

The Newly Elected

Student Elections

Photo Gallery and follow up

3



Varsity

Kent triumph over Christchurch

32



Mikey the Musical

Kent production on national stage

27



AGM

Students Union reviews last year and debates plans for the next

9

By Lianna-Kate Whittaker

"The best man won," a quote given by Chris Best describes the common feeling after the results of the student elections were announced.

There has not been such an atmosphere in the Venue since the Varsity social back in January. Candidates mingled with their competition but the tension was still in the air as the clock ticked by towards the penultimate time and it really couldn't come soon enough for those who have campaigned to the point of exhaustion in the extreme weather conditions. All involved should be commended on their perseverance come wind, rain and snow which was a real test of character but as a whole made them stronger and brought some feeling of solidarity as they struggled, side by side, outside the Physics Building in last ditch attempts to convince students of their worthiness.

continued on page 3



University grinds to a halt in the face of two flakes of snow: a.k.a 'The Big Chill.'

For those actually wishing to attend University over the last two weeks, students have faced more than their accustomed hangovers when making their daily trips to campus.

As schools across Kent closed because it became impossible to get students and teachers alike to the classrooms, the university strived on well into the middle of last week, before admitting defeat to the elements and shutting at 1pm on Wednesday March 2nd. Students faced adverse conditions outside but even worse conditions inside when they discovered that campus bars and The Venue also closed on Wednesday evening.

The snow also caused disruption on the roads and on Wednesday students reported sitting in traffic for well over 2 hours as Canterbury slowed to a standstill.

An International student from the university commented, "The usual poor standard of driving around Canterbury was lowered to inexplicable levels due to the few snowflakes that fell last week." He added: "This never happens at home." The trains were also disrupted and on Monday February 28th, many University of Kent students found themselves stranded when making trips back to Canterbury after the weekend. KRED spoke to students marooned in Ashford who said: "We've had to get on 4 trains to get here from Victoria. We have no idea what's going on or even if we are on the right train."

On the whole, for many among us the snow caused disruptions and in the long run will have upped our heating bills. Yet in the light of a milder week, most of us will look

back on the 'Big Chill' with fond memories of snowball fights and the sledging trips that we haven't partaken in since childhood.

Tamasine Johnson

pictures by Lianne-Kate Whittaker (above) and Peter Whipp (below)



New Equipment for KRED

We are proud to announce that this issue of KRED has been produced on our brand new PC with state-of-the-art layout software! We were able to buy the new equipment with money given to us by the Alumni Development Fund and we are truly grateful.

A special "Thank You" goes to Killara Burn, all of the Alumni and Kent University!



© by Kent Union 2005

www.bamuk.com



Student Media Buyers
0845 1300 667

Printed by Sharman's Printers

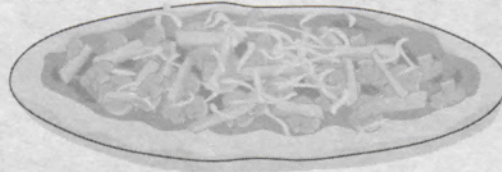
WESTGATE KEBAB HOUSE

TAKE-AWAY & HOME DELIVERY - KEBABS, ITALIAN PIZZAS, BURGERS AND MORE

**WE HAVE SPECIAL OFFERS
AND MEAL DEALS**

FREE PIZZA!

Buy One Get One Free **Every Thursday**
(Lowest Priced Pizza is Free)



SPECIAL OFFER!

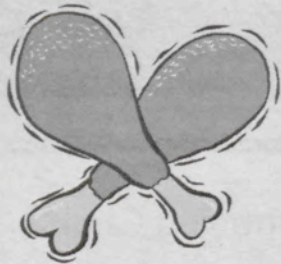
Free bottle of wine for food orders over £20
or
2 Free bottles of wine for food orders over £30
While Stocks Last

FREE HOME DELIVERY

on orders £10 within a 3 mile radius
£1.90 delivery charge on orders under £10

phone 01227 76 84 86 or 01227 45 67 69
5 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury

Offers can not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Pick up a menu from our shop
open 7 days a week 'till late.



MUNCHIES

SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN, PIZZAS, BURGERS, SPUDS
PHONE FOR PIZZA DEALS



CHICKEN MEAL DEALS

(all with medium size fries and
a can of drink or small coleslaw)

2 Piece Meal	£3.34
3 Piece Meal	£4.34
4 Piece Meal	£5.24

EVERY MONDAY IS PIZZA DAY

Buy one get one free
(lowest priced pizza is free)

BURGER MEAL DEALS

(all with medium size fries and a can of drink)

Small Burger Meal	£2.64
Medium Burger Meal	£3.99
Large Cheese Burger Meal	£5.29
Veggie Burger Meal	£4.18
Medium Bacon Burger Meal	£4.29
Cheese & Bacon Burger Meal	£3.24

Delivery number 01227 45 35 97
Collection number 01227 47 20 53
15 St. Peters Street, Canterbury

**OPEN 11AM
'TILL LATE**

FREE HOME DELIVERY
from 5pm on orders £10 within a 3 mile radius
£1.90 delivery charge on orders under £10

Election Night Roundup

continued from page 1

When the results were about to be revealed, it was more like being in the middle of a reality television show where the next few minutes were going to change people's lives, which in essence they do. There was a natural movement of observers towards their number one choice ready to celebrate or commiserate as appropriate. And so it began, tainted with the usual tease, saving the most dramatic until last with lengthy pauses prior to the winning name being heard. The wait, which at first added to the tension of the event but had become tiresome after five long hours, proved more than worth the wait.

The sabbatical results were awaited with baited breath with education being the first on the agenda. Liz Tomlinson succeeded over Mike 'Mikey' Potts with 852 votes, even afterwards she proclaimed "It hasn't sunk in yet, hopefully I can do as good a job as those before me." Activities followed and Angie Turnbull triumphed, making the task of carrying the weight of that banner upon her shoulders well worthwhile although she admitted "I thought students were voting for others." Mark Leruste, clearly disappointed and tired after pushing Angie all the way in these elections will now turn his attention back to finishing his degree. It was a close call between Katie Hawley and Poya for Welfare but her 'let's talk' strategy claimed superiority. When speaking to me, her rival wanted to make the point that he believes "it's rigged, ask other's they would say the same." Sports was welcomed by cheering and chanting with KRED's very own Chris 'Besty' Best securing the majority, although he nearly got crushed in the mass celebratory charge but was thoroughly basking in the glory.

The most important result of the night was that of President. There was a great deal of competition with candidates offering to represent the key issues that students face today. At one stage the count had been so close there were only 13 votes separating Ash and Emma - Ash leading with 530 votes to Emma's 517 in round 4 when Lekan was eliminated and it came down to just two candidates. But the night was not to be his and girl power reigned supreme leaving Emma Powell to head a female dominated Sabbatical team in the newly formed union. Her words neatly sum up how other winners of the night must have felt, "absolutely amazing, on top of the world."

The first winners of the evening had come in the form of Junior College Council (JCC) Presidents. These positions should be regarded with the status they deserve as they carry a great deal of responsibility, with a workload to match, as I am to understand from the 2004-2005 representatives. Keynes will see James Bull 'Bullie' take the helm, Parkwood will be represented by

Danielle Seagger which appeared to please the crowd greatly, Rutherford can now answer to Jonathan Rubin and Eliot has the main man Jack leading them forward into 2006. Of the evenings results he commented, "it could have gone so bad for the union, today the union has done well." As one door closes on the old, a wider one opens for the new intake, which is really exciting for all the colleges. Colin Moore secured position for Part-Time Officer. Despite having no competition he still needed to generate more votes than the option for no suitable candidate and with his wide range of experience, should go far with his policies. LGBT Officer went to Faye Mills-Bishop who also possesses the relevant background to effectively take on her new role. Ordinary Executive Member went to an overjoyed Sam Bullock. Athina Katsali's dedication and goals got her elected as International Officer. This was the first year the vote for RAG President was opened up to campus so Sophie Rayers has even more reason to celebrate her victory.

The un-elected of the night wish to thank those who supported their campaign and voted for them. On leaving the club, David Budd, President for 2004-2005 declared, "Yet again democracy proves that candidates with the knowledge and dedication win through. It's not about empty promises and popularity but student representation and getting the best deal for students at Kent."

Pictured (from top to bottom) Angie Turnbull, David Budd and Emma Powell, Mark Leruste, Sam Lane feeling the tension as the count is announced and Jack Neill-Hall celebrating in style

all pictures by Laura Bottomley



Winners

Sabbatical

President Emma Powell
 Activities Angie Turnbull
 Education Liz Tomlinson
 Welfare Katie Hawley
 Sports Besty

JCC Presidents

Keynes James Bull
 Eliot Jack
 Darwin Gravy
 Rutherford Jonathan Rubin
 Parkwood Danielle Seagger

Postgraduate
 Dre

Part-Time
 Colin Moore

LGBT
 Faye Mills-Bishop

International
 Athina Katsali

Women's
 Samantha Mansi

Ordinary Exec
 Amy Godfrey and Sam Bullock

RAG President: Sophie Rayers



Time to be called on Last Orders

The facts about the new 24/7 drinking legislation

By Paul Skelton

We've all been there – just as the evening is getting interesting that dreaded bell rings out, proceeded by the bar staff hollering at the top of their voice "last orders at the bar please!" All the lights in the building are rudely increased to "max", leaving you under no illusions that your presence is no longer welcome. Resistance beyond this point is futile, and it is not long before you are dealt contemptuous and resentful looks by the bar staff. And despite all this, it feels like you have only just arrived...

But at last all this is about to change. From November, pubs, bars and clubs will (in theory) be able to trade 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In fact, venues are already applying for such licenses to ensure they will be among the first to take advantage of the new law. However, it is unlikely that this Labour initiative will have the Students' Union organising marches through Westminster. In fact, I have yet to meet a single student against the relaxation of drinking laws. However, like the rest of British law, things are not quite as cut and dry as they first appear; rather than simplify the current system, it looks like it could be getting a whole lot more complicated.

For a start, there will be several new categories of licenses relating to different types of venue entertainment. Each type of license will cost a different amount, all of which are higher than any of the current licenses. The new legislation also sees local authorities (namely councils) getting a great deal more power over the granting of licenses, and aims to engage local residents, police and businesses in the process. The act will also give police the right to challenge any existing license if they suspect the venue is contributing to crime and

disorder. And it will no longer be just pubs and clubs coming under scrutiny. All licensed premises, including late night takeaways and supermarkets, face being closed down if it is felt they are acting irresponsibly. Penalties for selling alcohol to minors will also increase, seeing a raise in the maximum fine from £1,000 to £1,500.

Whilst on the face of it this seems like a great idea, one wonders how, in practice, this is all going to work. In a city centre saturated with pubs and bars, like Canterbury, proving that one particular venue is responsible for causing crime and disorder is going to be tough. The government also claims that residents will be able to demand a review of any premises' license at any time. The amount of bureaucracy and time involved in operating such a system is unimaginable, and it is hard to believe that every complaint by residents will be properly and fully investigated. There are also concerns that the increased cost of licenses will put smaller pubs out of business as they struggle to compete with the larger chains of pubs.

So how will all this affect Kent students? Are the days of round the clock drinking finally upon us? Sadly, it appears not. Whilst in theory any venue will be able to apply for a "24 hour" license, in practice it seems very few will. In fact, a recent survey by the Beer and Pub Association found that out of the 30,500 pubs they represent not one will be applying for a 24 hour license. Mark Jones, from the Yates Group, says, "we are totally opposed to the change in the law. We won't apply for any licences that extend our opening hours to 24 hours. A handful will open one or two hours later." And this seems to be the trend, with most venues choosing to apply for just one or two hour extensions.

The legislation is also unlikely to have much of an effect on campus. It may surprise you to learn that Kent Hospitality, which operates Mungos, Origins, K-Bar and Rutherford Bar, already operates under a "special hours certificate" which allows all its bars to remain open until 2am. However, the flexibility is rarely ever taken advantage of. It is therefore very unlikely that the new extended licensing system will make any difference to how the college bars are operated. The Venue also does not foresee any extensions to their opening hours, saying that the licensing laws are more likely to benefit pubs than clubs.

Woody's, the only campus pub to already regularly stay open later than 11pm, are equally as unenthusiastic about the new licenses. Woody's currently operates a license which allows it to open until 12am from Thursday to Sunday, but says it has found very limited demand for "late night drinking". Jade Henson, manager of Woody's, says: "the choice is not merely about how many more hours can we open and serve people for. There's a lot more to take into account, such as the fact we employ only students. We must ask whether making them work late into the night will have a detrimental effect on their degree." So, whilst Woody's will review the situation next year, it does not look as if there will be any major changes to their current policy.

So, despite the hype and controversy surrounding the reform, it doesn't look like it will be having any major impact on our drinking habits. Only time will tell how successful the extra one or two hours will be. Will, as the government hopes, the extended licenses curb the nations "binge drinking" culture, or simply serve to enhance it? We will have to wait until November to find out.

Campus Smoking Ban uncovered

By James Fassam-Wright

From February 14th, a new campus smoking policy will come into force, further restricting where we can smoke on the university grounds and setting out a strategy to ban smoking in all buildings within a year. The new policy makes the following amendments:

Work Areas

Smoking is not permitted in any work areas other than in college and Student Union bars, and at evening events where permission for smoking is specifically requested.

College Bars

The university will move to a total ban on smoking in all college bars within one year, to be implemented earlier if possible, subject to discussions with Kent Hospitality about possible limited smoking areas in these locations.

Student Bars

Kent Union will develop its own smoking policy for all areas controlled by Kent Union. The Union is encouraged to align its policy with that of the university.

Student Accommodation

The university will offer only non-smoking accommodation for all new students with immediate effect.

With these changes in mind, James Fassam-Wright argues why the new policy is a good one for Kent students.

We all know that smoking is bad for you. The fact that it is likely that most pubs and clubs around the country will ban smoking quite soon only makes the fact that smoking is to be banned on campus even better. Why should we let our clothes and food smell of cigarette smoke from someone else who voluntarily chooses to give themselves throat or lung cancer? Why should everyone else be forced to deal with someone else's anti-social behaviour? Most importantly of all, in a free society, if someone wants to go right ahead and slowly poison themselves that is their prerogative, but under no circumstances do they have the right to poison other people.

There are more than 50 smoking related illnesses as well as 20 lethal ones. What on earth could possibly be the appeal to

such deliberate poisoning? I have been told that it relieves stress and cuts the appetite, but that seems a really stupid reason for smoking. If there are activities which an individual finds stressful then too bad... just deal with them! Smoking is definitely not the solution to the problem, whatever it may be. Every year, it is estimated that about 364,000 patients are admitted to hospital with smoking associated diseases. That means that 7,000 hospital admissions per week, with an additional 480,000 people consulting their GP for heart diseases or stroke related illnesses. The figures for the number of people killed as a result of smoking in the last 50 years are no less terrifying: It is estimated that between 1950 and 2000 six million Britons, 60 million people worldwide, would have died from tobacco-related diseases.

The chief medical officer for England has said that the UK could save as much as £2.7 billion a year if the ban were to come into force. It makes economic sense to ban smoking on campus too, as many people would not want to breathe in the smoke of other people and it would just make their evenings out less enjoyable: JD Wetherspoon's is leading the way here. As most of the readers will probably know Wetherspoon's own a chain of 650 pubs is placing a ban on smoking in 60 of them (including the Westgate Inn in Canterbury) even before legislation has come into force.

So what is the general view on campus regarding the ban? It seems that it has been a very welcome one for the most part. The only way a ban will come into force is if the majority of people are prepared to marginalise it as something that is deemed to be socially unacceptable. In Ireland there was initially no great enthusiasm for the ban, and many pubs and restaurants openly defied it. However, on the other side of the Atlantic, in New York, a ban was seen to be more acceptable, making it far more effective.

Whilst there does not seem to have been much of a backlash as of yet, I know that feelings run high on the subject. Somehow though, I do not see that asking people not to smoke in public areas is too much to ask. It seems to be just a simple matter of common courtesy; stepping outside for a few minutes to have a cigarette seems far more preferable to polluting the air of colleagues and friends.





Immigration Controversy on Stage

An Interview with David Tse

by Verena Volk

Your play "58" deals with immigration. How did you and your family experience immigrating to the UK?

My family came to the UK from Hong Kong as economic migrants. My father first came in the 1960s to earn money as a waiter. In the early 70s the whole family came over to open a take-away restaurant. I was six years old at the time. I had to learn English and adapt to a new culture very quickly. I often felt isolated and missed the community I had been part of at home.

Did you experience discrimination?

Yes, at boarding school I experienced racist behaviour to a rather serious degree. The people involved typically were those at the bottom of the class, who were envious of the good results I got.



Did the difficulties you faced ever make you wish you were not Chinese?

No, but I did wish I hadn't come here. I never reproached my parents, though, because I knew they had come here because they wanted their children to have a better chance in life. I also started to study law in order to please my parents before I dedicated myself to the theatre. My mother always hoped her children would study in Britain and then work back in Hong Kong – she still considers my work for the theatre to be a "fun job". However, being the youngest of my siblings, I was the only one who managed to learn English well enough to go to university. My brother still works in a restaurant. Moreover, emigration eventually led to the fact that the family is split today, as my parents moved back to Hong Kong when they retired, whereas my brother and sisters and I stayed here. When I later spoke to my father about the difficulties of growing up in a foreign country, he wondered whether emigrating to Britain had been the right thing.

Was it difficult to start a theatre company with a focus on East Asian topics?

Yes, the start wasn't easy due to the difficulties when we applied for public funding. We eventually succeeded after I had

been commissioned as a writer for Polka Theatre for Children in Wimbledon, and the show there was a great success.

On the radio series "Beyond the Take-away" you presented on Radio 4, you said that Chinese people were invisible in British society. What did you mean by that?

I think that black and Indian people are much more accepted in British society than East Asians. Even though East Asians are present on the highstreets, they are very rarely represented in the media. Fortunately, this is gradually changing; there is now a female Chinese police officer in the TV series "The Bill" for instance.

What feelings were involved when you first heard about the tragedy of the 58 Chinese people found dead in Dover?

Of course I was very shocked, and deeply moved. I was invited to attend a vigil outside Downing Street and read out a famous Chinese poem from the Tao Te Ching.

When writing the play, did Philippe Cherbonnier have contact with the two survivors or with the relatives of the victims?

No, the characters in the play are fictitious, but Philippe read the police records.



There were videos of British people voicing their opinion on immigration included in the play. Where did these come from?

They were filmed at Youth Clubs and one Elderly Group in Canterbury, Leicester and Birmingham.

What kind of audience does Yellow Earth Theatre mainly attract?

We attract a very multi-racial audience, though the majority is still white. We have very positive feedback from our East Asian audience and are aiming at attracting more East Asian people. Unfortunately, our East Asian audience mainly comes from the younger generation, as the elderly often don't speak English well enough to see plays performed in English.

What is your next project?

The next project of Yellow Earth Theatre is "The Nightingale", a play based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen. It's a co-production with the Hong Kong Arts Festival and will be performed in Hong Kong spring '05 and in Britain autumn '05. There is going to be a performance at the Gulbenkian Theatre, so watch out for us later this year!

For more information and tour dates see www.yellowearth.org

Yellow Earth Theatre

Yellow Earth Theatre, founded in London in 1995 by five British East Asian performers, is Britain's only East Asian Theatre Company. Using traditions from Eastern and Western theatre, its members want to attract a multi-racial audience and draw attention to the East Asian community in British society. Yellow Earth Theatre was therefore awarded the Pearl Award, Britain's first prize to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Chinese in Britain last year. The play "58" by Philippe Cherbonnier, directed by David Tse, was written after the discovery of the 58 dead Chinese in Dover on the 18th of June 2000 and was first performed at the Gulbenkian in September 2004. It juxtaposes the work of a police officer, who has to identify the dead bodies, with the individual stories of three of the Chinese refugees who lost their lives when trying to make their way to a country where they hoped to escape poverty and find freedom. The play points out, in a rather shocking way, how much the fate of an individual actually depends on luck.

More than 1,500 asylum seekers, mainly from Iran, Iraq and African countries, arrived in Dover or at London airports between October and December 2004 and were dealt with by the Migrant Helpline in Dover, an organisation funded by the Home Office which provides the arrivals with shelter in Dover, legal advice, basic information and medical screening. Most asylum seekers only stay in Dover for about two weeks and are then dispersed to places around Britain. Less than a third of them are eventually allowed to stay. Verena Volk spoke to asylum seekers and volunteers in Dover, among them Geoffrey Lear, chairman of the 58 Remembered Committee Fund.

