mellow chats with *Layla Brokenbrow*

When asked to sum up the philosophy behind "Perfect Colours," Patrick replied "It is a certain type of music, the sort with no barriers. We don't want to be considered just a guitar based electronic band. This album is based on innovation and sincerity, we aim to be different, and we're not afraid to take risks."

It is a sentiment which Patrick and fellow band member Pierre Begon-Lours have had no trouble



achieving. For "Perfect Colours" is certainly risky, artistically fusing new sounds with references as broad as Joni Mitchell, Beatles, Pink Floyd to hard core rhythm sets. It is an album that deals with the subtleties of life, Patrick commenting that the album was loosely designed to lead the listener on a journey through the freshness of the country into the greys and blacks permeating urban life. The result is a complex layering of atmosphere and landscape, textually integrated through the interweaving of trance-like lyrics.

As a former member of Air, Patrick is inevitably peppered with comparisons between the two bands, and it wasn't long before the conversation touched upon this sensitive area. Whilst conceding a degree of Mellow's colour was inherited from his time with Air, he considers his move was very much a natural progression that offered the chance to take his individual expression in a new, more exciting direction. And that was that. He was certainly happier to discuss his friendship with Roman Coppola, for whom Mellow recorded the soundtrack of his debut film *CQ* over nine



months of intense work. Roman even made a guest appearance in their 2nd album "Dragon Fly" playing the drums during 'Between the Lines'. But I digress.

"Perfect Colours" is a groundbreaking album, with a sophisticated blend of acoustic and electronic, synth and drum that clearly reflects the duo's diverse musical history. It is full of quirky surprises, like the track 'Love Ain't the Answer' produced with Markus Dravs who also works with Bjork, and 'Out of Reach', their most difficult song, not least because it is characterised by unusual ruptures, saturated guitar, cello and a French horn!

Looking to the future, Mellow plan to be on our shores this month to perform during the London festival, and if they bring the same passion to playing live as they do in the recording studio then it will be a gig not be missed.

Homelands takes off

Nick Madeira attends the launch of this year's Homelands festival

It's nearly 8 o'clock and the line up for one of the UK's most fondly attended dance festivals has just been announced. Among those headlining are Faithless, and their very own Sister Bliss is firing up the decks, as London's Point 101 seethes with press packers and free drink. Yet no-one is dancing. My girlfriend suggests that we are really in a pub and the music is for atmosphere more than anything. I'm inclined to agree, but this doesn't stop me from wanting to exclaim "It's Sister Bliss!", and dance 'til dawn.

Oh well, I'm sure the festival itself will be a different story. As well as the vast talents of Faithless, Homelands 2004 promises Grandmaster Flash, Erick Morillo, Mr Scruff, The Plump DJs and The Music, to highlight a mere cross sec-

tion. Evidently it's not just big names that draw the crowds — these are big names exceptional for their live performances. Mr Scruff, The Plump DJs and bootleg supremo Erol Alkan are established crowd-pleasers, while Roni Size and Faithless come with full band privileges. In a similar vane, London Elektric and Ty represent the new wave of live jazz, touching on drum and bass and UK hip hop respectively. As for Grandmaster Flash, we may yet see The Winchester Bowl become one giant block party.

So there's no doubt that the names will impress, and be lived up to. But what of the atmosphere - what is it that makes Homelands 2004 the festival to catch? Hitting off at the end of May, Homelands will be the first 17 solid hours of the season, and that has got to count for something, as should the £54 tickets. It is, as one veteran goer assures me, unique. But with the addition of a dedicated hip hop stage and a new emphasis on

rock helmed by The Music's sole festival appearance, this could be Homelands' year to draw fans both old and new.

Whilst most mainstream festivals have a token dance tent or two, and many dance festivals thrive on DJs, Homelands is offering a living rush of party action, and that's something you can't argue with. Indeed, Sister Bliss herself is looking forward to sharing stage honours with Her fellow Sisters Scissor. Having seen them the night before, she for one sounds excited at the prospect of the 2004 line-up. So while the collective pride of the press conference massive may inhibit the dancing tonight, it's clear that Sister Bliss will be leading tens of thousands in the dance come the 29th of May.