It is 2 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon at the St. Mary's Parish Centre in Dover. Several women, one with a baby on her lap, are given English lessons by a volunteer. Among them is Fazeeda, a Kurdish woman from Iraq, who has never been to school and is now learning to read and write. On the next table, a former primary school teacher tells me in nearly fluent English that she, too, came from Iraq because of political persecution. She first fled to Turkey, but now has been in England for 5 years and has been guaranteed a permanent visa. "I really enjoyed my work and I am

A visit to the Asylum Seeker Supporter Group in Dover

trying to improve my English as hard as I can," she says. "I would love to work at a school again."

In the room next door four young men are playing badminton and table-tennis. They hardly speak English, but tell me they come from Iran and have been to Dover for one month now. They are staying at Cliff Court, one of the two hotels near the docks where asylum seekers stay when they first arrive. They are waiting to be dispersed to other places in Britain, but do not know when and where to they will move. Coming to the drop-in every week is their only distraction: "We sleep for six nights and wait to come here," one of them says.

The Asylum Supporter Group was founded in 1997 by Reverend Norman Setchell: "When we started, there were a lot of refugees from Kosovo, than Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. Today the majority of people come from Iran and Iraq." Though the drop-in is held at a parish centre, Rev Setchell stresses that there is no inclination to evangelise the people who seek support. "Everybody is welcome. And our volunteers come from many different religious

denominations, too."

Among the volunteers is Geoffrey Lear, who has been involved with the group for several years. He works at the Dover docks and was present on the 18th June 2000, when the terrible discovery of the bodies of 58 Chinese refugees was made. He then became chairman of the 58 Remembered Committee Fund. "We have raised £800 and hopefully will be able to set up the memorial this summer for the 5th anniversary of the tragic event. It is going to be a plaque at the harbour sea front, just at the tip of the docks." Apart from offering advice and help with paper work, English tuition and providing a meeting point for the refugees, there is a mentoring scheme for those who have permission to stay in the UK permanently. Mr Lear has been looking after a Czech family since their arrival two years ago. "They are Roma, who are treated like third class people in the Czech Republic. They say they feel safer here. They have gradually improved their English and both parents have found work as cleaners." The mother first had found employment cleaning trains, but was verbally abused by

customers. So in this case, people claiming that asylum seekers do not want to work, have prevented them from doing so themselves. There have been xenophobic utterances concerning the refugees other than that, but luckily the tensions are not severe."

By 3 o'clock there are about 50 people, in the parish centre. They are having tea and are chatting or have joined in playing badminton. Someone plays the



piano and a little girl is dancing. Other children are painting with Rachel, a Christ Church College student from Dover who says "I have been volunteering here for three years. Most of the children don't speak English so I don't find out much about their lives or their pasts. I just want to offer them an opportunity to play."

"Most of the refugees come to Britain for political and economic reasons," Geoffrey Lear explains. "This means not being able to afford food and not having access to clean water, falling ill due to this and then not having the money to pay for medication. If you live in one of the poor countries these people come from, you definitely have a lower life-expectancy."

Kawan from Iraq interrupts his table-tennis match to tell his story. He arrived in Dover 5 1/2 years ago without speaking English. "I am Kurdish," he says, "I couldn't do anything in Iraq." It took 14 months until Kawan was guaranteed a permanent visa. He first worked as a translator for the migration helpline and now is an induction officer. Being asked whether he likes England and whether he misses home he answers: "I am quite settled here", and goes on playing table-tennis with his Iraqi friend, who does not know whether he will be allowed to settle in England.

Outrage at Home Office Deportation Plans

By Nicky Burge

On 7th February the government announced that permanent entry for immigrants into this country will be blocked for all but skilled professionals such as doctors and teachers, and even then only if they passed the appropriate English tests.

This announcement has come following the great fear amongst the British people that refugees and migrants are outstretching public services, which a senior cabinet minister stated was a "legitimate" fear. The Trade and Security Secretary, Patricia Hewitt said it was "unfair if people appeared to be flouting the rules". She refers to the example of her constituents in Leicester, where many approach her for help such as with housing. "Sooner or later they will probably say 'the asylum seekers are getting so much and I am not getting my problem solved'".

She is also concerned for the effects that asylum seekers will have on schools. "In one of my [constituency] primary schools, they went from having pupils who all spoke English - I think there was one other language in the school - to having 15 different languages in the space of half a term. That creates enormous demands on the teachers; it is an enormous change for the pupils".

Just recently a first year Oxford student, Azim Ansari felt the effects of the new, stricter approach towards asylum seekers when the Home Office refused to extend his visa. Azim fled here from the Taliban four years ago on the back of a lorry. "I would be in danger in Afghanistan. I am worried about the war-lords and militants," he said. "This country feels like my home now. I've worked really hard and all my efforts will be worthless if I have to go back now."

Until April 2003, the Home Office wasn't able to send refugees back to Afghanistan as the country was deemed unsafe. However, apparently the current situation is safe enough to begin returning asylum seekers.

Azim's first appeal has failed and he is now looking to an immigration appeal tribunal. If that fails he will seek a judicial review at the high court. His only other option is to apply for a student visa and return to Oxford where they will keep his place open, but the international fees could cost him £10,000-£11,000. At the moment his fees are subsidised by the government.

However, there have been successful appeals for immigrants such as a case local to us, that of Amin Buratee from Canterbury High School. Last year in late November, students from the school were celebrating after successfully campaigning to keep their friend, refugee Amin, in Britain.

The 18-year old student (who confesses that he doesn't really know his real age) was due to be deported after he was refused by the Home Office, but after a last minute reprieve, can now remain in the UK until May of this year. His stay in the UK is under the condition that he remains in full time education, does not enter into any form of employment and reports to Folkestone police station every third Saturday.

Amin comes from Afghanistan, which he fled after the Taliban murdered his brother. Amin enrolled in Canterbury High School in September 2002, and is now studying A-levels in Computing, Maths and Persian which he hopes, if further campaigns are successful, will take him onto university where he'll study Computing.

Amin was resting at his home in Whitstable on Monday 8th November, during the season of Ramadan, when 8 or 9 immigration officers knocked on his door. After opening the door to them, he recalls them telling him to, 'sit down and don't move'. He remarks: "I was shocked. They didn't say anything else to me...one of them asked me my name and I replied 'Amin Buratee'. He said to one of the other officials: 'He's the guy we're looking for' and told me 'you have no right to stay in this country any longer'."

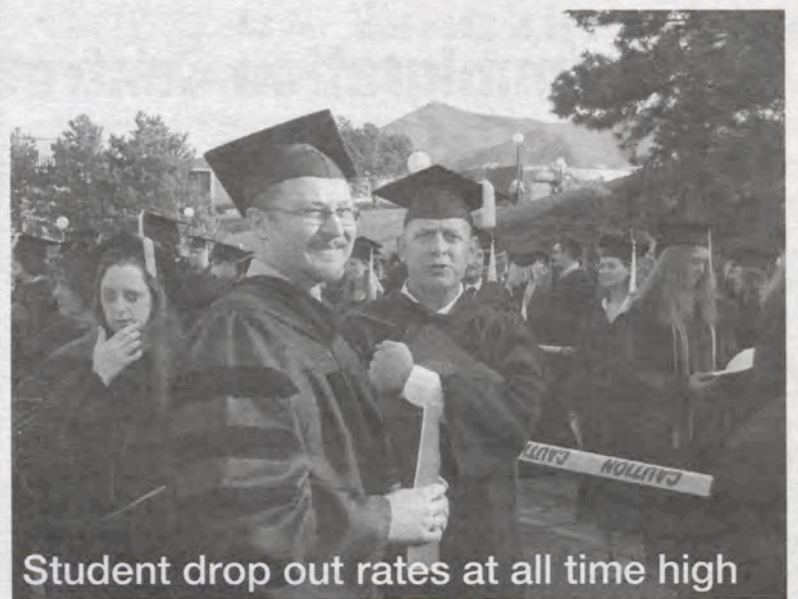
However, he says he was treated well in the detention centre. "We

had a TV in our room so I could see myself on the news and all the campaigning my friends were doing." The result has been a triumph for those who worked so hard on the campaign, including Canterbury's own MP Julian Brazier, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, councillors and the students and staff at Canterbury High.

For the time being, Amin can enjoy returning back to the normality of school life, as well as being secure in the knowledge that he has so many loyal friends supporting him.

On 6th February a reporter for the Observer suggested that we have nothing to fear in regard to immigration. Immigrants come to work because there is work - not to live on poverty-line benefits. They are here because we need them. If the economic demand fell away, so would the inward flow of immigrants. Far from being a burden on UK taxpayers, migrants make a net tax contribution - approximately £2.5 billion a year". Similarly, Trevor Philips, chairman of the Commission of Racial Equality, believes that Britons complaining about the impact of immigrants on the community were "afraid of a shadow". He is pushing for a hotline where people can report suspicious activity, rather than going straight to the police.

Refugee groups are getting increasingly worried that the right of asylum seekers will be scrapped, their refugee status revoked if their country of origin is considered safe. But is this necessarily right, especially when the individual has made a life for themselves in Britain? One thing is for certain - with the government becoming more "hard-line" over immigration, we have certainly not heard the last of cases like these.



Student drop out rates at all time high

Is the government's policy of encouraging as much as 50% of under 30's in the UK to enter into higher education fundamentally flawed? Recent data suggests that Tony Blair may be trying to do too much too quickly. With the overall drop-out rate now reaching 42,000 students a year and the government still planning to charge up to £3000 a year in top-up fees from 2006, is it any wonder that students are dropping out to avoid crippling debt?

The figures are worrying, particularly in the London region. At the University of North London in 2002 the dropout rate was 39% and 35% at London Guildhall. The national average in 2001 of students failing to complete a degree was far lower, at just 15%. This puts the failings of London Metropolitan into perspective.

However, that was four years ago, and now the national drop out rate is at nearly 40%. This could indicate how anxious most students have become about the prospect of large debts that could potentially take them decades to repay after the completion of their course. It is also a crucial time for graduates, when the requirement of large expenses such as a flat or a car may loom as well.

But why should students be crippled by these unnecessary expenses? It doesn't seem as if the diligent student studying at university is being fully appreciated. It was inevitable that this would happen. Surely, the government can come up with a more productive way of spending £300 million of the taxpayer's money then on student loans and tuition fees? This is not to say that the government should not be helping students, but a loan does not solve the underlying problem - it merely delays the inevitable repayment to some time after the student has received their qualification.

So what are the solutions to the problem of students abandoning their courses? Well, the simple solution would be to scrap tuition fees completely. That, however, is not a very realistic possibility. The other would be for a reduction in the amount that students would have to pay, as £3000 is a lot of money for anyone. This seems more plausible, but the 'Russell Group' of universities, the oldest and for the most part the most influential

of universities are pressing the government to increase tuition fees rather than decrease them.

Here at the University of Kent, feelings are no doubt running strongly against any extra fees in one year's time or, for that matter, any fees at all. This is felt in all universities throughout the country. So, if tuition fees aren't to be scrapped and the maximum amount universities can charge per student is not reduced, then the government should not be surprised when students are cutting their losses to avoid the extra costs.

Having unrealistic targets of 50% of all 18-30 year olds in higher education, especially as the worst ten universities all have a minimum 26% drop out rate, is dangerously optimistic. The standards of entry in some Universities will inevitably fall in order to accommodate these targets. In the long term it could even be argued that standards of higher education would be undermined.

This can be more easily explained using the following scenario: the universities are undermined because the intake of people is larger than in the past. Therefore, the standards could (but not necessarily) slip. This is the risk associated with such large top-up fees, which students cannot afford.

Although there is definite cause for concern at these higher drop out rates, there is also some reason to be hopeful. The UK still has one of the lowest drop-out rates at university in the developed world according to figures from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. So, even if Students seem to be dropping like flies at some universities at least we know that Kent University is not likely to get anywhere near the kind of drop-out rates the top ten worst do.

James Fassam-Wright



right: Patricia Hewitt
below: Amin Buratee



Kent students continue to house-hunt

By Lianna-Kate Whittaker

With the hunt for off-campus accommodation well under way we review the statement the University Accommodation Office put forward to students: "There is no need to panic" and see how many of us managed to follow their advice compared to the amount of us who, despite those reassuring words, panicked.

The organised, conscientious student would have selected housemates and begun looking at potential homes for the next academic year before the Christmas break. However, if you fit the category that preferred to fill time with secret Santa and the festive frolic, at some point in January the realisation that the clock was ticking would have hit. In my experience the panic comes when you start looking on the internet and things like 'unavailable' appear web-page after web-page or you call those numbers fly-posted around the University only to be told the place has gone but they have an alternative, only thing is it is one bedroom short. The real panic comes when you step into a house which is so dire that there is no need to explore further, you just want to go home. Images of hyperventilating are hopefully an exaggeration of how most students felt, but if you haven't found anything suitable yet, head to the campus shop for a brown paper bag along with a copy

of KRED. Some landlords clearly see the student market as one they can exploit for the best financial gain but for those with a head for business who realise that input will lead to output, the reward could be greater.

The market is segmented into various price bands, obviously relative to the size of the property, but when house-hunting in Canterbury I felt there was an obvious divide between that described as budget and that verging on luxurious. The pent house apartment with underground health facilities, 24-hour security and a scenic view of the Cathedral was a pipe dream of mine but should a secure front door and windows, safe cooker and decent shower be regarded as plush just because we are students? The answer is surely that we need these things just as much as the next person but as many of us are new to this situation, we are vulnerable. Sub-standard accommodation should not become a reality but in a house I viewed an existing tenant frankly described the shower as "an old man urinating on your head." For landlords who have sensibly made investment in the property's assets, (as some have I'm relieved to say,) potential occupants will clamour to obtain tenancy. But for those who fail miserably, it looks as though the dribble of that antiquated shower will be waking them up for a few mornings to come. The saving

grace is that there does appear to be this fair price differential, which reflects students' diverse financial situations.

When talking to fellow students I have found very mixed reactions, but as with all things in life you have to take the rough with the smooth. Kent student Eleanore Foster told me how her group are going through the student accommodation office in Tanglewood to find a property as a last resort, because they couldn't find a suitable six-bedroom through the letting agents. "It is hard to find a house to suit six people's different personalities and means." This is a huge factor that many fail to take into consideration and it takes a toll on the friendships involved, especially as they are fairly fresh. Fellow student Yasamin Asrari said "I found the house-hunting process both a strain on the relationship with my friends and a tense experience at an already stressful time with lots of work for my course. However, the relief of finding one perfect for us was a satisfying achievement." The positive vibes suggest there is light at the end of the tunnel and much can be said for this being an important learning experience, another dimension of university life, all that you can do is make the most of it!

The housing list is available on www.kent.ac.uk/hospitality for those of you who have still not found a place to call home.

"Before you bin it, think what's in it!"



Ever wonder what happens to all those things you throw away? Well, most of it is taken to a landfill site, piled up, left to rot and generally cause a bit of a stink, quite literally, but with recycling there could be life in the old dog yet...

If you take an aluminium can to a recycling facility, you might be drinking out of it again 60 days later, newspapers will eventually box your cereal, plastic bottles may become your new fleece jacket (yes, its true!) and steel cans may be the body of your new car.

The initial effort it takes to recycle often clouds the view of what it can achieve, but although the need for recycling isn't immediately apparent, taking the time to recycle your waste is one of the most simple and creative ways to give back what we take from our environment. Recycling does not just provide an environmentally friendly source of raw materials, but saves energy, reduces emissions of air and water pollutants and reduces those greenhouse gases that frighten us by slowly heating the planet. Every ton of paper recycled can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water! Who would've thought?

Doorstep recycling is becoming very popular in England, with the local councils supplying local households with boxes and bags to store their recyclable waste, such as cans and bottles, and conveniently collecting them, right from your doorstep. According to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, England have reached their 2004 recycling target, now recycling more household waste than ever before, so all those who do can give yourselves a big pat on the back! But there's still a long way to go! We will have to recycle more every year to reach our long term goal of recycling 33% of household waste by 2015.

If you keep a look out you will notice recycling efforts all around you, not just here in England and Kent, but all over the world. America is well known for their rapidly growing large population and high consumerism, but they are not ignoring its effects. 'America Recycles Day' has been a success so far, with sponsorship from companies such as Ford and Staples Office Supplies, this non profit organisation has been operating since 1997 and encourages all

of America to recycle and buy recycled products. The date of November 15th has been set for 2005 when recycling events will be held all over America to encourage local communities and the younger generation to take part in recycling activities and to learn more about how things are recycled and why it is so important. If you ask America why we should recycle, you can assume their answer will be 'because it all comes back to you', which is certainly worth taking time to think about.

It is understood that recycling can often be considered 'more time than it is worth' but on the scale of environmental issues, it is the first step in become a more planet-friendly culture. Knowing that recycling, to most of us, is a low priority, the Conservation Society here at Kent University are slowly working towards some recycling bins for campus to make a delivery of your cans, bottles and papers a lot easier for you. In the meantime we ask you recycle all those beer cans and wine bottles left after a good night out at the recycling centre in Canterbury or one of the 21 other recycling centres in Kent, and your paper in the recycling bins in all the busy computer rooms. Canterbury City Council provides its own doorstep recycling service, providing local homes with a large clear plastic bag for all your household waste and they even collect it and recycle it for you once a week, all that leaves you to do is put your can in the supplied bag rather than in the bin- couldn't be simpler!

We all know recycling will never be a priority to the busy students here at Kent University and we do not ask it to be, just that if you have a little extra time to help create your new car or cereal box please do so. Even your old clothes can be recycled by donating them to charity shops and The British Heart Foundation at Westgate welcomes all its donations with a smile. The Conservation Society is always here to lend a helping hand and remember, as the council say in Bristol "Before you bin it, think what's in it!"

For more information on local recycling efforts visit: www.kentcommunityrecycling.org.uk

Joanne Vere



Get the edge.... with your studies

Have you started revision yet? This year's examinations start on May 3rd, so it's a good time to get ahead and start revising now. Understandably, you'll still be finishing assignments plus attending lectures and seminars. So now may not be the time to set up a final revision schedule. But a couple of hours each week will make you feel positive about next term, and ease you into full exam preparation.

For advice and guidance on revision and other study skills topics contact The Student Learning Advisory Service at www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/learning

There are free workshops on revision and exam techniques coming up.

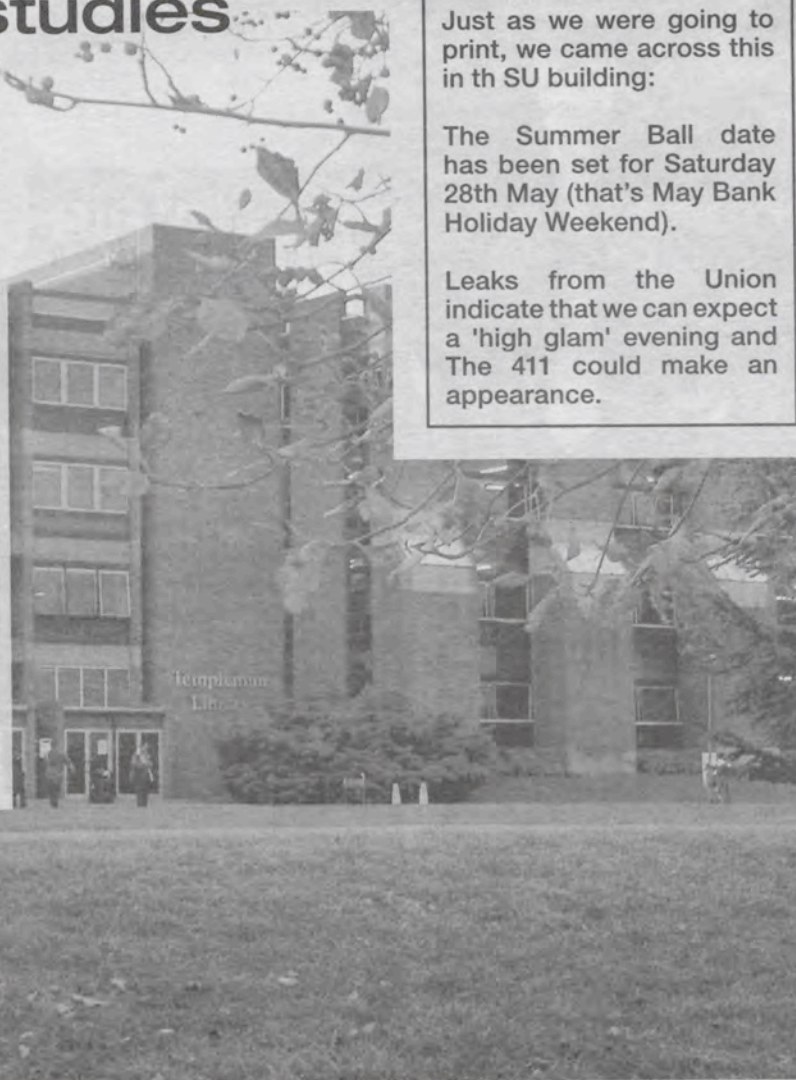
Jen Warrington
Education Sabbatical

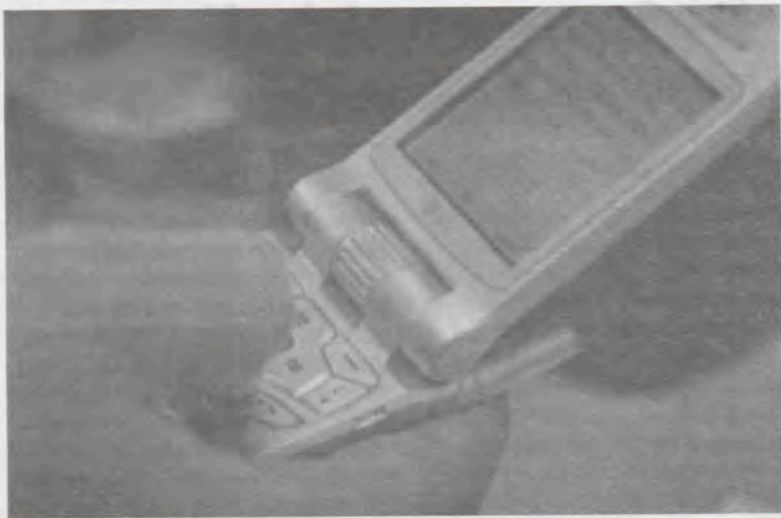
Last Minute News

Just as we were going to print, we came across this in the SU building:

The Summer Ball date has been set for Saturday 28th May (that's May Bank Holiday Weekend).

Leaks from the Union indicate that we can expect a 'high glam' evening and The 411 could make an appearance.





Text Messaging dangerous - or at least for your fingers

By Debbie Johnstone

MAYB U shd stop B4 its 2 18, claim Italian doctors. Their attack is on the text messaging media with which most of us will be more than familiar. In Britain alone, 26 billion text messages were sent in 2004, and this figure is expected to rise further in 2005. Type 'text messaging' into any search engine and you'll find a vast range of sites with tips on this relatively new communication medium. A trip to the local bookshop will provide a similar opportunity to develop your texting skills through publications such as "Get Messaging: A Complete Guide To Instant Text Messaging" and "litle bk of txt msggs". Such resources prove the demand for tips on how to use our mobiles in ways that save that extra split second rather than being forced to type a WHOLE word is vast, and clearly a phone call would occupy just too much of our day.

However, it now seems that reducing the amount of keys we

push in a day is more beneficial than just time-saving. Italian doctors now claim that acute tendonitis is a thing to be feared as we pick up our mobile to send that quick text. Their case study is that of a 13-year old girl who was referred to an orthopedic specialist and prescribed anti-inflammatory medicine to reduce the effects produced by her 100-texts-a-day habit.

Aside from this probably very painful tendon condition, these doctors have also named irritability and mood swings as symptoms linked to frequent mobile phone use amongst young Italians. It seems that the best thing to keep our body in overall good condition would be to leave the mobile at home and take a jog to the nearest pay-phone and make a call. The demise of the mobile could spell the return of the conversation, correct grammar and the return of the good old-fashioned red telephone box! Why did we ever abandon it?

Would-be barristers to have course extended

By Daniel Measore

It's never a better time to start a career at the Legal Bar of England and Wales. This is the advice now given to students studying for their law degrees after new changes in the process of coming to the bar have been announced. The Bar Council made the announcement that students who have first completed their law degree and then Bar Vocation Course (BVC) will now no longer automatically be able to call themselves a 'Barrister'. The problem in recent years has been the large number of students entering into careers in law meant that the number of people qualifying has been significantly more than the amount of pupilages available. Pupilages, the compulsory vocational stage where newly qualified barristers shadow existing members of the bar, have always been illusive, but now the Bar Council is acting on this. Currently, when students qualify as barristers, the Bar Council, who is the regulated body for Barristers, becomes responsible

for their conduct and the body to whom Barristers can complain to. The amount of pupilages and the selection process is one thing that many newly qualified barristers complain to the Bar Council about.

From 2007, when the new changes are brought in, students passing their BVC will be left with fierce competition for pupilages, nobody to complain to and without being able to proudly call themselves Barristers.

Of course for the current law students reading this, they will not be affected if they move onto the year-long BVC course immediately after their degree. But in the future, many students at universities around the country will be left with an £11,000 bill for the BVC course and only a slim chance of being able to proceed and continue successfully in their career. As many young students are being told these days, it really is the best time to qualify, for tomorrow it may be significantly more difficult.

Tired of being labelled apathetic? Make your vote count in 2005

By Phil Reilly

As we enter the run up to this year's general election, there is turmoil at the top end of British politics. In the current climate of in-fighting, spin, propaganda and war, first time voters could be forgiven their disillusionment with the two parties that have for so long dominated British government. For all his talk of freedom and democracy, Tony Blair has led the nation into an unpopular and unfounded war, centralised decision making power in the government giving himself almost presidential levels of authority, and encouraged the Blunkett-Clarke Home Office to introduce a new set of authoritarian powers, including allegiance pledges, ID cards and the suspension of jury trials for terrorist suspects. We appear to be entering an era of Orwellian government. Besides, fear got George Bush re-elected and with Gordon Brown looking ever more attractive an alternative for Blair's position, the PM needs to play his biggest cards. However, the farce over the Blair-Brown saga has left the PM with the dilemma of sacking or marginalizing one of our most successful Chancellors or allowing himself to be undermined by him. A recent survey for The Independent showed that Labour would get a higher proportion of the vote with Brown at the helm, but Blair has made it clear he will not give the British public this option in the near future.

American reporter Seymour Hersch recently published an article in The New Yorker claiming that Bush's next move is into Iran, a military campaign that would make Iraq look like a children's tea party. Blair has refused to rule this out and a vote for New Labour in 2005 could be a vote to expand the conflict in the Middle East. Not that a vote for the Conservatives would be a vote against expansion of the war: despite questioning Mr Blair's relationship with the truth the Tories have always been staunch supporters of the war in Iraq, with only three MPs voting against it.

In response to New Labour's more right wing stance, and with UKIP and now Veritas (the latest Kilroy show) seducing voters in Tory heartlands, Michael Howard has reacted with hard-line asylum policies. These include withdrawing from the 1951 UN convention on refugees and imposing new strict measurements of potential immigrants' economic usefulness. Blair has dismissed Howard's ideas as "unworkable, impractical and uncosted", and the Liberal Democrats are concerned they will mean turning away genuine refugees. This is despite the country enjoying the longest period of sustained economic growth for 200 years and ours being the fastest growing big economy in Europe. The fact is people have always gone where the jobs are and we are providing them at the moment. It should be a source of

pride not fear, we live in an ever-developing society and to restrict this to preserve 'traditional values' smacks of isolationism and thinly veiled xenophobia, to say nothing of economic irresponsibility.

So where should the socially conscious first time voter place their vote in the upcoming election? The only party that is offering a genuine alternative is Charles Kennedy's Liberal Democrats. Having opposed the war from the get go they are proposing a responsible withdrawal from Iraq with little prospect of expanding the war into Iran or Syria, or even North Korea for that matter. Their September 2004 'Safe Haven' document also uses very different language when discussing asylum and immigration, proposing "an open approach which honours international humanitarian obligations and treats asylum seekers and refugees humanely, recognises the value of migration in enriching our economic and cultural lives, and inspires public confidence". They are also proposing to scrap tuition fees and the current disproportionate Council tax system, which current students will find out all about when they have graduated. They plan to replace this with a one percent increase in income tax on people who earn more than £100,000 a year, setting Mr Kennedy up as a modern day Robin Hood.

When he first took control of the Lib Dems, Kennedy was seen by many as a jovial, lightweight politician who would not be able to handle the responsibilities of the top office. However, in recent years he has emerged as a thoughtful, reasonable and socially aware leader who is offering the only real opposition to the current political status quo. A vote for the Liberal Democrats may not realistically put Kennedy into office this year, but it is not unrealistic for them to emerge from this election as the real opposition to New Labour with a platform that could make them genuinely electable in five or ten years time. As young voters we have a responsibility to look at the bigger picture.



Labour launch their new campaign giving a clear indication that the elvetion are on the horizon

Britain
forward
not back

KENT SPACE SOCIETY

The University of Kent Space Society exists to encourage an interest in astronomy, astrophysics, and space science throughout the University. In pursuit of this aim we try to appeal to everyone throughout the University regardless of what degree they are doing. The objective of the society is to promote the science of astronomy and all its branches. It does this by holding regular meetings and viewing nights, using our permanently based telescopes, just outside Parkwood.

We also circulate current astronomical information, and

encourage popular interest in astronomy. Members are urged to help with the running of the society by standing for committee posts in elections, bringing the emphasis of the society very much back to the student population with this representation.

On the practical side observation evenings and rocketry workshops (if we don't lose them first!) take the 'interest' onto a more exciting and involving level for members. Don't forget our famous socials, which have become the stuff of urban legends. We hold meetings every second Tuesday in ELT2 at 7:30pm; it's only £3 to join

for the entire year, this gives you access to the telescopes, rocket launches, etc.

You will receive full training on the telescopes from our telescope officers Richard Clarke and Marc Cornwall, and full training on how to build and launch rockets from the Rocketry Officers. Anyone with an interest in space, no matter how small, is warmly invited to attend the meetings. If you would like any more information please feel free to email the president Chris Rees at ctr3@kent.ac.uk.

Richard Smith (rss7)
Press Secretary
UKC Space Society

You CAN make a Difference

Most political commentators seem to agree on one thing at the moment: the general election will be held on May 5th. All the signs are there: Labour has issued another pledge card, policies from all parties are being made at a rate of knots, and even the timing of Charles and Camilla's wedding is seen by some as being timed to coincide with Tony Blair's decision to announce the date of Election Day. If polling does take place in May that has an important consequence for students in Canterbury – we will be here when the election takes place. This is extremely significant, because with so many students in the city we have the potential to affect the result in the Canterbury constituency. Students are entitled by law to be registered in two different places, even if you can only vote in one place. If you live on-campus you will already be registered in Canterbury, but for those in off-campus accommodation you will have to register by March 11th.

If you make the effort to register in Canterbury, it will be worth it. This is because with so many students in the area, you have the potential to influence the outcome. Interestingly, the Liberal Democrat candidate Jenny Barnard-Langston is fewer votes behind MP Julian Brazier than there are students in Canterbury. With such power, students have a chance to send a powerful message on Top-up fees and the level of debt they will face after graduation. This will simply not happen under Labour's plans to charge £3,000 a year fees

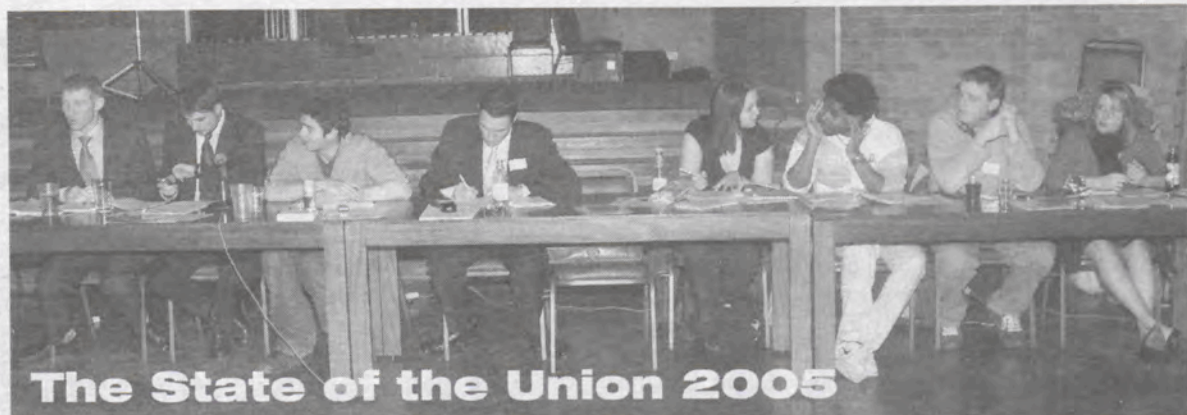
from 2006 or the Tories policy of introducing commercial rates on student loans. Only the Liberal Democrats are wholly committed to abolishing student fees, which they have done in Scotland and enabling students to study on the ability to learn and not the ability to pay. Also, many students feel so angry over the war and the Liberal Democrats have been the only party in parliament consistently opposing the war and holding the government accountable for its shameful actions in Iraq. With honest and truthful positions like these, it is little surprise that the Liberal Democrats are the most popular choice amongst students nationally with 37% of students supporting them. With so many students concentrated in one place, you all have the opportunity to make a difference on the unjust way of life created by Tuition fees and the subsequent burdensome debt faced by students.

So use your vote to make the difference in Canterbury, this is probably the first election where students can make the difference. Don't leave it to others; they are probably leaving it to you!

If you are off-campus, get registered and if you think you won't be around for Election Day get a postal vote or ask someone to be your proxy.

For more information about postal or proxy votes contact ch63@kent.ac.uk

C.Harcourt



This year's Student Union AGM promised to be full of intrigue and heated debate as once again the students and various political factions of the Student body met to review the Sabbatical's performance and various proposed motions that affect us all.

Held in Eliot hall, this year's rather interesting feature was not a wall of student debt on display but a wall of two rows of deserted chairs which acted as an interesting symbolic barrier between the Sabbaticals and the rest of the student body. The AGM started off with the usual ratification of minutes and other procedural tasks but really got going when NUS President Kat Fletcher got up to make a speech which interestingly enough attacked the previous government's education policy rather than the current Labour government's introduction of top up fees and tuition fees, which was very unusual and although it emphasised students uniting in fighting against fees, it actually divided the hall with a fair bit of slow clapping to show for it. David Budd also made his first speech of the evening emphasising the fact that the Union had avoided bankruptcy and had been cooperating well with the university. The rest of the Sabbaticals made similar speeches with the only memorable question being put to them concerning the Summer Ball and accusations of it being a fiasco. Other questions put to the sabbaticals accused both the Men's Officer and LGBT officer of inaction.

With all the speeches and grandeur over, the meeting moved onto the real substance of the annual AGM – the motions that were being proposed. The first of these was perhaps the most controversial – the proposed banning of the British National Party on campus. This was backed by the Chair of New Labour Students and Union

President David Budd. Before the speeches had even begun a deal had been brokered between the Kent University Conservatives and the Socialist Workers to join to oppose this motion on the grounds that it held clauses which were so vague that it could in the future be used to ban any party that the exec felt was extreme and also on the grounds that it was far better to let the BNP speak on platform and expose them for the idiots that they were than to silence them and force them underground. In a rather odd twist someone in the hall asked for a count of the members in attendance of the meeting – if there were less than 150, the meeting would effectively be meaningless by Union rules. The count was done and it was declared that there were less than 150 by this point. In perhaps the most interesting and bold speech of the evening Jason Hughes spoke against the motion, claiming to a thunderous applause that if the Union was to ban extremism it would have to ban him as he was an extremist about fighting racism. A member of the Socialist Workers, also got up to shout a tirade of insults about the motion and was reminded by the AGM Chair to watch his language. Mark Leach and some others spoke for the motion, pointing out the disgusting policies of the BNP – but with little if any effect – with both the Conservatives and Socialists in agreement that the motion was anti-democratic the motion was a lost cause and it was rejected by 10 votes to be passed on to some sort of committee.

The next set of the motions concerned the smoking policy on campus and proposed that Kent Union promote the banning of smoking in the Venue and other certain places and encourage other unions to do similar. Again the AGM was divided over this – Joel Charles accusing the Sabbaticals and the Union of being permeated by left wingers intent on using this motion to restrict the right of

Most memorable quote of the AGM

Jason Hughes "I am an extremist. If you ban extremism you will have to ban me - because I am extreme about fighting racism"

Amusing event of the night

A Sabbatical calling for all members to stand in unity – to which only three quarters of the audience stands.

AGM winners

Socialist Workers Student Society and the Conservatives as BNP extremism motions are quashed.

AGM losers

Kent New Labour Students as they are accused of permeating the union and lose their BNP motion by 10 votes.

In a nut shell

Well chaired AGM with quicker pace and a reminder to UKC students that participation and voting in Kent Union is vital. AGM popular buzz words 2005: achieve, solidarity, collectively, future and action.

individuals to choose, and stating that the motion didn't represent the majority of students. David Budd then spoke, denying those claims and commenting that he had an equal right not to have to breathe in other people's 'death fog'. The motion was passed and we will have to wait and see what happens.

In a new twist to this year's AGM, there was a vote held on where £10,000 of Union funds should be spent – the options given to the students in attendance were: UKCR Radio, Societies, Sports, or Campaigns. The vote was counted and despite a slight majority wanting the money to be spent on sports the 'Proportional Representation' system used meant that the money actually went to societies- although by this point the attendees were becoming restless and tired as it began to snow outside and the hours grew. With too few attendees and most of the motions voted on, the meeting was called to a close. It had been a largely successful night with the motions voted on and Sabbaticals called to account – although the early declaration that the meeting had too few members attending, had left the majority of people wondering what actually had resulted from all the hours of debate and motions.

Bart Smith



Julien Brazier (right) local Labour MP



Iraqi elections

Brave Iraqis build a new future

After the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003, a work towards a democratic parliament has been occurring and on January 30th of this year the vote was finally upon the Iraqis. There was much debate as to how successful the elections would be and how democratic, with American forces still looming and the Sunni population, which had gained most power under Saddam, saying that they would not vote in an election while still occupied and under threat. There was even further fear of targeting due a stamp that would be used to show who had voted, this was seen by some as a bad idea and encouraging violence, yet the idea behind it was democratic as to stop citizens voting more than once. However many brave Iraqis still took to the streets to vote in this first free momentous election in 50 years. Unfortunately the day did not go without bloodshed, with at least 36 people were killed across



the country - mainly in Baghdad. The results from these elections are seen to show an overall success, as predicted by many, the Sunni hold on the Iraq parliament was relieved considerably, with the Shiite population being far the winners in this election, with Kurds also gaining much ground. Out of an interim government of 275 members, the Shiite backed United Iraqi Alliance won 140 seats (48%), being the largest religious group in Iraq and with support from Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, this looks from the start

to be the beginning of hopefully successful and relatively trouble free government. However they are warnings of possible problems when the government will have to try and work with the minority Sunni Muslims. Maybe the most surprising result from the day was a slick and well-funded electoral campaign from the interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's party secured only 40 seats in the new parliament, while an alliance of Kurdish parties has 77 deputies. Now begins the rebuilding of a proud fallen nation, with the new parliament having the responsibility of writing up a new constitution for the country. As the UIA did not win 50%+1 of the vote they must seek out another party to form a coalition with, which is likely to be Kurdish in origin. The parties are now putting forward their candidates for Prime Minister with the most likely of these being, Ibrahim Jaafari of the Daawa party. Many other parties have given up their original candidates and are backing Mr. Jaafari, such as the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (Sciri), which is the other main party in the Shiite alliance, is who have withdrawn its original candidate for prime minister, Adel Abdel Mahdi. One threat to Mr. Jaafari seems to be the interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi, however with weak support in parliament he is not likely to win. This leaves the only main threat to leadership with Kurdish groups who say the want the Premiership to form a coalition. Mr Jaafari is seen as a popular candidate due to being seen as less corrupt and his good relationship with Iran although not as close as other politicians. So is this a good sign for the future of Iraq or is it just another step towards destruction?

Iyad Allawi, candidate and frontrunner for the Iraqi Prime Minister's position



Europe, how much do we know?