For the full line-up and booking details, visit www.welovehomelands.com

Album Reviews

Courtney Love - America's Sweetheart



Why is it that whenever a singer who was originally in a band turns solo, the quality of the music that the singer produces never match that of before? Courtney Love is no exception. Yes, her voice is still great to listen to, but honestly, I really can't stand more than four tracks of this album, filled with songs that all sound the same.



Corey Ohira

Divine Comedy - Absent Friends



The Divine Comedy's seventh album gravitates back towards the styles in their earlier material. The orchestrations are a little more prominent, and Hannon's sharp and witty writing is present and correct. The tone is mostly upbeat, but with many poignant moments throughout. Some lyrics are a little trite, but in those cases the cheerful, intricate writing makes up for it. The album takes a little while to get into, but there's a lot of human warmth here as Neil Hannon tells short stories in his relaxed, characteristic style. On the whole, it's worth a listen, and any fan of The Divine Comedy should be satisfied.



Alex Pounds

Jason Sparks - Heroes and Villains



Not many producers can pull off cinematic sentimentality one moment and serial breaker beats the next. In both genre and geography, it's the classic debate of 'club versus lounge', a challenge that faces all good dance albums. But Sparks passes the test with flying colours. The club tracks live up to the title — from dramatic fills and punchy basslines to lush waves of digital euphoria — and any DJ would happily push the macroscopic Heroes or the pulsing Soul Taker. Yet the obligatory slower moments don't deaden the disco nerves, instead offering up crispy beats and compelling vocals. Heroes and Villains is essential for anyone who thrived on atmospheric dance records in the late nineties. A staggering debut.



Nick Madeira

The Belles - Omerta



This two-piece band from Kansas remind me somewhat of Belle and Sebastian. It is an album that grows on you, especially songs like Never Said Anything, tipped to be their first single from the album. This is a catchy song yet meaningful at the same time. Omerta has its mellow tunes and laid back beats and is worth a listen, although I can't imagine it rocketing to the top of the charts.



Tamasine Johnson

Deckard - Dreams of Dynamite and Divinity



The album starts with shuddering thunderclaps and a crescendo of noise...before merging into a monotonous beat which sets the tone for the whole album. Whilst there is nothing terribly bad about Deckard, there is nothing unique: standard indie chords provide the backing for a standard indie voice. Deckard never really let go, and as a result seem stuck in limbo. That said the songs themselves are well written, with some nice harmonies and plenty to get into, especially if you are bored of the regularity of Coldplay and Travis. Lead singer Chris Gordon, whilst not being top of the pile, has a well defined voice that seems to truly feel the lyrics and carries plenty of emotion. You feel that Deckard's live performances are probably very different to the album, as the studio seems to make them a little two dimensional.



Matt Pawsey

Yellowcard - Ocean Avenue



Another punk rock band high on angst, Yellowcard serve anger as standard in the constantly up beat music that they deliver. Though there are moments of reflective instrumental within some of the tracks, it serves only as contrast before they pump up the volume and return to their slightly samey sound that they conform to.



Andy Capone

Graham Coxon - Freakin' Out

This song, by ex-Blur guitarist Graham Coxon, feels like the exuberant outpouring of a man free from the musical restraints placed upon him, and in marked contrast to Blur's current mellow, introspective direction, it happily bounces along in a frenzied haze of power chords and super-fast arpeggios. Coxon has produced an awesomely enjoyable single that, through its sheer sense of fun, proves that there is life after Blur.

KKKKK

Andy Farrant

Gomez - Catch Me Up

One of Britain's most unique sounding bands finally return, sadly it appears they have deserted the ship they custom built and sailed to Mercury Prize winning success in '98. Catch Me Up sounds like a desperate attempt to cling to the coat tails of Casablanca and Skelly (The Strokes/The Coral) as they tone down the mish/mash wall of eclectic sound that used to distinguish them from the rest of the crowd.