By Adam Parsons

For those studying politics, international relations, or those who merely care about how they are being represented in Europe, among others may have seen February 3rd as a great opportunity for them. This is due to a speech and a later question time event that were billed for this day, on Europe. The talk that first took place early in that morning had a bill including the Minister for Europe, Dr. Denis MacShane and his French political counterpart Claudie Haignere. Unfortunately, like most political events this proved to be as about as insightful as a rubber chicken with a voice box. MacShane used the usual routine for politicians, in that he told a story of his Polish father and attempted to draw in the sympathies and attentions of the audience, and then began to talk about how this meant that he knew how important certain issues of Europe were. He then again used simplistic political rhetoric when trying the usual speech tactic of making a joke, this one being that Robert Kilroy-Silk was ringing him. After this



20-minute introduction of wasted time, MacShane then went on to actually talk a little about how Europe worked, how decisions were made and who were the real 'big hitters' in Europe. At this point Haignere, who had been delayed, talk over for a short period to give an introduction of herself and why she thought the E.U. was best for Britain and others. It has to be said that she did this a lot more convincingly and sincerely than Denis MacShane. Then because of the shortness in time, due to Claudie Haignere's late arrival, a short question and answer session took place. This included questions on, Should we educate people on Europe e.g. how the E.U. works? and more general questions on why it's best to be in Europe along with others.

These were unfortunately answered again in the usual political way, with the questions being listened to taken in and then totally ignored. With both Denis MacShane and Haignere answering question with a general speech on Europe. However this was not the most annoying part of the hour long talk, that came when Claudie Haignere was having trouble with her English, This is fair enough and is why there was a translator there for her. However at one point because of the language barrier, Haignere was having real difficulty, to which Dr Denis MacShane told her to talk completely in French, with it



saying, "If you're English you'll just have to learn better French". This is an utter disgrace, due to the fact that there were a number of English people in the room, with most looking bemused by the situation and a translator who did not translate into English, even the French students there seemed disgusted, how can we know what's best for Britain if we don't know what is being said, it was a poor political trick by MacShane and seemed more at place in a Malcolm in the Middle episode than a properly organised political debate.

The question and answers went on for some time further with the same time of political non-answering among other things continue in time.

To complete the day of European political talks a Question Time ensued in the evening with a

British parties clash over terror



After the government was told by judges that holding terror suspects without trial in prison was unlawful and against civil liberties, new terror laws were written up to allow suspects to be held under house arrest and not be allowed visitors among other plans. These new plans have not been welcomed by either opposition leader despite a meeting between the three men to discuss the situation and how to deal with terror suspects. The Conservative leader, Michael Howard called the Prime Minister "arrogant" and accused him of trying steamroll the plans for "political point scoring".

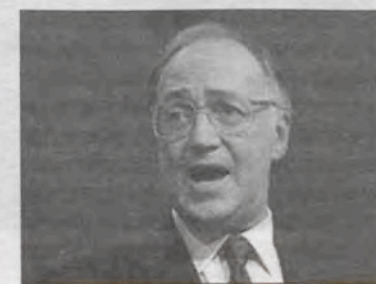
With The Liberal Democrat leader, Charles Kennedy said the PM was threatening civil liberties and said the plans were typically "authoritarian".

The clash comes just before a vote on the proposals for the Home Secretary to be able hold terror suspects with no trial under house arrest, which Charles Clarke stated is needed to combat terrorism which has not before reached our shores. Although you only have to take one look at the mess that is Guantanamo bay to see what happens when politicians don't respect civil liberties and break the Geneva Convention. What is even worse about these plans is that it will be a politician not a judge that decides what happens to 'suspects' who have been rejected the fundamental liberty of a trial. This is not democratic or in some eyes legal, after all they have there jobs because they know the law and because the decide on how the public should be punished when they break it, not simply an elected salesman who has no truer knowledge than that of how to get elected.

Despite protests from opposition parties Blair and his fast track government are seen as likely to win the vote on the 24th of February, however are likely to

see strong opposition in the lords. The Home Secretary has protested that he will not use the laws at this point, not even on the 11 terror suspects held at one of Britain's most notorious prisons, Belmarsh who are held under laws, which are soon to expire, on March 14th. In a very rare move, the Conservative party and the Lib Dems have jointly tabled a motion opposing the new bill, saying the plans for the new house arrest legislation is being rushed, against liberty and "excessive".

So will the now arbitrary majority of the Labour party pass a fundamentally dodgy piece of legislation or will sanity reign through with the opposition parties?



variety of speakers ranging from MEPs to simple parliamentary candidates. The speakers included, Maureen Tomison, Labour PPC for Folkestone & Hythe, Conservative MEP Richard Ashworth, as well as a Liberal Democrat representative and a former European Bureaucrat. This Question Time pulled in quite a few political activists from the local area, not merely students and from the start look much more promising than earlier in the day, to have serious debate. Each panellist was given a small amount of time to introduce themselves and what they believe about Europe. The Conservative panellist made quite a good first impression saying how he is a former business man who believes in Europe, with just certain reservations and how himself and his party were looking to bring democracy bring to the bureaucracy the has taken over. Next was the Labour representative who, considering the position she is put in at the next general election (fighting for the seat currently taken by Michael Howard), she did very poorly. She introduced herself quite convincingly, with her past embedded in the Conservative party and so it would seem being a perfect opponent to take on the Tory leader. However this is where her virtues ran out, she continued with the typical Labour rhetoric of using examples from the past to talk about the present, this is poor political speaking especially the information she was using was of a Thatcher lead party, which was 26 years ago. Then was the Liberal Democrat member who introduced

herself as a professional lady with a background in law especially European law. However this impressive CV went on to be some what of a downfall with her speech becoming quite complex in language and hard to understand. Finally came the former European bureaucrat, Sir Nicoll, who undoubtedly was the funniest, he introduced himself as a bureaucrat who may talk basically rubbish and said how he was formerly a euro-sceptic who had changed his mind and was very simplistic in his speech.

Then was the main body of the night's talks which was as the title suggested, questions, from those who were there with the general public seemingly outnumbering Kent students. A multitude of questions came forward from many different political groups and general constituents. First up was a question from the local UKIP, who direct their question unsurprisingly toward the Conservative MEP. The question was asking how the Conservative party could work against Europe while working with it. This question was answered quite well by Richard Ashworth, who stated as he did in his introductory speech that he believed in Europe



but merely had to change it. Then questions came thick and fast from the Green Party, Labour and even the Liberal Democrats. The only other question of consequence was from the Conservative University Association, who commented that, the Labour and Conservative panellists should swap places as they seem to be doing a better job of promoting the opposite point of view and then asked certain constitutional questions that may damage Britain to which the Labour member attempted a joke in response stating the red colour of the young Conservatives top, then went on to badly answer the question and use information she had been repeating all night, the Liberal Democrat again spoke in riddles and was hard to understand, of course it was a constitutional question and as such possible constituted such speak it was slightly long. The best answer to the question, as it had been all night, came from Sir Nicoll the former bureaucrat who gave a simplistic seemingly very well informed answer. Overall the best performance of the night came from Sir Nicoll who was well informed and a good speaker and in my scale of question avoidance, strength of answer and clearness he scores 7 out of ten. Whereas the worst performance comes from the poorly spoken Labour candidate for Michael Howard's seat Maureen Tomison, who was very much out of her depth and scores only a generous 3, with the Conservative and Lib Dem both scoring equally on 5.

EU Constitution

... Why a Yes or No vote could make a difference.

Will a NO vote by any single country bring the end of the European Union as we know it? Probably not. Will a YES vote by every one of the member states reform the European Union, bringing it closer to the people and their needs? Potentially, it may.

The pro-Europeans might not feel that it goes far enough to create a "United States of Europe" and on the other hand the Eurosceptics believe that this Constitution gives away too much and compromises national sovereignty. Having myself, recently just managed to read a brief version of the 325 pages long constitution (and I can suggest a few websites for anyone that is interested*), I realised that the Constitution itself turns out to favour neither the pro-European camp nor the Eurosceptics; it is simply mirroring the realities of EU politics. In order to accommodate the 10 new members and the potential members joining in years to come, the EU needs to improve the framework in which it operates. This is not to say that the Constitution will solve all problems at once, but it is a step forward in the right direction.

The debate over the constitution will focus on different issues and be varied from country to country, but when all is said and done it is the result that will matter. A possible NO vote, in truth would not destroy the European Union, but it would leave Europe lingering for a long time in an unwanted situation of uncertainty and distrust. This would arise not only from the potential political "isolation" for the country that rejected it but also the unfavorable consequences of having to deal with a Europe of 25 (or more) playing by the rules of a Europe of 15.

A powerful YES vote and a ratification of the Constitution on the other hand would streamline the EU into a more effective and efficient institution adapting the new rules to fit the new circumstances. Perhaps more importantly, further European political integration will only make the European Union a stronger voice in the world and that can only be a positive outcome.

What it comes down to in the end is not so much a choice on Yes or No but rather a choice between huge prospective improvements and lingering uncertainty.

Glaikos Mitsidis

*<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2950276.stm>

*http://www.cer.org.uk/pdf/policybrief_constitution_july04.pdf

"YOU'VE BEEN HUGGED BY GLOBAL KIND!"

Much fun was had this Valentine's Day on campus, not only because of the usual loved-up atmosphere, but because it was Kent's first Random Hugger's Day! Global Kind society members and friends devoted a couple of well-spent hours to giving hugs to surprised students, staff and even security guards. In all, about three hundred people received a hug.

Random Hugger's Day is the brainchild of Mayella Johnstone (mayella@play50.fsnet.co.uk) who organises such an event each year on the first of May in London. Last year a group of around thirty volunteers ranging from students to corporate strategists hugged nearly three thousand people in Covent Garden. The idea for Random Hugger's Day

was born after Mayella heard a radio show interviewee commenting that it is possible to have random terrorists on the streets but not random huggers. If you want to join in this May please contact Lizzie (eah5) or visit the website www.randomhuggers.com for more information.

This was a great way to start One World Week and the positive response to the gesture was evident with lots of smiles, laughter and of course hugs! The most frequently asked question by puzzled passers-by was why we were doing such a 'strange' thing; hugging people for no reason.

A hug is a healing and positive symbol of peace and unity. Fear is spread through the world without a second thought, and this was our opportunity to show that love can spread even faster.

Elizabeth Hornby (eah5)
President - Global Kind



Wake-up to Enterprise

Two FREE Student Entrepreneurial events

2nd March at the Madejski Stadium, Reading
12th March at Brighton Racecourse

Have you ever thought of starting your own business?
Have a great idea? Don't know what to do next?

You must attend one of these events to get the help and advice you need. You can attend 3 interactive workshops plus great networking opportunities to build up your contacts. i-pods to be won at each event. Look out for an email pdf leaflet in your university email account or contact:

Rubicon Communications
T: (01865) 327813

www.rubicon-communications.com

One World Week

14th-18th February

Kent students celebrate cultural diversity on campus

The annual culture carnival that is One World Week was all over campus last week, with events covering the themes of Music, Dance and Drama, Arts and Craft, Food, Fashion and Sport. One World Week is designed to make people aware of the many cultures and races of people on campus, and to learn more about their traditions. But this year was even more important, because all money raised goes to the Tsunami Relief.

Some of my favourite events of the week were Random Hug Day, on Monday, arranged by the Global Kind Soc, Lights, Camera, Action on Friday night, which was a cultured evening of jazz, movie star fancy dress and cocktails, and the Arts and Crafts day (Wednesday), which included henna painting and shisha by the Asian Soc, Japanese calligraphy and tea ceremony by the Japanese Soc. The finale of the week was International Night, held on Saturday; a talent show reflecting skills from all cultures, including MC-ing, dance, singing and martial arts. The winners will perform later this year at the Summer Ball.

But certainly one of the most adventurous events was the Fashion Show, held on Friday evening in The Venue. Originally devised by Ali Heaps and Simran Bhullan, the idea was to display both traditional clothing from around the world, and modern clothing from the High Street inspired by other cultures. All participants, including students from the Asian Soc and African Soc, used their own clothes in the show, and fashion students from KIAD spent the day before the show making outfits from rubbish. The idea was not only to challenge their artistic abilities, but also to

show that fashion really does come in any form - it needn't be solely about high couture design and expensive fabrics.

In the last of the festivities celebrating One World Week, Friday evening saw The Venue open its doors for a fashion show, with vibrant and colourful presentations from the Malaysian-Brunei, Japanese, Asian and East African societies.

The crowd responded well to the innovative styles representing the cultural diversity of the night, and of course its charismatic hosts Andre Grant and Katie Hawley. The DJ helped to enhance the positive atmosphere by playing music that was almost as racy as some of the models' attire.

The show kicked off with the Malaysian-Brunei society who presented a mixture of contemporary and traditional clothing; while the Japanese society placed a greater emphasis on some of the more modern aspects of their dress. The Asian society displayed a variety of elegant silks and satins accompanied by jewels, which definitely added a sparkle to the occasion.

The evening was brought to a climax with four models bringing together onto the same stage some of the defining aspects of each of the cultures represented. Each costume was hand made on the day by a talented seamstress named Ruth, and despite the obvious chaos which must have ensued in the run up to the show, the event itself was flawless in its operation. Credit and thanks must go to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help in this event.

Proceeds from the One World Week will be donated to the Tsunami Appeal Fund.

Yvette France & Vicky Crouch

Samantha Mansi met Katie Morgan the Student Activities Sabbatical for some more information on the annual One World Week.

One World Week is about celebrating culture and diversity on campus and in the local community. It is about the sharing of different experiences and working together to reduce prejudices. One World Week started three years ago as 'International Night' and has now become a full weeks worth of events as well as the annual 'International Night.' This year International Night has twenty acts in two and a half hours, indicating the talent on campus. Some are modern, while others are more traditionally based. This year the Vice-Chancellor supported One World Week and all the funds raised are going directly to the Tsunami appeal. Other people in support of One World Week include the International and Equality offices. One World Week represents all cultures; it is not just for international students. This is shown through events like Amnesty Domestic

Campaign, the Peace Ribbon and Monkeyshine comedy. There was also an opportunity to learn a new language - such as Armenian - in this year's One World Week.

Each year, with increasing involvement, One World Week is becoming bigger and bigger. Thirty different societies and individuals have been involved, including Campaigns Working Group and RAG; the sabbaticals have a role to play too with a language debate run by Education Sab. Jen Warrington. The Sports Teams, such as Kendo and Fencing, have also been involved this year, all showing others what the sports involve. The seven-a-side football included twenty teams (mostly societies and individuals). One World Week helps people to be aware of issues such as Migration and Domestic Violence. If you missed it this year, next year's is going to be bigger and better! The Tsunami disaster makes it important for us to be one world, and remember that we are, despite prejudices that still exist. One World Week encourages us to work together and learn about new cultures at the same time.



Pictures of the One World Week Fashion Show in The Venue and dances in Eliot College to raise money for the Tsunami Disaster victims.

all pictures taken by Laura Bottomley





(right to left) The Futureheads, Bloc Party, The Killers

NME 'Shockwaves' Tour February 9th 2005

**The Kaiser Chiefs,
Bloc Party,
The Futureheads
and The Killers...
Brixton Academy
London**

Liam Baxter meets up with The Futureheads drummer Barry Hyde and affable Kaiser Chiefs keyboardist and famed 'pork pie' hat wearer Nick 'Peanut' Baines whilst at the NME tour...

...As darkness enveloped the vastness of The Academy, the first intro music of the night kicks in. The Kaiser Chiefs take to the stage and waste no time launching straight into future crowd favourite 'Na Na Na Naa'. Two more album teasers show the strength of debut 'Employment', before the band hit the crowd with the double dance floor salvo of current single 'Oh My God', and previous tour de force 'I Predict a Riot'. (A quick look around the crowd shows this to be potentially the most apt song title ever). 'Peanut' tells me the

band have taken the hype of being the opening band on this legendary tour in their stride (previous openers include Franz Ferdinand and Coldplay) and they play like the stars that they are destined to become. His confidence in the future of the band is by no means unfounded. Singer Ricky is a ball of energy throughout swinging his microphone around his head and occasionally joining in percussion duties with a cowbell. Bloc Party, another band hyped to astronomic levels before the release of their debut album, have a tough act to follow. Although singer Kele Okereke admits to the crowd that the band are nervous, playing at a venue such as this, they fully justify their position on the bill from the off with a rousing rendition of 'Banquet'. If there were any doubts about The Futureheads deserving such a lofty position on the bill tonight, they are quickly dispelled, as the band take the stage to a sound not heard since the victorious England Rugby Team returned from the World Cup final in 2003. During my interview, drummer Dave mentions that

however impressed people may be with their album, The Futureheads have to be experienced live for the audience to get a real feel for the band. Clearly the most engaging band of the night, they also have a set list full of hits that were born for a venue this size. Songs such as 'A to B', 'Meantime' and 'Decent Days and Nights' are lapped up by the crowd, and will no doubt feel just as fresh and exciting when played later in the year on the festival circuit. (Dave hints the band has already decided to play Glastonbury and Reading, as well as a festival tour in Japan). Finally, on come The Killers. Singer Brandon Flowers strides to the front of the stage, before sending the crowd wild as the rest of the band open with album highlight 'Midnight Show.' Every song from the album 'Hot Fuss' is received like a returning war hero and even the new music debuted on this tour is warmly appreciated. It is still the singles 'Somebody Told Me' and 'Mr Brightside' (which Flowers cheekily proclaims "was good enough to win a Brit award"-referring to the bands earlier return empty handed from said awards ceremony) which get the biggest cheers of the night. The

highlight of the night, however is ironically left for the albums weakest moment 'All these things that I've done', when, during the now famous line 'I've got soul but I'm not a soldier', the band are joined onstage by members of all three support bands along with management and friends alike. The bands take a final bow, almost as one, which is followed by members of The Kaiser Chiefs and Bloc Party diving headlong over the barrier to swim with the front rows of fans. As the lights go up for the final time of the night, 2000 people leave the venue drenched in sweat and buzzing; safe in the knowledge that once again the NME has showcased the talents of four bands that are sure to be huge in 2005, whilst the venue is left with a small Liam shaped dent on the protective crowd barrier. Many people have called this night a victory for the Killers, but in the battle of Britain over the US; I think this one can go down as the proverbial high scoring draw. One thing is certain; people can keep their festivals... February or not, the gig that will be on everyone's lips come December has already been and gone.

Liam Baxter

Fundamental Skillz

Ashford
01/01/05

Ashford is host to some great new up and coming bands, including Fundamental Skillz, who played live at Oranges Bar Café on New Years Day to shake up those nasty hangovers. The band is a nicely idiosyncratic mix of nu-metal and hip-hop. The line up includes twins Ben and Sam, who own a tattoo studio in town; Glen and his brother Tim who are students at Colchester; and DJ Driftwood. Meeting through friends and other bands, the boys decided to bring their mix together. Sam and Ben are influenced by rock instrumentally, Glen and Tim rap, while DJ Driftwood uses his decks as a form of instrument.

They tend to have a following of rock fans with an appreciation of hip-hop and vice versa but ultimately because their style is just so original, it works as a genre of its own. The band believes they allow the merging of styles between them to direct the music, rather than conforming to a deliberate sound. Previously they have played in the rock venue Homelands (Ashford), Tap & Tin (Chatham), Infinity and Neighbourhood (both in West London).

The band has just completed a CD, and is hoping to have a release gig when the vocalists get back from Uni. If you fancy something different from the usual, Fundamental Skillz is definitely the band for you. I've heard them live several times, and every time they bring something new along. If you want to hear more check out their website fundamentalskillz.com, or come along to the next gig that will no doubt be local.

Tara Lakin

The Dears

Electric Ballroom
01/02/05

The Dears, if you haven't already heard, will soon take over the world. The latest incarnation of the Canadian six-piece, most frequently described as Damon Albarn singing The Smiths, is breaking into the British mainstream after five years of slow burn success at home. Considering

The Dears



the Brit influenced sound, it seems surprising that we haven't heard of them sooner. Surely they've been itching to meet us: legend has it that songwriter Murray Lightburn once voyaged to England at the dawn of Britpop with the express intention of pressing a demo tape into Graham Coxon's hands, such was his enthusiasm for all things Limey.

"I don't know that we would consider ourselves anglophiles," keyboardist and vocalist Natalia

Yanchak tells KRED before the show, and cites Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd as important influences to illustrate her point. A short pause. "Are those guys British?" she ponders. Realizing her mistake, she shrugs. "Well, if 'Never Destroy Us' sounds like The Smiths..."

The band slinks onstage without much fuss, but the storming opener 'Postcard from Purgatory', an edgy, gothic jam with a touch of the Floyd about it, quickly has spines tingling. As a frontman Lightburn doesn't have the most flamboyant rockstar swagger about him, remaining animated but dignified throughout. However, the lack of physical fireworks is more than compensated for with heart on sleeve, occasionally venomous lyrics that the Ballroom's sound system is, tragically, unequipped to deal with on the night. Lightburn's crooning is reduced to a buzzy mess, although KRED's proximity to a 12 foot tall speaker may have exacerbated the problem. The shoutier stuff sounds fine!

Lightburn is the emotional heart and soul of the band, but Yanchak chips in on a number of songs, her detached, icy delivery always a welcome counterpoint to

Lightburn's aching lilt. Next to her, keyboardist/flutist Valerie Jodoin-Keaton eyeballs the audience with a similarly chilly demeanor, only breaking her stare to toss a lock of hair impassively. At the other side of the stage, the bassist and guitarist bounce around like children just let out of school. The result is a visual performance that reflects the music: capable of raising a cheer and a sigh within the same breath.

Check out www.thedears.org
Alexander Goff

Led by Zeppelin

Ashford
22/01/05

Led Zeppelin fans would have been blown away by the greatness of a tribute band that played in Ashford Rocks. It was none other than Led by Zeppelin, although many would have mistaken the look and feel of the band for the real thing; clad in jewellery and fringes, the style and behaviour was faithful. But as for the sound, that was a different

story: the vocalist matched Plant's high winding voice and the guitarist rocked with his double headed twelve and six string guitar. The drummer was performing his first gig with the band, showing off with a seven-minute solo. But for me, best was the bassist and keyboard player who had a look on his face that fascinated me all night. It wasn't until I got home that I realised it was immense pride for being able to mimic the sonic-boom rhythm that John Paul Jones was responsible for. The highlights of the night were 'Rock and Roll,' 'Dazed and Confused,' and 'Whole Lotta Love,' but I especially loved 'Kashmir' being their third encore. Led by Zeppelin really got the crowd going with their passionate metal sound, nearly everyone was up head banging. They were being literally worshipped by a group practically on the stage bowing with unworthiness.

The band will be playing in other venues in Kent in the near future. For details, check their web site on www.led-by-zeppelin.co.uk.

Tara Lakin

Live Reviews

Are the singles charts still relevant?

By Thomas Nyiri

Looking at the singles' sales charts for the previous few weeks, one might be slightly perplexed at the recent number ones; most of them being re-released posthumous hits from Elvis Presley. One might wonder who is actually buying these singles, what sector of the public is shelling out their hard-earned money to make Elvis number one, again, week after week. The answer becomes clear when one looks at the actual physical sales of the singles; practically no one is buying the number one single, and of course no one is buying singles in general. So if no one is buying singles at all then surely they can no longer be relevant? Surely they no longer reflect the tastes of the general public.

Up until the late 1990s single sales had been steady and strong with a peak in sales in 1998, about the same time as the Spice Girls' popularity. However, in the last six years the sales have declined at an alarming rate. When once to achieve a number one it would take sales of over 100,000 copies, now it seems Elvis can nestle quite comfortably at the top with less than 20,000 copies sold; that is in excess of an 80% decrease. So certainly sales are minute compared to their previous heights, but just because the sales have decreased, it doesn't necessarily render the charts obsolete or meaningless. If all the sales have decreased, then the number one single is still the largest selling single that week and therefore it is still relevant.

In the US the industry noticed a similar decline in single sales and reacted by including airplay in their singles charts about five years ago, so that airplay actually outweighs physical sales with the ratio being approximately 75% airplay to 25% sales. This means that unfortunately a single can be number one in sales but still not actually chart in the US Hot 100 if it has little airplay; the first case of this was Madonna's 'Nothing Fails', which debuted at number one in the sales chart in 2003, with sales of 9,000 copies, but failed to enter the Hot 100 because it had no radio support. Quite clearly this form of chart is even less relevant than the UK chart, where artists do not even need to release an actual physical CD in order to qualify for the chart. The US Hot 100 is controlled almost entirely by the record companies and radio station bosses (whose success depends entirely upon the support of the record companies). Therefore the US Number One is basically determined by the guy who decides that week's playlist and not by the general public. It does not truly reveal the musical tastes of the US public but rather that of the record companies themselves.

In the UK there seems to be a strong resistance to including

radio airplay, so what exactly is the industry doing to counteract the decline in single sales? With an increase in the sale of iPods and digital media, such as mp3s and ringtones, it would seem sensible to include legal downloads as sales in the chart. This is exactly what Official UK Charts company are planning on doing this year, and what has already been done in the US (approximately five weeks ago). As a result we can expect more unpredictable charts with songs rising more often, and songs staying for much longer in the charts. Furthermore, the industry have introduced cut price CD singles (you may have seen the stickers reading "expect to pay no more than £2") as it certainly seems ridiculous to pay £4 for a single when you can buy the album for £8 on the internet. The industry is also looking at releasing an entirely new format for singles: the 'pocket-sized' single, which holds more data than a traditional CD, including music videos and PC capabilities, and is set to cost around £3.

Certainly all these moves will help to increase the relevance of the singles' charts insofar as reviving public interest in it but the question still remains: to whom is the singles' chart really relevant to? Has the singles chart ever been particularly relevant to the individual? One could really say that what is relevant to you is the music you buy rather than what the rest of the population purchases. By including downloads etc, the singles charts will most certainly be more representative of what music the general public like and are buying, but in the long run, it will remain irrelevant, as it always has been. The relevance of music has always been down to personal taste and should not be dictated by the general public's opinion, or industry decisions. Music is always relevant, the charts arguably, never have been.



Eye to the Telescope
KT Tunstall

Occasionally, a debut album comes along that blows you away. Scottish-born, American bred, fresh new talent KT Tunstall's first professional album does just that. With upbeat and exciting acoustic guitar, unique and rich vocals and

Album Reviews

meaningful lyrics, this faultless offering draws you in right from the word go. It's especially worth checking out the bonus live track, 'Black Horse and the Cherry Tree', featuring the "wee bastard pedal", which creates commendable overlaying and enriching ensemble effect. From someone who has never had a back-up plan, it is hard to doubt that both this album and KT will do anything other than amaze.

Tamasine Johnson



Funeral
Arcade Fire

The comparisons that have recently been made to describe this Montreal quintet have been as obscure and far-flung as Björk, Coldplay or Neil Young. However, in order to get the real picture, you have to listen to this beautifully crafted debut album. Ignore the rather sombre and morbid album title, as it is destined to be one of the indie masterpieces of the year. Singer, Win Butler's vocal delivery is perhaps a slightly acquired taste but there is no denying that songs such as 'Power Out' (part three of a four part track named 'Neighbourhood') are as bright and inventive as any song from the plethora of keyboard-inspired indie bands currently around. Any song using a xylophone that brings back memories of 'True Faith'-era New Order can only be a good thing. It is undoubtedly meant to be ironic that an album entitled *Funeral* feels this alive and invigorating, even on a first spin. Using the old cliché, like Marmite you will probably either love this band or hate them.... I predict the majority will do the former.

Liam Baxter

Still Not Getting Any...
Simple Plan

Still Not Getting Any... is the second album from Canadian punk rockers Simple Plan. The album is comprised of the typical teen angst tracks, namely 'Shut Up' and 'Me Against The World', as well as the more melancholy tunes such as 'Untitled' and 'Crazy', which is possibly the best cut on the album. In addition, the album also has behind-the-scenes footage from their recent tour, in which Simple Plan can be seen smashing up their guitars in

an attempt to be rock 'n' roll, but it just seems so formulaic; you're almost waiting for the television to be flung out of the window. Unfortunately, with the emergence of so many punk rock bands such as Good Charlotte, Bowling for Soup and New Found Glory, Simple Plan is just another one to add to the list. There is nothing particularly original or innovative about the album because it has all been done before.

Neelanjona Debnath

Transmit Disrupt
Hell Is For Heroes

Was there ever any danger that this album would be anything other than a future record of the year contender? Carrying on from where they left off, first single 'Kamichi' makes you remember what it was that made HIFH so irresistible in the first place. Crashing guitars battle with a massive drum beat and bass line, but it is singer Justin's voice that carries this track. Politically and socially astute, lyrical venom is spat in the direction of the band's detractors from one of the strongest singing voices in rock today. Powerful album highlight 'Models For The Programme' is crafted around a majestic yet simple bass line, whilst 'Quiet Riot' and 'Folded Paper Figures' immediately swing the album into stadium rock territory. The title track and 'They Will Call Us Savages' show a more emotional side to their music, yet both still boast huge sing-along choruses, while riotous album-closer 'Burning Lafayette' is a welcome departure from the plethora of bands who choose to end their albums on a mellow note.

Liam Baxter



Employment
Kaiser Chiefs

Goodness. The excitement and frenzy that recent NME award winners Kaiser Chiefs have already stirred in the KRED office is seismic. Unmistakably British, Kaiser Chiefs, along with Franz, are evidently making music within that great tradition of humour and eccentricity and therefore it's suitable that *Employment* melds together a plethora of influence from Britpop precursors (Pulp, SFA and Blur) to 80s forefathers

(XTC, Madness, Sparks) and punk ancestry (The Damned, X-Ray Spex). Signature anthem 'I Predict A Riot' is 'Misshapes' a decade on whilst current single 'Oh My God' provides a commentary on contemporary British culture so funny and articulate that would give the 24-year old Damon Albarn sleepless nights. 'I Love You Less and Less' is a tongue-in-cheek paean to that sexual boredom and 'Born To Be A Dancer' sounds like the conception of an illicit lovechild between Divine Comedy and the Buzzcocks. But it's not all cartoon ditties; the lovelorn sigh of 'Modern Way' and envy conveyed through 'Caroline, Yes' literally stopped me in my tracks. The Chiefs' own special brand of musical alchemy means that each track from this stunning debut is stamped with a sound that is entirely unique and unforgettable. Astonishingly clever, quirky and versatile, with the most impeccable lyrics you will hear all year, Kaiser Chiefs craft tunes with a capital T.

Amy London



The Documentary
The Game

This album was very highly anticipated when it was released in America and only just lived up to the hype: sales were only a little shy of the 600,000 copies it was predicted would be shifted in the first week. Its success is hardly surprising, with backing from executive producers Dr. Dre and 50 Cent, as well as Busta Rhymes, Mary J Blige, Faith Evans, Kanye West and Eminem all featuring. Refreshingly, *The Game* makes no bones about the outside influences in the album: "people say I do a lotta name dropping," the 24-year-old says, "but it's called *The Documentary*, y'know." He still does himself justice: the album reflects his fresh talent and he is successful in telling his own story. Despite its sad undertones, the album is definitely one of hope and optimism. It is hard not to feel good about the track 'How We Do' ('nobody do it like we do it so show us some love'). In one of the best cuts on the album, *The Game's* love of hip-hop comes through in 'Spades' and distinguishes him from other rappers today, even Eminem. As *The Game* says, "I gave all I could to this album: it's me. Enjoy it because it's the last time I'm living it. I'm loving life." Watch this space: the Game has only just begun.

Alice Furse



Pushing The Senses
Feeder

After the phenomenal success of *Comfort In Sound* it was difficult to see Feeder changing the recipe much this time around. Yet from the moment Grant Nicholas' voice kicks in on the first track, all your reservations are forgotten as you are suddenly reminded of why you love this band so much. The album seems to carry you effortlessly through a rollercoaster trip of emotions – from the feel good anthems of 'Pushing The Senses' and 'Feeling A Moment' to the moody, reflective masterpieces of the piano-led 'Tender' and 'Frequency'. Every track is brimming with energy and consistently keeps you interested. Ok, admittedly Feeder aren't exactly doing anything groundbreaking with this album. And yes, it is very similar to *Comfort In Sound*. But hey, if it's not broken, why fix it? The only real criticism I can make is that it is too short, and by the end you are left wanting more. Whilst diehard fans may prefer Feeder's rockier roots, personally I believe they have finally come of age – and released arguably their best album to date.

Paul Skelton

LCD Soundsystem
LCD Soundsystem

If you like electro-dance, this can't fail to fulfil your New York electro-punk dream, being led by one half of my favourite production team, the DFA. James Murphy has put his hand to *The Rapture*, *Le Tigre* and *Liquid Liquid*, and his own debut LP certainly lives up to expectation. Opener and current single, 'Daft Punk is Playing at My House' is funny and entirely beatworthy of a boogie. The double album features previous hits on CD2, 'Losing My Edge' and 'Give It Up', along with tracks available on DFA compilations. These additions cap it off, but what makes the whole record worth your loan money is 'Tribulations'. This track is the best thing to come out of New York since *The Rapture's* 'House of Jealous Lovers' and you cannot help but play it loudly. Infectious, masterfully layered and built upon a foundation laid by the heritage of Daft Punk, LCD Soundsystem is guaranteed to be an instant hit. But it is the amazing lyrics and the constant interest which is developed from beat to beat that make me look forward to listening to it every time I get in my car.

Shauna O'Brien



No Wow
The Kills

The Kills' second full-length album follows the brilliant *Keep On Your Mean Side*, continuing the simple intensity perfected by the likes of *The Velvet Underground* and PJ Harvey. British Hotel plays guitar and drums in musical accompaniment to VV's deadpan lyrics and every song on the album is rich with emotional tension, arousing the feeling that this is something extremely private which you shouldn't be party to (the expectation every time I see them live is that they're either about to have mad animalistic sex or kill each other). Title track 'No Wow' begins on a static beat, built up to resemble something you've never heard before, with VV's frail vocals – 'this ain't no wow now / they've all been put down' – creating the perfect marriage. Current single 'Good Ones', on which Hotel and VV duet, opens on what sounds like a Yamaha demo. *No Wow* is simple but wonderfully structured and I highly recommend you see The Kills' live performance in order to understand the beauty and depth of their dynamic. Like their relationship, this album is fragile, intense and makes sense in ways no one can possibly understand from the outside.

Shauna O'Brien

Tonight the Midway Shines
The Ga-Ga's

When any band is hyped to the point that they are given the title of No. 1 hot prospect for 2005 on the release of just one single, you know that when their debut album comes out it doesn't just have to be good but something very special.... Thankfully *Tonight the Midway Shines* doesn't disappoint. Opener and new single 'Sex' does what it says on the tin. It's a sleazy 1990s-influenced masterpiece that takes the listener back to the time of *The Wildhearts'* classic album *Earth vs. The Wildhearts*, or when the Foo Fighters had just unleashed *The Colour and the Shape* onto an unsuspecting public. Songs like 'Pressure' show that the band can take their foot off the gas and still feel as refreshing as when the guitar and bass kick the music up to another level, such as on future classics like 'Left of Centre', 'K.O.' and previous single 'Replica'.

Without a single minute of filler, this album confirms The Ga*Ga*s as one of the hottest tickets over the next year.

Liam Baxter

Competitions, Competitions!!

1. To coincide with the release of the amazing new Kills album, 'No Wow' (see the review above), we've got some extremely limited edition vinyls and goodies for you, all you have to do is tell me the title of The Kills debut album!

2. Adam Green is back, kids (did he ever really go away?) and to celebrate the release of his new album, 'Gemstones', we have copies of his new book, cd and posters to give away. Just tell me: The classic song 'Jessica' is about which celebrity?

To win, just email me your name and answer and I'll draw the names out of hats by the end of term!
Email sao2....



Rufus Wainwright



The Thrills

Single Reviews

Crabbukit
k-os

This record has a helluva lot of soul, and ambition. Having recently toured with The Roots, k-os's destiny is becoming manifest. The bass (we're talking the plucked, upright kind) punctures the song down whilst syncopated handclaps give it a gospel elevation; glorious vocal harmonies and brass solos then transform into something distinctly old skool. 'Crabbukit' is a scintillating fusion of jazz, blues and hip-hop that demonstrates in exploring his musical roots, k-os is determined that he will never be merely 'a crab in a bucket'.

Amy London

Cash Machine
HARD-FI

Holding the number ten position in XFM's music response chart only tells me that HARD-FI are on their way with a cult following of London listeners. Being a fan of the Mike Skinner's work I could not help but make the similarities between *The Streets'* and the FI's unfortunate financial mishaps. All the same I credit this track and its dark sound and surreal adversity with the cash machine is something we have all encountered once or twice in our lives.

Chantel Froyze



The Watch Committee / As Thick As Thieves
Crash Convention

What do they say: imitation is the sincerest form of flattery? Well, if this is the case, then Barat-endorsed Crash Convention is the ultimate compliment. They positively reek of *The Libertines* et al but the result is more cringeworthy parody than emulation. If London's *Burning*, then I'm afraid Crash Convention are already burnt out. But considering Carl offered them up as a Sex Pistols-Cheeky Girls hybrid, perhaps we shouldn't take them too seriously.

Amy London

I Go To Whom I'm Dressed For
The Cherubs

The Cherubs have been together since 1998, and were chosen by *The Libertines* as support for the now infamous *Tap n Tin Freedom* gig in October 2003 to celebrate Mr Doherty's prison release. This double A-side single, their second release to date, is stunning: 'Club Hoola Hoop's Walls' sounds like Franz Ferdinand, *The Departure* and *Razorlight* on a night out dancing ('shake your hips, swing with me,' they demand). 'This Awful Morning' reveals an ample Strokes' influence on their guitar playing, with the arrangements being perfectly balanced and spot on.

Shauna O'Brien

The One You Love
Rufus Wainwright

Rufus Wainwright consistently manages to be both melancholic singer-songwriter and OTT cabaret showman, and his first release since last year's sumptuous 'Want One' album won't disappoint any of his growing band of admirers. 'The One You Love' once again sees him occupying the rare middle ground between Elliott Smith, Cole Porter and Elton John. Like our own Ed Harcourt, Wainwright sets his sadness to extravagant production, at times intricate and ridiculous, but always utterly engaging.

Phil Reilly

The Irish Keep Gatecrashing
The Thrills

Having burst onto the charts in 2003 with 'One Horse Town', it appears that The Thrills are still trying to flog that same horse. 'The Irish Keep Gatecrashing' is as charming as a drunk Irishman and as bland as an Englishman's palette, displaying not one iota of advancement on the chirpy Dubliner's trademark MOR Americana sound.

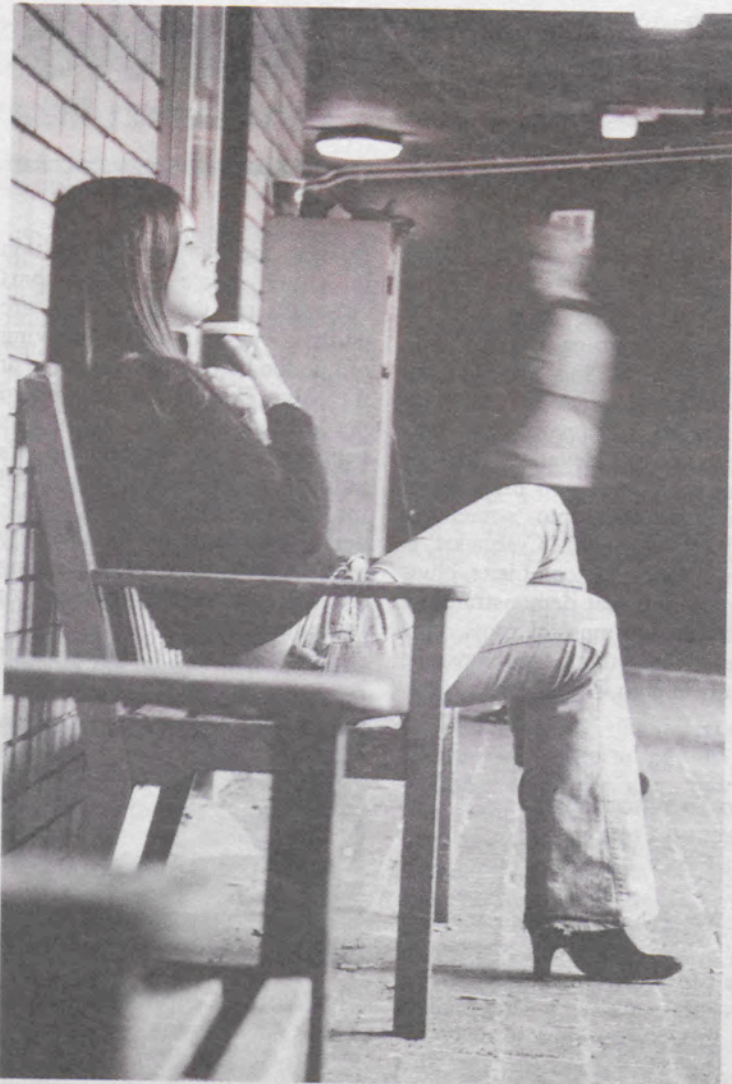
Phil Reilly



Little Sister
Queens of the Stone Age

The popular stoner rockers return with a catchy and enjoyable (if comparatively non-descript) track. The guitar sound seems to hark back to the roots of their debut *Rated R*, but the distinctive and complex drumming present in the releases off *Songs For The Deaf* is somewhat lacking. The simplistic high-pitched melody will stay with you and the vocals and overall quality are as sound as ever. However, the track does seem a little short, not quite reaching the three minute mark.