KK

Luke Nicholson

Norah Jones - Sunrise

Sunrise is mellow and enjoyable, an easy listening track. It is not perhaps comparable to the standard of previous releases, but its simplicity in lyrics and melody work because of the obvious vocal beauty. The distinctive Norah Jones sound ensures that any fans will like it.

KKKK

Laura Walters

Kylie - Red Blooded Woman

As always Kylie knows the pulse of the day. This sensual and sexy lady sings with a tease that will make you go naughty. This computer manipulated track has underlying deep breaths and a distant humming choir that creates a myriad of beats that just makes you want to move. The fast beating pulse has been replaced by a regular beat, with Kylie giving every feminine and sensual side of herself to the mic.

KKKKK

Heidi-Marika Kristensen

Adam Masterton - Sunlight Song

Masterton has an incredibly captivating voice, a superb rock vocal talent that is reminiscent to that of Richard Ashcroft or Kelly Jones (Masterton in fact supported the Stereophonics on their last US tour). Citing his influences as Dylan and Neil Young, Sunlight Song emerges as an acoustic gem.

KKKK

Amy London

The Vines - Ride

In releasing Ride, The Vines are clearly trying to emulate the success of their excellent single Get Free. Ride is a similar exercise in screeching guitars and incomprehensible screaming, but lacks the fierce urgency of its predecessor. That said, it is by no means a bad single, the verse lurches and swerves excellently, but it is toward a rather lacklustre chorus that lets it down.

KKKK

Andy Farrant

M Craft - I Can See it All Tonight

This six track mini album is definitely a mixed bag. 'Dragonfly' is a very nice folky, lying-in-the-grass acoustic number that definitely stands out. M Craft seem to have got a bit over excited with experimentation from track four onwards, apart from the last track which is lyricless, minimal and one of the most moving tracks on the album. Some times less is more.

KKKK

Mark Crow

No Doubt - Bathwater

Proving faithful to their fans, Bathwater continues a long tradition of an ear catching beat and freaky pop. The mixing of synthesizer sound and an electric guitar gives the track its groovy sound that makes the song distinct. Compared to It's my Life that tends to take off in a climax like most No Doubt hits, Bathwater tends to be more melodious and balanced. Definitely another good tune for mild head banging and rhythmic and sensual moves.

KKKK

Heidi-Marika Kristensen

Single Reviews

The Von Bondies - C'mon C'mon

This is just over two minutes of punchy indie rock with an excellent sing along chorus. This will have indie discos all over the land bouncing with its youthful exuberance. As cool as the bands asymmetrical hair cuts.

KKKKK

Mark Crow

N*E*R*D - She Wants to Move

As an enticing preview to their forthcoming album, ('Fly or Die') NERD have served up a treat with their new single 'She Wants To Move'. Fusing sexy, dynamic, flamenco-style guitar riffs, piano and shades of rhythm with undertones of British pop and classic rock influences, Pharrell, Chad and Shay demonstrate their acute musical mastery once more in the creation of this intoxicating little number that you'll want to drive, chill and yes; move to.

KKKKK

Lara Swansbury

Damien Rice - Volcano

Rice's raw acoustic sound is unique. His haunting vocal talent is intense and moving and the simple use of string instruments provide a delicately moody background. Volcano is original and intelligent.

KKKKK

Laura Walters

Haven - Wouldn't Change a Thing

Haven are in many ways a criminally underrated band. Hopefully, their latest offering, Wouldn't Change a Thing will go a long way to changing that. In this song Haven do what they do best; a beautifully executed guitar ballad, with a soaring chorus that leaves you feeling uplifted, and like the world isn't such a bad place after all. Fellas, if you forgot Valentine's Day play your girlfriend this; she'll love it.

KKKKK

Kerstin Twachtmann

Live Reviews

The Darkness rock Folkestone

The Darkness replay the postponed gig in Folkestone, 8 February

With the Darkness' last concert postponed in October due to Justin's suspected throat infection, I was ecstatic when they finally appeared on the Folkestone stage in February, dispelling media suspicions of throat cancer by Justin declaring in a most sarcastic tone that he was through the worst of it.