Katy Russ



Photographic Section

"Emotion, Reflection and Perspective"

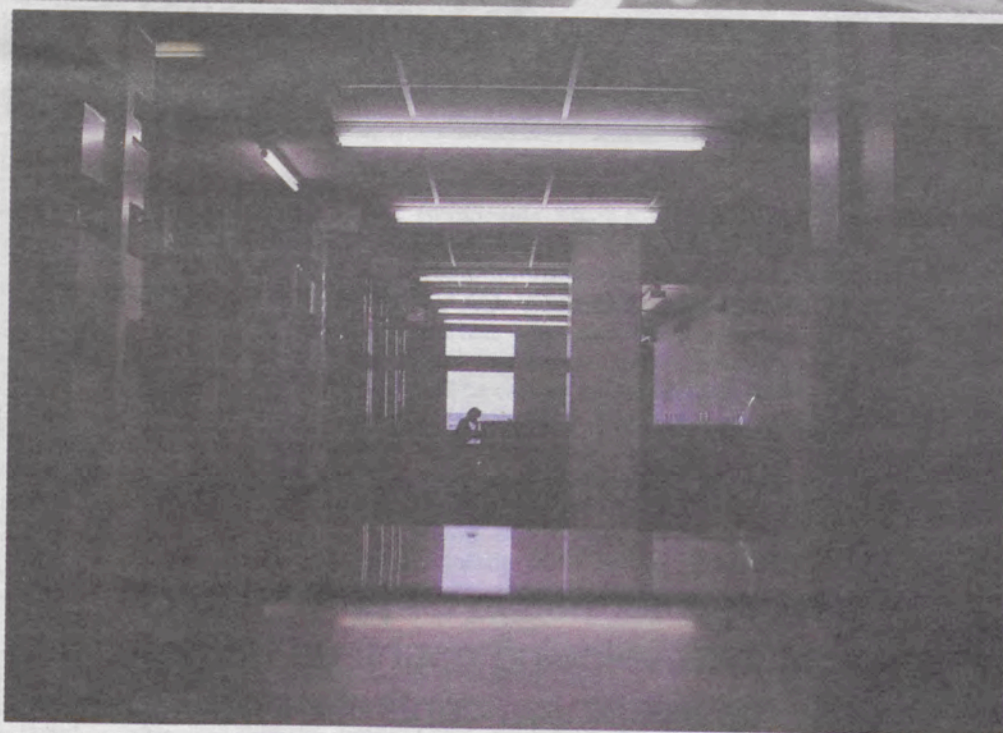
top left & right: Laura Bottomley
left: Laura Bottomley
bottom left: Joe Wood
bottom right: Peter Whipp

Next Issue: "Texture"

email contributions to
pw26@kent.ac.uk

next page
top: Joe Wood
middle & bottom: Laura Bottomley





27 LONG MEADOW WAY	16 ANCRESS CLOSE	11 ULCOMBE GARDENS
Four bedroom house ideal location for UKC with off road parking	Four bedroom house close to UKC in a quiet cul-de-sac location	Five bedroom house, situated on the Hales Place estate, set in a Cul-de-Sac location
£285.00 p/person pcm	£265.00 p/person pcm	£285.00 p/person pcm

Forrester Close, four bed off the Sturry Road

£250.00 per person pcm

Old Park Avenue, four bedroom close to ASDA

£250.00 per person pcm

Somner Close, four bedroom off London Road

£275.00 per person pcm

Hallet Walk, four bedroom off the Sturry Road

£275.00 per person pcm

T: 01227 478757 M: 07859 823801 / 07957 366224
F: 01227 478235 E: enquiries@easylet.uk.net

In focus: Jeff Buckley & Nick Drake



Nick Drake is very different to Jeff: his guitar style is more akin to folk, but his voice and lyrics are just as expressive and inspiring. Like Jeff Buckley, Nick Drake also died under suspicious circumstances. During his time at Cambridge, Drake found himself spending more time playing music than studying. People soon recognised his talent and Nick dropped out of university to concentrate on his music. However, Drake was an intensely quiet, insular person and didn't like the attention that comes with performing. Consequently, his albums were never promoted fully. Suffering from depression and becoming increasingly withdrawn, Drake's illness was destroying his muse but he fought hard to continue writing music, always battling between imagination and emotional disintegration. His songs poignantly reflect this inner turmoil, which was worsened by Nick's struggle to cope with fame. I particularly love the songs 'Pink Moon', 'Black Eyed Dog' and 'The River Man'. I discovered 'The River Man' on

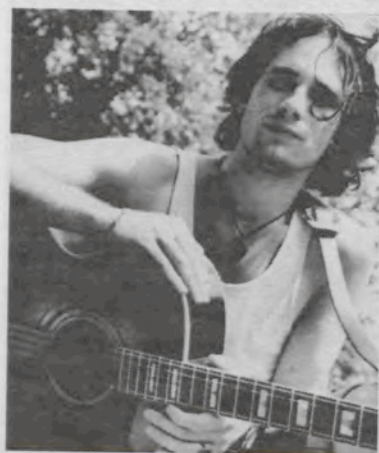
an unknown compilation CD we had about the house, completely unaware of the magic it held. The first time I played the song, I knew that there was something about it that I had never found in a song before. I couldn't quite put my finger on what it was, so I listened again, and again - to eventually realise that the song reminded me of emotions I couldn't comprehend and had only ever had a glimpse of. In a strange way, 'The River Man' communicated all the feelings of loneliness, uncertainty and misunderstanding. Much to my dismay, I managed to lose the CD (probably because I carried it everywhere with me) and searched all over for the song that nobody had heard of. I never gave up my quest, and the wait was worth it when, quietly playing in the background at Ye Olde Weavers was the sound of a familiar haunting voice. Once I discovered his name, there was no stopping me investigating the wealth of Nick Drake's back catalogue.

Tara Lakin

Most people assume that Jeff Buckley got his inspiration from his father, the singer Tim Buckley, but actually it was his mother who was more of an influence. Tim Buckley quit the family home when his son was young and therefore Jeff always associated him with strong feelings of abandonment and rejection. So when Jeff got into music, it was off his own back, and not because of his dad's success; at his father's memorial, Jeff made his point by singing 'I Never Wanted To Be

Your Mountain'. Young 'Scottie' (Jeff Buckley's nickname) grew up listening to his mother's favourite artists, such as Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Van Morrison. Naturally gifted, when Jeff was old enough he was playing as many instruments as possible. The list is impressive: drums, bass, mouth organ, sitar, electric guitar, but his favourite of all was the acoustic sound. Jeff started out in various bands, and whilst trying to find his own style, he was happy with just his guitar. That was until someone asked him to sing and Jeff revealed a magnificent voice behind this very private person. Gradually, over the years he built up a crowd at his local club, Sin é, and worked on his own songs, continuously re-working the lyrics but never quite reaching satisfaction. Eventually it was decided that Buckley had to get an album out, before he changed his songs completely. In 1994, *Grace* made it into the top ten charts, and was a phenomenal success all over Europe. Subsequently, Jeff toured as far as Japan, sometimes appearing

under pseudonyms like The Crackobats, Topless America, Martha and the Nicotines and A Puppet Show Named Julio. He was working on his second album when he tragically died in 1997 out swimming in a hazardous stretch of the Wolf River, Memphis. His death was treated as suspicious because a few weeks prior to the accident, Jeff had been in contact with all of his old friends and family. Having died suddenly aged thirty, Jeff Buckley had only given one album to the world. All the songs on *Grace* are unique in their own way and frustrating because they offer the promise of so much more to come. Jeff Buckley had an amazing talent for taking other people's songs and making them his own, a rarity that is severely understated.



Eliot Dining Hall *Study*

Eliot Dining Hall will be transformed into a study hall for the third term

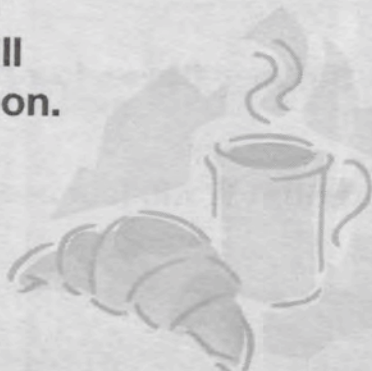
Where can I get my breakfast?

You can get your breakfast at Rutherford Dining Hall (with an extended breakfast time until 10 am for all the third term "brunchers"!) or at Keynes College's Food2Go, which will offer croissants and coffee.

What about lunch?

Mungo's will offer a special Lunch Menu and Origins will be open for food all afternoon.

KENT
HOSPITALITY



HiPACT
An Association of British Universities

**Keen to travel, Experience new cultures,
Do something really exciting this summer?**

See the real world through the eyes of local people in the country you visit.

For more information on participating on projects in developing countries for practical development contact us on
020 8900 0282

**Voluntary projects in Africa, Asia and
South America**

Contact HiPACT Office for an information pack
HiPACT, P.O.Box 770, York House, Empire
Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0RP
Tel: 020 8900 0282 Fax: 020 8900 0330
volunteer@hipact.ac.uk
www.hipact.ac.uk

Local Live Music Scene

The Live Lounge

Massive Magic at Mungos Tsunami Appeal Night
Friday 28th January, 2005

The time is 9pm; after weeks of preparation, the scene is finally set for The Live Lounge! With a transformed Bistro stage comprising of a 2000 watts sound system and a drum kit fit for Keith Moon, Alex Webber introduces the evening with an assortment of acoustic-originals and sing-along covers to get the audience in the zone for the live music ahead.

Next-up: The Blue Collar Band appear on nonchalant form, relying on their musical ability to do the talking. With a set including Stevie Ray Vaughn's All Your Love (I Miss Loving) brought to its close through the classic Sweet Home Alabama (Lynyrd Skynyrd), this bluesy trio captivate the ever-increasing audience's mood with an air of class.

By this point in the evening the venue is brimming with gig-hungry students, creating a sense of real anticipation in the air, which Kilndown meet head-on and embrace with all the zest of a band on the crest of a wave. Following a week that saw this Indie three-piece record their second studio EP, the band give the enthused crowd exactly what they're looking for -

a truly mesmerising performance, capturing the moment with a set made up of solely original material, which front-man Ian McKee sings with untouchable conviction.

To conclude live proceedings; IgneouStone hammer out a rocking ensemble of timeless classics impeccably intertwined with original material. Launching off with the crowd pleasing Born to Be Wild (Steppenwolf), with an hour set culminating on a

double-whammy of Sweet Child O' Mine (Guns n' Roses) and Jimi Hendrix's awesome All Along The Watchtower. The band ensures every member of the audience leaves with a rock classic ringing in their ears!

With a big thank you to Emma, Chris, DJ-Seezer, the band members and all who contributed to this memorable occasion.

Walex Beber



There Must and Shall Be Music

Thursdays, 8pm, The Lighthouse

I had a dream to start getting some great live music going at our beautiful campus. Every time I want to see some great bands, it involves the arduous trek to the capital, which is eating away at my loan, and I know that there are bands just as good, if not better, here in our own fair city. There Must and Shall Be Music is still kinda a dream, I guess. I can't believe how many great bands I'd have involved, I assumed all the student bands would be ropery and the bigger acts I'd invite would make rider requests to make Mariah blush, but things really are coming together, and I'm getting a free gig every week, and seeing everyone get down and support each other is inspiring.

The nights are peppered with technical difficulties, but no-one leaves, complains or throws things, but it always works out. This week, we had Adrian Benn, who blew me away with his acoustic guitar playing and complete charisma, so much so that we were eagerly singing Adrian was cooler than being cool in his rendition of 'Hey Ya!'. We also had amp-heavy Dr Dark, who got us all going with a fine combination of multiple kazooes and a violin, and the fab Kiln Down, who played fantastically.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the quality of the student bands that are all so original. Over the coming weeks, we've got Neils' Children (24.2.05), just before they tour with Art Brut (they were on the excellent BBC2 drama, The Rotter's Club recently), bringing us the kind of punk that hasn't been heard since Sid Vicious died, then we've got Ludes, the amazing London band fresh off their tour with The Others, bringing us ska, blues and rock n roll-wear your best dancing shoes for 3.3.05. I've also got the wicked I.Vs down for a St Patrick's Day special, on 17.3.05, who'll show us exactly how rock n roll is done, and joining them that night is the amazing Noisettes, bringing us vocals reminiscent of Morcheeba, and the attitude of Yeah Yeah Yeahs. Plus, with too many student bands to even begin to mention, there's no better place to be on a Thursday night, it's free, with cheap drinks and enough music to last until the next one.

Thank you so much to Emma, Helen and all at The Venue for the support, and to all the bands for the talent, and to all of you for coming along and putting up with my lack of PA understanding....

Shauna O'Brien

Live Music Debut at The Lighthouse

There Must and Shall be Music 3/2/05

There Must and Shall Be Music is the University of Kent's very own evening of pure live music, held in The Lighthouse, founded and organised by Shauna O'Brien. A fairly chilled atmosphere welcomed the beginning of the debut evening, with the opening of the gentle acoustic melodies of Alex Webber appreciated by an audience who just so happened to be in the Lighthouse for pre-Venue night drinks.

Technical problems didn't get us down- "Worry not" shouts the response of the crowd, as they get down to the rock and roll sounds of Stone Pony, as they played a fantastic rendition of the Beatles classic, 'Twist and Shout'...boy watch them students get down. Settling into the atmosphere I found myself to be fulfilled by 'There Shall Be Music's' diverse range. If you have an eclectic appetite for the alternative instead of the stinky cheese that is still being smelt from the decks of the past three years.

The Rising is the final band to tread the boards of the now electrifying stage. I don't really have a firm opinion of these lads- it was clearly evident that they played their instruments well. I was a little taken back by the hyperactivity of the lead singer. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed their style. After the many pints and the so

many tears of anxiety that came from inside, There Must and Shall Be Music is passionately making Thursday nights the official warm up to the weekend. If the rumours are true I can see that this is the only way Kent University students will be offered a taste of fresh, live music.

So I have come to the final verdict and I ask these questions, did I feel chilled, did I get down and did The Rising rise to the occasion and it is totally free? Yes to all of the above, and if you want my opinion I'd say get in because it will not be around for as long as...There must and Shall Be Music.

Three reasons why you should attend:

It's absolutely free! All you mates are bound to be there and it's a night of quality music!!!!

Chantell Froyz



pictures counter-clockwise:
The Rising
Adrian
Kiln Down

all pictures taken by Shauna O'Brien



The Kent University Rock And Metal Society Proudly Presents:

CyberCulture @ Kent
kent university's FIRST ever
EBM / industrial / electro night
FEATURING:

- Teratoma
- Deathboy (tbc)
- Exclusive Rock Society and guest DJ's

DATE: 4th march
TIME: 1900 - 2330
LOCATION: Keynes JCR
PRICE: £2/3 members/non

Rock&Metal society secretary
Alex (ak30)

Vanessa Holden takes a look

Inside Hollywood Awards Special

Well, Hollywood certainly has stuck to its promise for an action packed 2005 right off the bat. Not even a week into the New Year and we were all gobsmacked by the announcement of the split of Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, the Golden couple of Hollywood, although a divorce has not been announced. Jen reportedly took refuge at her hairdresser's, who has been a trusted confidant years, and is said to be under therapy to overcome her fear of having a baby and starting a family. As if you'd have to think twice about that if you were married to Brad! This news just broke my heart like I'm sure it did all of yours. He's beautiful, she's beautiful, and they're perfect!! Please get back together!!

I'm sure everyone is as tired of Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz's are they/aren't they getting married episode. Although Cam has been spotted wearing a very posh engagement ring, rumour has it that ma Timberlake doesn't approve of her daughter-in-law to be. Could this finally be it for the lovebirds?? It certainly is a possibility!

Good news for the laydees!! Tom Cruise is back, bigger, better, and more gorgeous than ever in the soon to be released film *War of the Worlds*, a Spielberg adaptation of H.G. Wells's classic novel! This one is a sure fire hit!!

Orlando Bloom, who we haven't seen for ages, is also making a comeback with his new flick *Kingdom of Heaven*, out

in May. An epic tale about the Crusades can't be very interesting, but hey, Orly promises to be fab eye-candy. The man also hit the headlines recently after splitting from Kate Bosworth, who he had been dating for the past three years!

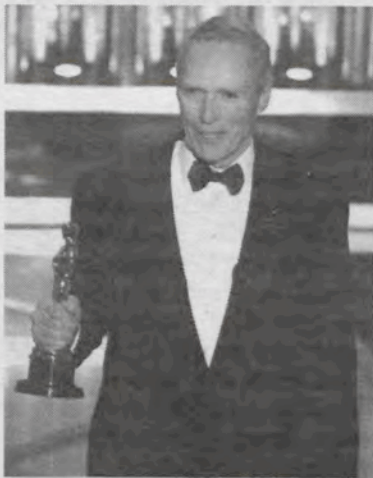
The diva of all divas is back. Yes ladies and gentlemen, Jennifer Lopez released her new single *Get Right* last month, and her album *Rebirth* will follow soon. She certainly has kept herself busy, and stars in her new comedy *Monster in Law* alongside Michael Vartan (yes the cute French dude from *Alias*), to be released in July. Ooh la la! Screen legend Jane Fonda also makes a comeback. This promises to be hilarious!

Sandra Bullock also returns in *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*, due for release in March, and is set to work with her *Speed* and *Speed 2* lush co-star Keanu Reeves (again!) in a remake of a Korean film.

The Golden Globes were the highlight of January, with a Best Actor award going to Leonardo DiCaprio for *The Aviator* (so the boy can act!), and a Best Actress award to Hilary Swank for *Million Dollar Baby*, among others. The red carpet was swarming with celebs, most in amazing outfits, but others in, ahem, absolutely minging creations to put it bluntly. With the Golden Globes out of the way, we can only look forward to the BAFTAs and the Oscars for more red carpet trends!

Stop press! The dominating headline of February is definitely Prince Charles' shock announcement that he is to marry long time lover Camilla Parker Bowles, the alleged catalyst in the failure of Charles and Diana's seemingly fairytale marriage. All of Great Britain remains astounded! Queen Camilla, (eurgh) wonder what everyone else thinks of that eh!

So this year's Oscars have come and gone and the entertainment industry remains abuzz. Comedian Chris Rock hosted the ceremony and was absolutely hilarious, although not everyone in Tinseltown may have been pleased by the jokes he cracked, (Tobey Maguire please stand up!). Nearly anyone who is anyone in Hollywood turned up, including Kate Winslet who looked simply amazing in her designer dress, Penelope Cruz and Salma Hayek who were stunning, Johnny Depp, who looked just plain weird, and Leonardo DiCaprio who escorted long time Brazilian model girlfriend Gisele Bundchen (does anyone else find her outfit and hair reminiscent of Jennifer Aniston or is it just me?). Award winners Hilary Swank for best actress and Cate Blanchett for best supporting actress were both elegantly attired, and Jamie Foxx for best actor and Morgan



Freeman for best supporting actor both looked very debonair in designer suits. Clint Eastwood picked up awards for best director and motion picture of the year for his moving film *Million Dollar Baby*, and made us all teary eyed with an endearing mention of his mother (sob!). Hollywood's biggest night of the year is finally over, but no worries, there is still so much more to look forward to, especially this summer's Hollywood blockbusters!! Watch this space!