However before the mighty Darkness graced us with their presence there was a degree of endurance the audience had to undergo. Despite the appearance of Vic Reeves in the balcony; the support act, Goldie Looking Chain, were certainly not worth waiting an hour and a half for.

This Newport rap band whose website contains a dictionary of phrases they use in their songs were absolutely, chronically terrible.

Perhaps their tour with The Streets the following week would have suited them better, but I have never felt an audience more ready to riot that when after half an hour the band closed with the epic Your mother has a penis! However we were soon all ready for the now triple BRIT-award winning heroes to take the stage and when they did the atmosphere became electric!

To see such a massive world rocking band in such a small intimate

place made this gig the best I have been too. We jumped, we shouted, we sweated lots and we were in awe. The highlights included Growing On Me (which incidentally is about genital crabs) Friday Night, and as Justine introduced it the "power ballad" which is to be their new single, Love is Only a Feeling.

Obviously Justin's fantastic cat suits were present, ranging from dazzling red, barbershop pole hipsters and an amazing sparkling number for the encore.

I heard the band on Radio 1 the next day and when asked if the gig had gone well, they said it was excellent based on the fact some woman flashed her chest at them. This woman, I am sorry to say, was not me. However it was the woman next to me whose friends thought it was funny to undo her bra while she sat on the shoulders of her boyfriend; Justin looked genuinely shocked, although later he did pass the pair of pants subsequently thrown at him to his roadie for safe keeping. This was a fantastic gig, made even better when Justin was carried on the shoulders of a roadie through the crowd playing his guitar!

This was an amazing show, with astounding live music from the band. I would love to tip The Darkness for the top; but they are already there; so instead I shall just say I hope they stay there for many years to come!

Tamasine Johnson

The White Stripes

The success of The White Stripes, a band that on paper seems destined to fail (a brother and sister putting a modern spin on classic country and blues), has forced record companies to realise that risks can still be taken in music; just look at the rise of The Darkness.

However, this didn't seem to be in the minds of the crowd at Alexandra Palace as Jack and Meg White took to stage in their customary matching red and black outfits. The tone of the evening was established in the first few bars of set opener Black Math; Jack yelped and ran between microphones like an excitable child, all the while Meg pounded the drums with simple, hypnotic rhythms.



The set comprised mainly of songs from White Blood Cells and Elephant, although every album was represented; the brilliant When I Hear My Name showing that material from their first album can still cut it live.

While songs such as Cannon and Let's Shake Hands worked the crowd into a frenzy, there were beautiful moments of calm; most notably Meg leaving her drums to sing In the Cold, Cold Night. An epic version of Ball and Biscuit showed the bands musical ability and influences to the full, while a text book Hotel Yorba showed how to do the simple thing excellently. Rounding off the show with an awesome encore, including a rendition of the Joss Stone cover of Fell In Love With A Girl, it seems that one of the most important bands around can still put on one of the best shows London is likely to see for a long time - or at least until their next visit.

Tom Conway



Do you whack your Google?

One man has made Googlewhacking an international phenomenon. *Jenny Palmer and Andy Farrant meet Dave Gorman*

What would you do if someone told you you were a Googlewhack? You would probably think they were insulting you with strange new slang words and leave it at that. What you probably wouldn't do is embark on a three month, round the world journey seeking out these Googlewhacks, and then base a best selling Edinburgh festival show and sell out national tour on your experiences. Confused? Let us explain...

Stand-up comedian and writer Dave Gorman, best known for his series "Are you Dave Gorman?" where he travelled the world obsessively meeting people with the same name as him, started 2003 with the intention of growing up, growing a beard and writing a serious novel, leaving such obsessive childish pursuits behind him. It was through an inability to buckle down and get on with his novel that a new obsession, this time with googlewhacks, was born. A googlewhack is very simply two words that, when entered into the google search engine, return only a single result. Usual google searches return thousands of web pages, but certain combinations of words, like "breakdancing greengrocers" or "matriculating cherubim" return only the one. Challenged by his friend, also called Dave Gorman, Dave embarks on a reluctant odyssey to find and meet a chain of ten googlewhacks before his 32nd birthday. Dave Gorman's Googlewhack adventure is the story of that bizarre and obsessive quest.

We got the chance to talk to Dave before his recent appearance at Waterstones in Canterbury, to find out, among other things just what it was that attracted him to googlewhacking, and not more conventional internet pastimes like copyright theft, or pornography. Dave explained that nothing in particular attracted him to it; it was just a welcome diversion from writing his novel. In fact, googlewhacking sought him out, as an anonymous

Australian informed him that his web page contained a googlewhack in the form of "Francophile namesakes". From the nature of his past work, you would be forgiven for thinking that Dave has a particularly obsessive personality. Dave however sees things differently. He admits that he has an obsessive personality, but it is made much worse by his circle of friends "I'm hoist by my own petard" he says "I have a group of friends with wives and kids and mortgages, who have packed lunches to make, and who expect certain things from me. In many ways I think they live vicariously through me." This would explain his friends' actions in getting him drunk on



New Year's Eve, and dropping him off, unconscious in Heathrow airport with a plane ticket to Washington, the location of his second Googlewhack.

Dave's journey takes him to America, China, Australia and Mexico, and he meets many interesting people on the way. When asked if he had a favourite googlewhack he replied: "Asking me to choose a favourite is like asking a mother to choose her favourite son or daughter. I'm still in touch with all but one of my googlewhacks, and two of the people I met from America came over to see my stage show in London." So after spending three months on his bizarre project, does he still googlewhack? "No!" he responds "The only time I ever googlewhack is to indulge a journalist, to show them what it is. I never understand why anyone sees my show or reads my book, and then decides to googlewhack themselves. It

ruined my life! People don't read a biography of George Best and then think to themselves 'right, I'll have a glass of vodka now'."

Dave isn't your average stand-up comedian, preferring story-telling and slideshows to conventional jokes. But what would Dave describe himself as? "Nothing." He says "Everyone wants to label someone these days; it's like film trailers which give away the end. When I'm writing, I'm an author, when I'm performing, I'm a comedian."

To conclude the interview we asked Dave the question that was on everyone's mind. If you were turned into a giant metal bee with supernatural laser powers, would you use said powers for good or evil? "That actually happened to me last February," says Dave "and the answer was 'good'."

In private, Dave came across as quiet and complicated, giving the impression that his desire to grow up and be taken seriously is a genuine one. However, as soon as he stepped out in front of the hundred strong audience at Waterstones his personality changed entirely to the hilarious Dave Gorman that we all know from TV. This led us to wonder which one was the real Dave Gorman. His TV show asked "Are You Dave Gorman?" and that night it was hard to tell which of the two different men we saw at Waterstones was. However, someone who can find good uses for supernatural metal laser bee powers can't be all bad.

Dave Gorman's Googlewhack adventure is a hilarious, often moving and always bizarre story that is available from all good bookshops priced £10.99

Competition!

We have a signed copy of Dave Gorman's Googlewhack to give away. To win, simply answer the question below:

What is the name of Dave's long suffering flat-mate?

Send your answer, from a valid Kent University email address to kred-world@hotmail.com by 26 March 204

Have you got the 'Bug' or do you go 'Rough'?

As summer approaches and the holiday season draws near, *Layla Brokenbrow* takes a look at the leading travel guides for the land of Oz

With the British summer on the way the prospect of going abroad seems a little brighter...But, where do you go and what do you see? Once you have chosen from the never ending list of countries it is necessary to have a travel guide to get the most from your experience, whether it's a weekend away or a trip to the other side of the world. We have looked at both scenarios with different travel guides and leave you to decide what you want to do.

Going down under with 'The Rough Guide' and BUG

Where once stood a solitary Lonely Planet guidebook in your bookshop, now stands a bewildering array of publications covering everything from cycling tours, culinary trips, family breaks and entire continents. If you are planning to go to Australia after your degree expect to choose between upwards of five different guides, all laying claim to be the most up to date, useful sources of informa-

tion. The new edition of BUG Australia, released 19 February goes as far to declare itself the 'backpacker's ultimate guide', whilst the revised edition of The Rough Guide to Australia trades on the reputation of Bill Bryson whose praise '...informed and, most crucially, reliable' is displayed on its front cover.