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

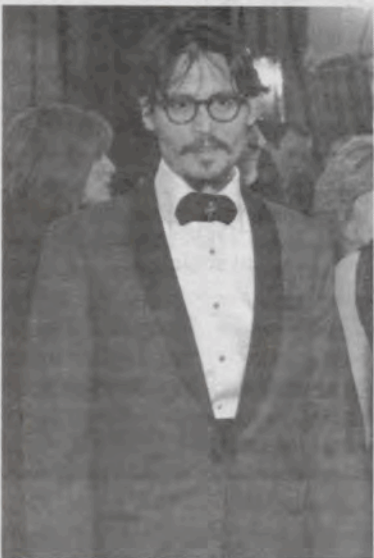
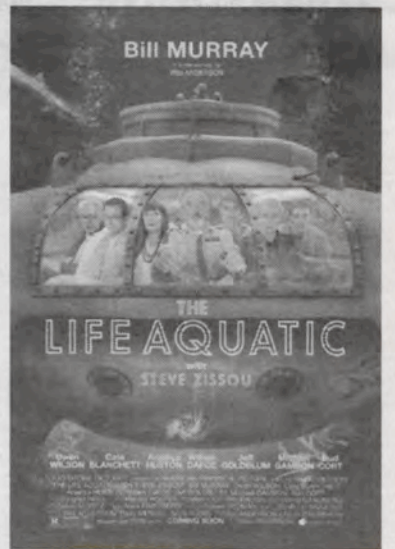
Directed by Wes Anderson
Starring Bill Murray, Angelica Huston, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett

Bill Murray is in this film. These days that seems to be reason enough to go and see a movie. People think he is pretty good and, for once, the people are right. Wes Anderson told an anecdote at the press conference about how Bill Murray introduced Sheryl Crow at some concert in New York, and afterwards he had walked down Sixth Avenue with him, followed by an increasing crowd of people all wanting to hear Bill talk. That anecdote is the only part of my notes I can fully read. That and how Angelica Huston described acting with Bill as 'being on a high diving board and not knowing how deep the water is' and this had something to do with him giving her flowers and starting her coffee maker in the morning. I learnt she has a famous father, who was talked about at some length. The explanation for this incoherency of my notes lies in a bar in Soho that played South American pop music and a Foo Fighters music video with the sound down. Well, more specifically, it lies in their *Raspberry Bellinis*. These hit as we ran up Park Avenue and realized we had definitely missed the salmon sandwiches and, more disappointingly, the free wine.

In the Dorchester hotel bar afterwards, somewhere between the Mirages and the Hemingway Daiquiris we composed a letter to Wes Anderson with all the questions we would have liked to have asked if we had been allowed. Not where his rather geeky, but somewhat Seth like diamond print jumper came from. No, serious questions. We are awaiting his reply as to whether he took influence from 'shark exploitation' movies. At one point in the conference I think they were even talking about the weather. And so, the film. It is about Steve Zissou, a famous oceanographer and documentary maker, who sets out with his crew Team Zissou to avenge the death of his friend by killing the possibly non-existent

Jaguar Shark that ate him. It is absurd, from the way the characters talk to each other in a stilted honesty to the brightly coloured animated fish swimming in the background, causing as many bemused frowns as laughs. It is also completely absorbing. Each scene is filled with little details and every character has a distracting affectation. These intricacies go mostly unexplained, creating hundreds of tales within the bigger story. It was all quite curious. And sort of melancholy. One of Team Zissou sings David Bowie songs in Portuguese. Steve has his heartfelt conversation with his supposed son Ned after he has fallen down the stairs and is laid upside down on the floor. And it works, all of it somehow in its absurdity makes more sense than most of the hyper real movies we are expected to believe in. Once you are used to the pace of the staccato script, the story of Steve Zissou is sweetly and subtly endearing. Not too much is given away in the small expressions and silences, just enough to keep the interest. Wes Anderson gives his audience room to think, or maybe feel, in his refusal to force anything. And Bill Murray is in this film. Apparently, after the Oscars, he and George Clooney raced around the hallways of the Hilton hotel in wheelchairs

Holly Grigg-Spall



In focus: Tim Burton

He is dark. He is gothic. He is surreal. He is, of course, Tim Burton. Of the multitude of directors there are in the world, Tim Burton is in a league of his own when it comes to film making. There are not many directors whose films are instantly recognisable from their trailer, and his wonderfully weird style has firmly established itself in the consciousness of mainstream films.

Timothy William Burton was born on August 25th, 1958 in Burbank, California. In high school he was introverted and artistic, although not particularly academic. He went on to the California Institute of the Arts where many animators went on to work for Disney and was eventually called on to work for them. However, Burton fell into a darker vein than that of Disney and so Burton was allowed to work on his own projects.

The results of these various projects were a short animation called 'Vincent', and a live-action short film called 'Frankenweenie' where a young boy brings his pet dog back to life. Although both of these projects received little attention due to limited distribution, it was seen by horror writer Stephen King. And it was King who suggested Burton's film to an executive producer at Warner and Burton was eventually brought in to direct 'Pee Wee's Big Adventure'.

One of the reasons that Tim Burton is such a great director is his ability to make the spooky into something friendly, without losing his unique style and sugar-coating it. Take for example 1988's 'Beetlejuice' - the next film Burton directed after Pee Wee's Big Adventure, where a couple die to become ghosts, and find their house moved into a by a new family. The couple's only option is to call in the eccentric bio-exorcist 'Beetlejuice' for help to get their house back from the living. Although the film deals with ghosts and all manner of creatures, it is extremely light-hearted and can be enjoyed by all.

It was after 'Beetlejuice' that Burton was brought onto the project of transforming comic book hero Batman to the big screen. In 'Batman' (1989) Burton manages to bring the world of the Dark Knight to life effortlessly, and the film went on to be a huge success with audiences.

Burton's next film 'Edward Scissorhands' (1990) formed the beginning of a partnership with Jonny Depp that would lead to great movies in the decade to come. Next, Burton followed up the success of his first Batman film with a sequel entitled 'Batman Returns' (1992), unfortunately this was to be Burton's last 'Batman' film and since then the sequels have got progressively worse.



Another example of Tim Burton managing to make the gloomy more approachable is the stop-motion film 'Nightmare Before Christmas' (1993). 'Ed Wood' (1994) was another Burton-Depp film paid homage to Edward D. Wood Jr. who was considered to be the worst director of all time. The film won Burton many plaudits and two Oscars.

'Mars Attacks!' (1996) saw Burton recruit a whole host of celebrities to make this alien invasion Sci-Fi flick. Although the film found Burton venturing into the realms of Sci-Fi, 'Mars Attacks!' was a flop, not to mention a financial failure. The letdown of 'Mars Attacks!' led to Burton retreating back into the shadows. In 1999 he released 'Sleepy Hollow' - another film featuring Jonny Depp!

The success of 'Sleepy Hollow' saw Burton make another attempt at Sci-Fi with a remake of 'Planet of the Apes' (2001) but this film fared almost as badly as 'Mars Attacks!' And it seemed that Burton would no longer make great films. But the release of 2004's 'Big Fish' won him much acclaim and dispelled these rumours.

Recently, Burton has been moving away from the gloomy story worlds of 'Sleepy Hollow' and 'Edward Scissorhands' to something lighter but just as surreal such as 'Big Fish'. However, it is evident from the consistent popularity of Burton's films and his evolving style that he is extremely dexterous as a director.

Later this year Burton's adaptation of Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory' will be released, allowing audiences to witness Burton's evolution as a director. However, he has not forgotten his gothic roots as audiences can also go and watch 'Corpse Bride'; Burton's second stop-motion film after 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'.

Neelanjona Debnath

Marry Poppins

As Oscar night passes by once more, KRED pays homage to a previous winner

Mary Poppins is still Supercalif agilisticexpialidocious!

With the awards season upon us, it seems only right that we reflect back on one of the all time great achievers, and where better to start than the record nominated *Mary Poppins*! It seems that many people underestimate this gem of a musical, and along with other great musical masterpieces it has taken a back seat to more recent blockbusters. Back in 1964 the legendary Walt Disney turned the stories by P.L Travers into a magical masterpiece which swept the Academy Awards with a staggering 13 nominations. However the magic of this film is not only found in the score and soundtrack, but rather in the priceless performances which glitter throughout this film.

The best actress award inevitably went to Julie Andrews who made audiences fall in love with the nanny that every child wanted, but I think Dick Van Dyke was the true star of this film. He may now live up afternoon television in *Diagnosis Murder*, but in *Mary Poppins* he shines as Bert, the loveable chimney sweep. 'Chim Chim Cheree' may have won Best Song, but it is him who brings this song to life in a way that captures our hearts. Out of the 5 awards this film won, the most deserving was the award for Best Visual Effects. The film is like a dream where one minute you can jump into a street painting and find yourself in

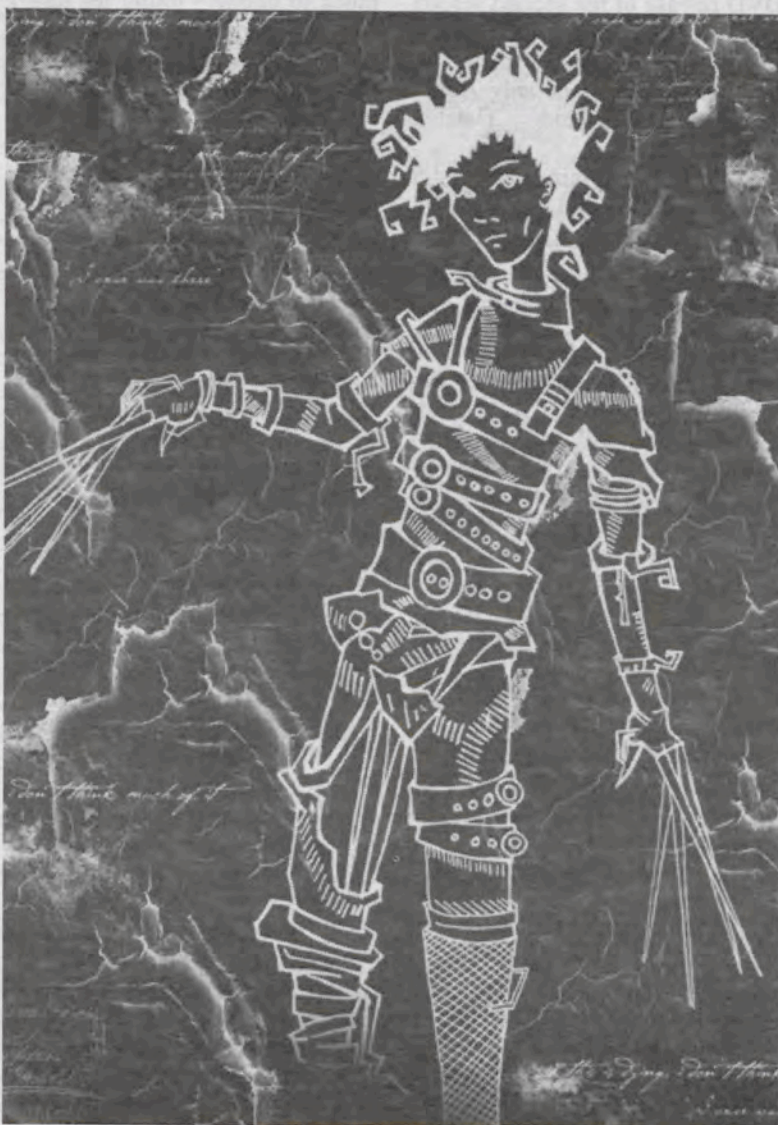


a cartoon racing carousel horses, and the next you are travelling across the rooftops of London on clouds. It is not just a paradise world for children, as I would love to be able to make medicine taste of whatever you want, or clean your room by a quick click of the fingers and have adventures that you would not have even dreamt possible. Adventures where all you have to do is laugh and you find yourself having a tea party while floating in the air.

Evidence that this film even after 40 years still holds a special place in many people's hearts can be found in the recent opening of the stage production in the Prince Edward Theatre. Disney and Cameron Mackintosh teamed up to produce a show which has already picked up nine Oliver Award nominations. It opened to spectacular reviews with some even making the scandalous claim that is it "light years ahead of the film", can this be possible?! The era of the musical has no doubt dwindled over the years but when *Chicago* matched *Mary Poppins* by winning 5 Academy Awards in 2003 it seems that they are still very much alive. But, somehow these present day musicals are never quite as captivating as the classics. In a recent survey, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", from *The Wizard of Oz* was voted the best song in a musical ever, and it's because it has a timeless quality which never fails to warm even the coldest of hearts, that it deserves this kind of acclaim.

Not to say that every musical has the ability to dazzle like this. Julie Andrews may be practically perfect as the nanny in *Mary Poppins*, but it's enough to make me want to smash the television when I hear her shrill "The hills are alive..." as the au pair in *The Sound of Music*. Only the truly great musicals have the ability to awaken our imaginations and transport us to a world as mesmerizing as that found in *Mary Poppins* or in the *Wizard of Oz*. However, on hearing that our very own Marlowe theatre holds Sing-Along nights to some of our best-loved musicals my faith is restored and this is proof enough that the magic is still very much alive.

Gemma Lay



DVD Reviews



No Angels

Devised by Toby Whithouse and produced by Helen Gregory (EastEnders), *No Angels* focuses on the exploits of nurses Anji (Sunetra Sarker), Beth (Jo Joyner), Lia (Louise Delamere) and Kate (Kaye Wragg), who work at the St. Margaret's hospital in Leeds and help each other through the hardships of daily life - a life that is, unsurprisingly, made up of partying, men and having sex, as well as identity crises and self-doubts. Thus, overtly and successfully courting the predominantly female, twenty-something audience's favour, it is clear from the beginning that *No Angels* does not rely on a high-concept, but instead recycles traditional storylines and character archetypes in the hope to recreate the success of the American TV shows it is obviously based upon, most notably *Sex and the City* and *ER*.

Yet, although the sole reason for the programme's existence is something as inartistic as its projected commercial viability in regard to the innate sentimentality of female audiences and the success of long-proven concepts, its makers manage to create something original and refreshingly entertaining.

Distinctly British, the series is filled with moments of hilarious comedy and serious drama that are thoroughly well-balanced and perfectly integrated in the recycled, but far above average storylines. The characters are actual three-dimensional beings and the good actors/actresses, combined with relatively high production values and a distinct visual style, ensure that *No Angels* is able to step out of its American predecessors' shadow and draw attention to itself by its sheer quality.

Sadly though, the outstanding quality of the show itself is not complemented by a wealth of extras: the obligatory, but insightful *Making Of* (18min), which offers a short glimpse at the production side of the series, is supplemented by an entertaining *Set Tour* (5min) hosted by Production Designer Taff Batley, *A Day in the Life* (5min) of the principal actors segment and a whopping two-minutes worth of unfunny *Outtakes*. Hopefully, the DVD release of the second season in a year or so will contain those special features dearly missed in this box set, most notably *Audio Commentaries* and *Deleted Scenes*.

Main Feature: 4/5
Special Features: 2/5



Man on Fire

Denzel Washington plays former anti-terrorist specialist Creasy, who is hired to protect a rich man's daughter (Dakota Fanning) in Mexico City and who, after her kidnapping and murder, is out for revenge as the titular *Man on Fire*. As this brief synopsis suggests, the plot is minimalist at best, and even if scriptwriter Brian Helgeland may have tried to give the characters some depth, and the story an original twist, he has failed miserably. Instead, he has delivered a by-the-numbers Hollywood script, which renders the focal point of the film (i.e. the relationship and growing friendship between Creasy and young Pita Ramos) totally unbelievable, if only because Pita constantly talks and acts like no child would, making it blatantly obvious that her sole purpose is to create sympathy and incite Creasy to go on a killing spree.

Yet, director Tony Scott (*Top Gun*, *True Romance*) is just as much to blame: Opting for flashy stylistics and MTV-style edits, he completely wastes his stellar cast (Washington, Walken, Rourke) on the script's unoriginality and his indulgence in hyper-stylization, making even the competently done revenge-sequences seem less

down-to-earth than celebratory and glorifying. One can, of course, argue that this charge has always been levelled at revenge movies, but for once, I feel inclined to agree with the general consensus.

Special Features

The single disc edition offers a brief *Inside Look* (1 min.) at the upcoming feature *Hide and Seek*, while Scott delivers an insightful *Audio Commentary* of the film and the *Deleted Scenes* (32min.). As additional gadgetry, the 2 Disc Special Edition contains *Trailers*, a *Music Video* and a huge *Making Of* documentary, but why anyone would want to spend anything more than absolutely necessary on this at best mediocre film is beyond me.

Main Film: 2/5
Special Features: 3/5



Love Me If You Dare

This film exceeded my every expectation, and was utterly mesmerizing from start to finish. Yann Samuell is a creative genius and has given us a film which puts a magically innovative twist on a love story, which is captivating and leaves us wanting more. Julian and Sophie are childhood best friends who find escape by play games of 'I dare you', and part of this escapism is to a fairytale world full of mystery and wonder which immerses the audience into vivid childhood dreams. However, as adults the dares get riskier, and while it is impossible not to delight in their non-stop game playing, there remains the hope that they will recognise their love for each other as their friendship will merely be reduced to hurting each other in unforgivable ways. Guillaume Canet and Marion Cotillard are irresistible and shine as Julian and Sophie, so much so that you don't want to take your eyes off them. Their relationship is wickedly addictive in a way which is original and compelling to the final climax which will leave the audience wondering whether their fate is tragic or just perfect. But, whatever their outcome one thing that can not be disputed is that this film is undeniable and needs to be embraced.

Gemma Lay

Will and Grace: Season 5

OK, let's recap. If you've been receiving your fix of the hit US comedy 'Will & Grace' from Living TV, then its season five DVD release is a bit of a jump back. Season five is the one that picks up where the shocking season finale of Will and Grace about to make a baby left off. In cliché-ridden confusion, three bags have comically been mixed up. One of them contains lunch, one cleaning products and the other Will's sperm. (Yeah because that happens every day.) In a desperate rush to arrive with the correct bag to the insemination clinic, Grace knocks herself out on a lamp post and is rescued by her vision of the perfect man; a Jewish doctor on top of a white horse. (Yeah that happens every day too right?) And so begins this complete season five, jam packed with extras, fan exciting, DVD box set.

If you watch the episodes back to back continuously for enough consecutive hours, then even the

most resolute W&G hater would start to become involved in the mildly humorous plot lines. Will Karen's fresh out of the closet cousin, set to receive a gay-over from Jack and Will ever shave that beard? Will Stanley's affair with a British dinner lady he met in jail prove too much for his 'health'? And will Karen ever give up her alcoholic, rich and nasty ways and go get laid?

If you're an avid Will and Grace fan, this box set will keep you occupied for hours with its comedy out-takes, behind the scenes exclusives and in depth interviews with the stars. If you're not, it might make you wanna gouge out your own eyes. The show kind of over-potentialises on the fact that the subject matter of gay and straight relationships that accumulate into a dysfunctional, alternative family, might be a little different. The result is an over-extrovert comedy that tries too hard to be shocking. Ok, maybe

this melodrama is just a comedic reflection of the character of some gay people that live in New York, but after a while it gets annoying. We get it, Will and Jack aren't straight! Which leads me to another annoying aspect of the show, that after watching it for hours and hours and hours of DVD footage that will tend to grate; why is there always a lingering sense in the air that Will and Grace should hook up? It's like they're friends, but then they're more than friends, and the constant jealous tension between the pair makes you wonder what the writers are trying to project.

That said, it passes the time relatively painlessly, and the plentiful guest appearances from the likes of Madonna, Macaulay Culkin and Minnie Driver highlight the cult status the show has achieved. Fans should definitely add it to their DVD wish list.

Meral Taze

COMPETITION

morphy richards®



WIN A MORPHY RICHARDS TOAST AND GRILL!

Longing for a quick hunger fix before a big night out? Satisfy your stomach with a tasty toastie using the Morphy Richards Toast & Grill. With its handy removable plates, you can make a traditional toasted sandwich, a posh panini or even use the ribbed grill plates to griddle steak, fish, chicken or vegetables.

And there's no need to worry about the messy aftermath of cooking as the non-stick grill

plates can be easily wiped clean or just popped in the dishwasher. To help you on your way, the Toast & Grill comes with an instruction booklet full of quick and easy toastie recipes so you can impress your friends with a variety of delicious snacks.

KRED has teamed up with Morphy Richards to give a Toast & Grill machine away, worth £24.99. To win, simply answer the following question:

What can you make with the Morphy Richards Toast & Grill?

Answers to tvhj2@kent.ac.uk by 31st March

Available from leading stores nationwide, the Morphy Richards Toast & Grill comes with a two year guarantee. For stockists call 0870 060 2614 or see www.morphyrichards.com

Jumping on the Bandwagon

By Tamasine Johnson

Back in the early nineties, when most of us were starting secondary school, there was no excuse for being without the latest fads, so much so that you would do your up most to make sure you followed the hottest trends. One week it was My Little Ponies, the next it was hand-made friendship bands- I even joined the Brownies so I could master my braiding technique! But back then we had an excuse: we were children. Who would have thought that in the year 2005, as young adults, we would still be held to ransom by such fads?