For comprehensive, borderline-obsessive, information on where to sleep whilst abroad then BUG Australia is unbeatable. It is thoroughly researched, and employs a useful technique of grading each

"It is best described as a naughty, frivolous dish of temptation; whilst the no frills nature of the other reminds me of the boring, practical bowl of fruit salad"

establishment on the quality of its facilities, atmosphere and character, cleanliness and security. However its focus on accommodation comes at the cost of its ability to provide interesting information about the places you visit. I was dismayed to read Apollo Bay, one of my favourite beach towns on the Southern coast of Victoria described as merely 'a scenic location'. With funky cafes, a free canopy walk through its rainforest, horse riding, hiking, waterfalls and a brilliantly clean, surfing beach it far transcends such a bland description. In claiming that such information merely wastes space and can be discovered upon arrival in the town, BUG Australia underestimates the enjoyment gained from working out an itinerary, and the part a guidebook plays in helping to make agonizing decisions about where to visit and what to leave out.

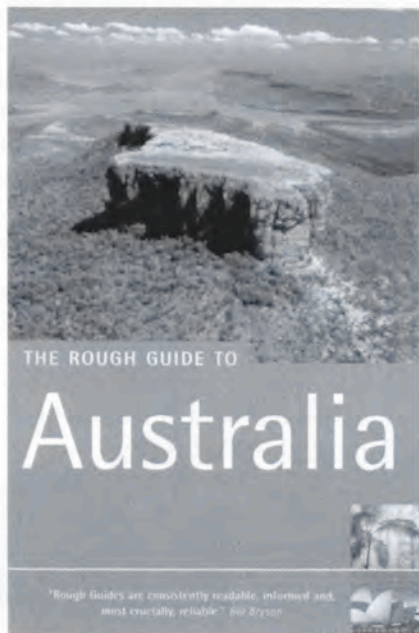
By contrast, the bigger, heavier Rough Guide attempts to cover too



much ground, wasting valuable space telling you about internet cafes, laundries and providing insipid shop and restaurant reviews, essentially useless for those self-catering or on a tight budget. As a result it is forced to limit the amount of essential information it gives on more obscure places, although the facts it does provide are conveyed in an amusing and informal easy to read style, and include exhaustive lists of each place's attractions and activities. Most annoying though is its failure to provide the price of the accommodation it lists, instead using a fiddly, and on the whole, inaccurate system of symbols. It also has a habit of including establishments with an exorbitant nightly charge, and appears hopelessly out of touch with the realities of a backpacker's budget lifestyle.

But back to the bookshop, where despite ideally wanting to take both books, a decision needs to be made. In the end I was won over by the sheer enthusiasm and excitement bouncing off the pages of the Rough Guide's offering. It is best described as a naughty, frivolous dish of temptation; whilst the no frills nature of BUG Australia reminds me of the boring, practical bowl of fruit salad. We all know the fruit is good for us, but I'd rather have the sundae!

Rough Guide to Australia £15.99,
BUG Australia £9.95 out now



Cirque du Soleil

Have you ever seen a man perform somersaults on a tightrope sixty feet in the air? Or an entire show performed in a 1.5 million galleon aquatic tank? How about a contortionist, held only by silk ribbons, in the splits at the top of the theatre? It sounds unbelievable but the Cirque du Soleil are performing these amazing stunts in eight different shows around the globe.

Started in 1984 by a group of street entertainers, the company now has over 600 artists performing in residential touring shows. In London we are treated to just a few weeks a year. This year Dralion, a show based on the four elements of air, water fire and earth, recently arrived at the Royal Albert Hall. With a group of 37 Chinese acrobats it was impossible to take your eyes from the stage, even with the extravagancy of the stunts performed.

The Cirque du Soleil is a concoction of cultures, with its artists representing 40 different countries. However there is a strong element of French Canada in the shows, due to its origins in Quebec. While French is the predominant language in the shows even those who struggle to pronounce 'bonjour' will be perfectly happy. The comedy of the clowns is obvious through spectacular mime and movement and the story is told visually and musically. The amazing

stunts speak for themselves, these people know no fear! From the double trapeze artists performing at huge heights to the ridiculous flexibility of those who display their talents one handed, on top of piles of furniture! The shows take the greatest talents of humankind and make them look as easy as walking down the street.

You will laugh, scream, gasp and your heart will certainly skip a beat or two in pure fear. So keep your eyes out for when The Cirque du Soleil are back in town.

Heather Campbell



The Importance of Being Earnest

Ever since I first read *The Importance of Being Earnest* I have wanted to see how it would translate from page onto stage; the production at The Marlowe Theatre gave me the chance. Having already seen the film, I was a little dubious as to whether I would enjoy the stage production as much. I found the play avidly entertaining; set in 1912 Britain the play portrays the lives of two men and two women who fall in love, displaying turmoils along the way to their true happiness.

Though it is obvious from the beginning it will end happily in marriage (it is, after all, a comedy), the fun

of the play is in finding out how they will get there. The costume and scenery were as you might expect them to be (true to the period), with the women in long skirts/dresses and the men in various different suits, adding to the reality of the play.

The performances that were given were brilliant, executing Wilde's words with wit and skill. Wendy Craig, playing Lady Bracknell, was excellent and delighted the audience with her well timed and shining performance. A thoroughly enjoyable play!

Stephanie Davies

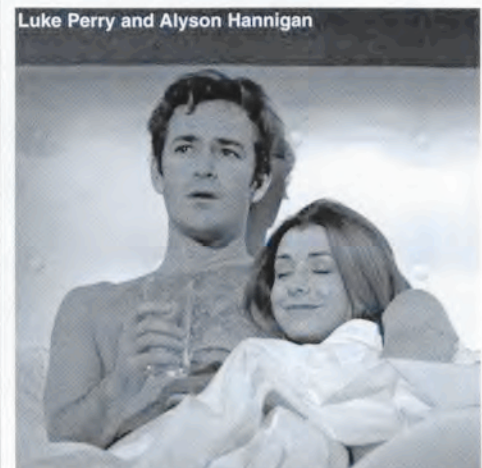
When Harry Met Sally

So, your first thought - can *When Harry Met Sally* be successfully transferred to the stage? Well actually the adaptor Marcy Kahan found when researching it that "deep down, in its deepest impulses, it is really a stage play." This she said, is because where a film relies on imagery, a play relies on the unfurling of argument. And her idea seems true, because it does work. Its simple staging and unusual casting unfold into a gripping and comic love story about the difference between men and women.

Who would have thought that Beverley Hills 90210's Luke Perry and Buffy's Alyson Hannigan would make a convincing match? But they do, just as the unlikely pairing of Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal did in the film. Maybe the accents are bizarrely overplayed, bearing in mind that the main actors are American anyway, but there is some good acting and genuinely funny moments. Sally's classic fake orgasm scene in the film was convincingly replayed on stage and received rapturous applause. The interludes between scenes echoed the film as black and white depictions of how happy couples had met were projected onto a screen. Mixed with this was Ben and Jamie Cullum's jazz soundtrack which added to the atmosphere. Overall well worth a visit, for those who enjoyed the film and those who've not seen it alike.

Currently running until May in London at the Theatre Royal Haymarket; call 0870 901 3356 for ticket information.

Laura Walters and Louise Coleman



Odyssey of a Cockroach - Yoko Ono

An art exhibition created by Yoko Ono is never going to be solely about the art on display. It is difficult to consider Yoko's artistic merit without the usual Ono-myths being paraded in the spotlight. As soon as Yoko Ono - or her art - gains the headlines it deserves the usual questions resurface.

'Was she really a pioneer of conceptual art?' and the inevitable, 'Did she really split up the Beatles?'

Yoko Ono first gained the attention of the arts world in the early 60s when she became an influential member of the conceptual arts group Fluxus. The Fluxus arts movement mixed comedy, intensity and honesty together to create a strange concoction of art that created a buzz throughout the western art scene. Her most famous piece of performance art was Cut Piece which she performed in 1966 at the Destruction in Art Symposium. For this show members of the audience were encouraged to cut off parts of Yoko's clothing with scissors, until she was left completely naked. Later, during the same year, Yoko was introduced to John Lennon at an exhibition at the Indica Gallery in London. At this point Yoko Ono was highly respected for her involvement in the groundbreaking innovations taking place in contemporary art.

Since September 1966, Yoko Ono's art have never been judged on its own merits. She has been demonised and ridiculed by the British

media, to the extent that the importance of her inventive art has been marginalised; whilst her involvement in the demise of the Beatles has been exaggerated.

Yoko Ono's recent exhibition at the ICA studios in Islington re-addresses the balance. *Odyssey of a Cockroach* marked a triumphant return to the UK for Yoko Ono. Her anti-war, pro-peace message is as relevant as ever, and appears to have hit a nerve with a new generation.

The three floor gallery space was filled with oversized artefacts that encouraged us to see life through the eyes of a cockroach. Objects included a six foot rubbish bin that was overflowing with body casts, huge rat traps containing a myriad of shoes and books, and a gigantic baseball bat. The walls were covered in billboard sized images of twentieth century violence.

To counteract the hostility, visitors were invited to interact with the exhibition by stamping the slogan 'Imagine Peace' on world maps in an interesting - but rather naïve - attempt to make a difference.

The scale and intensity of Yoko Ono's work ensures *Odyssey of a Cockroach* is visually powerful and thought provoking. Yoko Ono is stepping out of the shadows in an attempt to show us the light.

Samantha Edgley

A career in the arts?

In any humanities or arts degree, from History to English, Drama to Film studies, you will (whether you know it or not) have developed a bank of skills that employers love in potential employees. You will have improved your verbal and listening skills, and tuned a creative and quick thinking mind. You will have a sense of independent learning skills, and have a degree of cultural sensitivity, and most importantly you will have gained the ability to work hard, individually and as a team!

I am sure there are lots of you out there who are in your final year, thinking that all your friends know what their doing and you have no idea. Well don't panic, my first piece of advise would be to either log onto the university careers website <http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/> or pop into the departments office near Keynes, where you can set up an appointment to discuss your options. A careers adviser is available without appointment from 10.30-12.30 and 2-5 each weekday.

However in the mean time and to keep you amused, here are a few interesting jobs other than teaching, that humanities students might like to think about taking on. For example you may like to consider becoming a laughter therapist. These guys get paid to make people laugh; not by telling jokes but by using happy thoughts to train people to 'stage laugh' and then with experience you can move onto teaching belly laughing! But if that doesn't tickle your fancy, you could try getting a job as an onion grader, where you are employed to pick out and grade top quality onions; looking out for colour, shape, size and chucking out the rotten ones.

So do not fret, there is a strange and exciting world full of jobs out there, it is just a case of telling the difference between a rotten onion and an award winning one.

Tamasine Johnson



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Student discounts available from Monday to Friday

Buffy Boxset Bonanza

Buffy Slayer Collection

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment have released a special Slayers Collection - four DVDs for four of the main characters from the series. Faith, Spike, Willow and Angel each have their own DVD, featuring their best episodes.

We have three collections to give away, and to win yourself one simply answer the following question:

Which character from the Slayer Collection was Buffy's first love?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004

The Slayer Collection is out to rent and buy from 1 March 2004



Giveaway!

Angel Season 4

We have three copies of the Angel Season 4 box set, courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.

To win one, tell us the answer to this question:

Who plays the lead character in Angel?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004

Angel Season 4 is out to rent and buy from 1 March 2004



The Best of Buffy

The Best of Buffy is out to buy on DVD now from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment and we have three DVDs to give away.

To get yourself a copy answer the following question:

What is the name of Buffy's 'Watcher'?

Send your answer, from a valid University email address, to kredworld@hotmail.com by Friday 26 March 2004



Buffy Season 7 is out to buy on DVD on 5th April 2004 from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment

FOX TV DVD
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