If, like me, you have spent the last month wondering what those brightly coloured elaborate elastic bands that people are sporting round campus are, then don't fear. I have solved the mystery. These are officially referred to as 'Charity Wristbands'.

The first people to get in on the act were Radio One, who in October 04 launched their 'Beat Bullying' campaign. They claim to have distributed over a million blue rubber wristbands and the likes of Bono, Jay-Lo and Mr Chris Moyles himself have all been photographed wearing them.

My initial reaction to the bands was that they were a very clever marketing stunt but I also agreed that they were a great idea. It was something which used 'celebrity status' to a positive effect and which allowed anyone who wanted to support the campaign to do so, because the signature blue bands were free. As a result of the success of Radio One's scheme, these bands have taken over our streets and charities are now charging for them. This is fair enough, but to my amazement all is not as clear as it should be when it comes to donating to those in need.

Now don't say I am jumping to conclusions, but isn't the idea of a charity item to raise money for charity? To my shock there are stingy fashion crazed individuals profiting by selling the bands on E-bay. Bidders are told: "You are bidding on the latest fashion accessory worn by many celebrities and sportsmen and women including David Beckham and Britney Spears. Item is mint, new in a sealed official Nike bag. These wristbands are officially licensed by Nike." Further down the page there is a note about the idea behind these yellow bands- a tribute to Lance's inspirational fight against cancer, the yellow wristbands engraved with his mantra, 'Live Strong', will be sold in an effort to raise \$5,000,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. But the seller makes no mention of the fact that it is his own pocket and not the charities that will profit from his greedy selling on the web. It is shocking; there are people bidding as much as £30 for certain styles of band.

Presidential candidate Kerry proudly wore a 'Live Strong-Lance Armstrong' band during the run up to the US elections last year. Is it fair assume that such a move was instigated not by Kerry but by a clever advisor who realised the support that could be gained by encouraging Mr Kerry to jump on this literal 'bandwagon'? Even Prince William has got in on the act, when in January he was photographed sporting the latest rubber accessory around his royal wrist.

You can even order your own specially designed wristbands from companies on the web- companies who are rubbing their hands together based on the recent success of these latex treasures. They suggest that if you're not donating money, the idea is that

those wearing the bands unite in a common cause. Among other things, blue stands in support of those with arthritis, purple for domestic violence, and white for 'general hope'. Yet each colour also represents hundreds of other issues that awareness groups wish to make us aware of. There is even a site called 'DieHARD' selling bands to support your own cause: one man claims: "I wear 'DieHARD' in protest because I have to work on weekdays and sometimes on weekends." Supposedly an ironic statement but you're still allowing an individual rather than the charities to profit. I found myself wondering: why not start my own gang and get something meaningful embossed on a wristband, even if my fellow gang members aren't sure what the motto means, the bands are so fashionable it won't matter right? Wrong!

Nobody can suggest that charities are bad; they do great work and raise valuable funds to help people in need. Realistically, these bands are no different to the red pin ribbons that Aids campaigners launched back in 1991. However, despite the fact charities benefit from these items becoming fashionable, it is still important to ask yourself: are you wearing your coloured band for the right reason? Do you even know what it stands for or does it simply make you feel cool? And, at the end of the day, if you are wearing it for the right reason, make sure the money you're donating is going to a registered charity and not into the pocket of penny-pinching web con men.

Competition: Win "Shadow of Rome" for the PS2!



CAPCOM recreates the violent spectacle of ancient Rome with the announcement of Shadow of Rome for the Playstation 2

LAS VEGAS January 28, 2004 — Capcom, a powerhouse in the multi-billion dollar video game industry, today announced Shadow of Rome, an all-new action adventure game for the PlayStation2 computer entertainment system. Shadow of Rome transports players to one of the most perilous ages of man, an era when Caesar was hailed as the leader of the Roman Empire and whose sovereignty dominated all of western civilization. Murder, false accusations and blood spilled in gladiatorial battles await those who seek an all encompassing epic when Shadow of Rome is released throughout PAL territories in winter 2004.

The year is 48 B.C. The grandeur of the Roman Empire has been tarnished by political corruption and society has been overrun by unruliness and violence. Julius Caesar advocates drastic reform to rebuild the republic to its former glory, but is met with opposition. Before changes could be implemented, the enlightened head of state is murdered. The horrific news finds its way onto the battlefield and to the ears of one soldier, Agrippa, who rushes back to Rome only to be confronted with the announcement that his father Uesnius, a close advisor to Caesar, has been accused of the murder. Unfortunately, time is running out for Agrippa as his father is to be publicly executed by the winner of the next gladiatorial event. Together with the help of

I don't get it

By Holly Grigg-Spall

Action! A girl strides purposefully up to the bar. She glances at a guy dressed in dark jeans and a gray t shirt. He smiles. She smiles. She orders a rum and coke. The light banter begins. They laugh. And. Cut! I see it happening all over campus. People walking around playing out scenes in their head. Positioning themselves for the close up, forming their lines with the glazed look of hopeful perfection. I have started looking for the cameras, so convincing is the act. Except the other actors sometimes say the wrong lines, well they were never sent the script. Such characters can be edited down, anything mundane and inessential to the plot wiped off the storyboard. We are becoming less tolerant of real people. TV people are just much more clever and witty and interesting, and so very shiny. TV as in screen not Transvestites, although I am sure they are often equally amusing. In editing real people we can make them who we want and need them to be, rather than dealing with all the effort and messiness of knowing who they really are. Their personalities can be reduced down to an understandable character outline. You meet someone new, you like them and you want to keep it that way, so you tell yourself only what you tell your friends on the phone. The lines they get wrong can be endearing and somewhat loveable. But his liking for Coldplay or New Age relaxation techniques are not ratings winners. Once I realized this it became more noticeable when I was on the receiving end of some serious editing. We all put

people in boxes and categorise them for easy reference, but when it is you trapped in the box, things are not so easy. There is not much room to move. At the end of these tippex relationships eventually all those outtakes become useful reminders of how that person just was not TV enough for you. The Guardian recently reported that there has been a dramatic increase in people living alone. This was explained by economics. I think it has more to do with dissatisfaction. We have come to see the lives we watch on television as more real than our own, and because of this our lives and the people in them are constantly disappointing. Having more acquaintances than friends allows us a whole cast of interesting characters who fulfill different roles and never need get boring. That way people we know can be like demographics, all understanding reduced to lists of preferences. The typical student introduction. Question one: what music do you like? Please keep your answer to a maximum of five artists. If I ever know what my ultimate favourite all time album is I think I will contemplate suicide. Or at least a long trip to Mexico. As demographics we know what they want and can provide them with the suitable friend product. In a box with a pretty bow. Perhaps we allow ourselves to be so effortlessly packaged. We see ourselves walking around campus, the camera zooming in, panning out and we relate to the world around us in this cinematic view. We ask each other, what is that from? And describe the events of our lives with references to our collective memory, the films, the celebrities we all know. It is just like that time when Ryan and Marissa. Yeah, it is. And now a few scenes from next week's episode.

Any comments?
email hg9@kent.ac.uk

Make it stop

By Holly Grigg-Spall

The people I do not know, have never even spoken to, but pass every week at the same time on the way to the library are the characters that hold the most fascination. They have names and interesting, complicated lives. In my head. Happy Days boy is a good example. Looks like Ritchie. From North London. Likes Russian novels and old westerns. Maybe. And then there are the packs of samey extras. The denim mini skirt brigade. In their big furry faux Ugg boots that are the Land Rovers of the shoe universe. I see no Siberian wasteland that would warrant these. That said, I appreciate the minimal use of denim. I have seen dungarees and it was not pleasant. But you all need to move on. Quickly, past me. I would like to see some creativity. No more hint of gypsy or nautical slant. I want to see full sailor suits and original peasant outfits. It would be good to know for sure that people have a humorous self awareness. Cards are needed to prevent confusion. Cards that say: It's Ok, I understand the irony. Otherwise I am just going to have to change the channel.

Any comments?
email hg9@kent.ac.uk

his best friend, Octavius, and a freed female gladiator named Claudia, Agrippa embarks on a mission to restore his family's honour and uncover the truth behind Caesar's assassination.

Shadow of Rome has been designed to allow players the opportunity to venture throughout the world of ancient Rome by flawlessly switching between Agrippa and Octavius, each of whom have their own area of expertise. Playing Agrippa lends itself more to action while taking control of Octavius opens up the stealth and adventure elements of the game. To remain true to the Roman era, players will have to use environmental objects and weapons of the day such as stones, slingshots, spears and swords in order to progress through the game. Also, situations will arise when Agrippa or Octavius will rely on nothing but their hands in order to combat those impeding the quest to absolve Uesnius.

The venerable city will be reconstructed in full 3D with startling realism, compelling players to explore ancient Rome. Diverse environments including a bustling market place, vast forests, sea vessels, citadels and the Coliseum will be the stage for the various battles and interrogations, all the while searching for the truth. In addition, a colourful cast of characters including actual historical figures appear throughout the game, deepening the level of realism and making this saga more immersive.

To win one of five copies of Shadow of Rome email Tamasine before March 31st on tvhj2@kent.ac.uk with the answer to the following question:

In which year was Rome founded?

Changing the face of British Art

media v the artist

By Sam Edgar

Art has a new elevated celebrity status. Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread. Most people know these yBa (young British artists) who smashed into our world in the 1990's, but what happens once you reach this status as an artist? Do you lose touch with the new frontier of art? Does this media circus of 'art figure heads' really enable lesser-known artists to be known? I don't think so. So where should we look? Do we find these elusive artists who are going to influence our perspectives as the great masters of the past have done? Or is that asking a little too much?



The hierarchical structure of British art often begins in the Art College, then emerges into the gallery, hopefully transcending to museum status, with a bit of help (or hindrance) from media exposure and prizes. The Turner Prize this year was greeted with a mixed reaction, some saying it lacked transgression and variation and others applauding it for its identity and social politics. But whatever angle the art takes, is the Turner Prize the pinnacle of modern British art or simply a PR stunt to promote a party?

The bookies favourite to win was Jeremy Deller, who sure enough walked away with the top prize of £25,000. What he was filming and discussing wasn't original in itself, but the way he brings living things and people together, through film especially, must have won the judges over. The channel 4 news presenter Jon Snow, commented on how this year's nominations showed a

close relationship between what he broadcasts and the art produced.

Perhaps Deller winning shows an even greater emphasis on the ordinary, and the artistic talent comes when presenting it as extraordinary. Art has become so integrated and self-referential to our culture, that now everything is art. This could explain the diminishing popularity and contempt held of contemporary art. Perhaps what we need to appreciate and look closer at, is the way that the artist presents the material.

However, having visited the London Art Fair last month, it seems we are regressing into a love affair with painting. The London Art Fair was a chance for collectors and the public to buy art works and not feel intimidated by the glitzy Mayfair gallery. Painting was in abundance and ranged from representational to abstract expressionism.

So is this where art is heading? Saatchi obviously thinks so, selling the famous shark to MoMA in New York in favour of Luc Tuymans 'Within'. "Nothing is as uplifting as standing before a great painting," he tells 'The Art Newspaper' recently. Painting was the vehicle in which modern art was born through impressionism, so are we stepping back, taking a deep breath, and focusing on our roots?

Talking to some of the gallery representatives at the Art Fair, I asked what factors influenced their buying choices. One curator emphasises a more personal connection, "I like a lot of art, but if I like the artist, I want to represent them". I also asked if the art at the London Art Fair was archetypal of the MBa (Modern British artists) emerging. He told me that this was another one of these 'art events' just used to make London feel more 'arty' and that most of the public couldn't stomach what was really out there. Perhaps I was looking too far up the food chain of art consumption and needed to go back to the grass roots of art schools.

Interviewing third year BA Fine Art students from Kent Institute of Art and Design



elevated my opinion and optimism of the next generation of artists. They openly admit that they are going to have to try harder than their predecessors and cannot rely on the shock factor to give weight to their work. Walking around their studio showed a conscious effort to develop their concepts through the chosen medium. When asked where they thought art was headed next, painting was a popular consensus. Is this because art has reached a ceiling? One student told me "We have done s**t in a can, we have done exhibiting nothing". Does this consensus to paintings' increasing influence merely reflect the media's ability to theorise and speculate, which drives the 'art machine'? That can't simply be the case, as without the artists developing their work there would be nothing for the media to speculate about. Perhaps it is more like a tussle of ideas between the media and artist.

The British media has a love-hate relationship with extreme contemporary art: most hate it and some love it. The Momart fire, which destroyed a lot of the late post-modern art, was described by some tabloid newspapers as "aesthetic cleansing". These types of media influences can sway whole generations of people who cannot and do not try to understand where modern art has been and is heading. Picasso and Matisse and Van Gogh were controversial for their time and now they are some of Europe's most respected and celebrated artists.

So back to my original question, where is art going? I think in the short term we are looking at a renaissance into painting and the Saatchi Gallery and Tate Britain's current exhibitions are a perfect mix of old and new. Art will always be looking to the past to make its next step into the future. The interesting part is in which direction this will go and I think it will be a more politically charged art. As shown with the Turner Prize, the environment in which we live, terrorism and globalisation, has filtered through art's stratosphere, emphasising the vulnerability of human existence against outside threats but also the threats we pose to ourselves.



Exhibition Review

Sea Change

Sidney Cooper Gallery

The Sea Change exhibition is a collection of paintings by Susan Haire, based upon the theme of the sea. Many aspects of the sea have been portrayed within these paintings, including the dark, mysterious, primal and organic. Whilst composing her work, Susan Haire collaborates with a number of music composers, in order to create a calm and tranquil atmosphere. Her work also tends to revolve around the themes of creation and mythology, and is sometimes centred around the Great Mother Goddess, who gave birth to all creation from the chaos of the oceans.

When I spoke with Susan about her work, I learned that much of it was also inspired by dreams she had in the past about being under water, and listening to delicately composed music, which helps her work to gain that added power and effect of the mystery that is evident throughout her work. Another main theme that recurs is change. This theme ties in directly with that of the sea, because of its ever-changing nature. In this sense the sea becomes a metaphor; a symbol of change, power, dreams, and also the 'flow' and rhythm of our lives. Her work is also representative of femininity, man's powerlessness over the sea and nature itself. With this in mind, it is easy to see why her work maintains the beauty and poetry of the unknown and mysterious changes that is so much a part of human life in general. The Sea Change exhibition is, therefore, a collection of very rare and original work that provides a very rewarding insight into the many features of nature, and the sea.

Janine Griffiths



Play Reviews: Gulbenkian

Ed Byrne

The Gulbenkian Theatre
9th February

Have you ever gone to a stand-up session and fallen asleep? Well neither had I, until I went to see Ed Byrne at the Gulbenkian. I actually had a five minute power nap during his routine, which I know he saw and wasn't pleased with. When I wasn't sleeping I wasn't laughing either, despite his looking over at me. I was waiting for him to rip into me for nodding off, but he didn't: probably because that would mean he would have to muster up some original joke outside of the script he was reading from. There was no intelligence in his routine, the jokes were basic and familiar and didn't involve the audience in any respect.

I thought we were in for a treat when we were offered the warm up act (most of the comedy that I go to just isn't that classy) but it just made the evening all the more disappointing. Byrne's choice of warm-up comedian didn't go down too well: most people were offended by his jokes, raising more scowls than smiles. I personally found his offensive jokes quite funny though - at least he had the guts to push the boundaries unlike Ed Byrne. But on the whole he warmed up the audience like congealed gravy, leaving Byrne funny, only by comparison.

My disappointment may have come from my high expectations of Ed Byrne, which is why I found it sub-standard; I'm sure Byrne is capable of more; with his cheeky nature and amusing voice - not to forget that he has received great reviews in the past. We can only speculate why his comedy was sloppy this time, I hope he hasn't sold his soul to Carphone Warehouse adverts?

Tara Lakin and Matt Hughes

Nod and Smile

UKC Dramatics
The Gulbenkian Theatre

This was perhaps the most bizarre play that I have seen in a long time! The basic idea of the play was that the cast were given a theme to work on during the 'rehearsals', which they would then improvise throughout the performance. The theme was similar to that of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, except the feud was not between two rival families, but two rival universities - UKC and Christchurch, and the feud was to be settled by holding a 'university challenge' quiz. The fact that the actors were given very short notice, and little time to prepare for the play, inevitably led to a very unusual production. There was even one point when an actress walked over to an audience member, sat on his lap and then proceeded to lead him onto the stage, where she promptly 'divorced' him. Although many of the jokes were predictable, and somewhat clichéd, the sheer stupidity and peculiarity of the show received much laughter from bemused audience members. The organization and quick-thinking of the cast was, in itself, impressive. The style of the play was very similar to that of a children's pantomime, and bore many of the hallmarks of such; namely that of the very conventional, yet comical over exaggerated theatrics typical of children's plays.

This play lived up to all of my expectations and preconceptions of what I thought it would be, which would be a comical, original albeit slightly predictable theatre production. All in all, it made for a very light-hearted and mildly entertaining show.

Janine Griffiths

The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho
Cornish Theatre Collective
The Gulbenkian Theatre
17th February

Once you come into the theatre, you enter a magical world. The music and the incense spray and even the programmes, which come in a bag including sand from the Sahara and omen-telling stones, create the atmosphere of an oriental bazaar. The story of Santiago, who becomes a shepherd because he wants to travel, crosses the desert in search of his destiny and eventually finds love and a treasure, is told close to Paulo Coelho's book, which has captured the hearts of so many readers. Only five actors cover all the roles and narrate at the same time. The way they bring the story to life with very few means is impressive. The set consists of no more than a few bright yellow and orange silk curtains and some flexible prop elements, but most of the props are imaginary. Sound and lighting are used very effectively and music contributes successfully to the creation of a very special atmosphere. The sudden special effects are just amazing - for instance when the props turn into a camel caravan or when hawks are flying above the audience like kites or when wind is represented by something as simple as sticks and cellophane paper. A very colourful, vivacious and memorable performance, with something to take home from a magical world!

Verena Volk



Rosebud: The Many Lives of Orson Welles

The Gulbenkian Theatre
26th January

Rosebud paints the picture of a young man who achieved all his dreams at such a young age that he had nowhere left to go. George Orson Welles was a legendary filmmaker with an extraordinary talent that was matched only by his own ego. His confidence, tenacity and sheer arrogance were his greatest strengths. When local U.S. authorities shut down a production of *Cradle Will Rock*, under allegations of communist propaganda, Welles marched the entire cast, crew and audience across New York to a different theatre. In this production, Director, McKay delivers these anecdotes with such nostalgic reverence that you can't help but be caught up in them. Welles' precocious achievements were astonishing. The four-picture deal with RKO he signed at just 24 years of age gave him complete artistic control. But as is so often the case, his success seems to have been his downfall.

Rosebud shows Welles as an obsessive and driven man, a man with complete belief in himself, yet continually frustrated by what he saw as the inadequacy of others. His talent to tell a good story often got him into trouble, but he loved the dangerous drive of causing a public scandal. This went too far when he used classified information about powerful people in his films, costing him the loss of artistic control over his films. The production shows his slow decline in health and ambition, leaving Welles nothing left to achieve except a slow but steady decline into *Birds Eye* pea commercials and *Transformers: The Movie*.

Tara Lakin and Craig Ennis



Fourth Year Director's Shows

Thursday 17th and Friday
18th March

Star Throwers

By Paul Lucas
Directed by Mark Camateras
Designed by Kate Wall

Draw near. Observe this idyllic cottage. Observe the manner in which it clings to the rock face with romantic tenacity and faces resolutely out to sea. Notice that it has its back to the rest of the country. Discover the distinct air of seclusion that surrounds this house, flanked to the North by the bland, artless green of artichokes, and to the south by fallow fields punctuated here and there by bee-hives that stand like sentinels guarding the dawn mist against intruders. Hear the bees buzz dully in the thick gloomy morning, their droning but a counterpoint to the tireless booming of the surf and the jarring cries of seagulls lost upon the fog. Now draw nearer. Observe the couple that stand before the house on the shingle path leading down to the beach. Examine their stance, the proud carriage of their youthful bearing, the bright glint of idealism in their eyes. Yes, observe this idyllic cottage, and its beautiful isolation. And observe, if you please, the trail of blood that leads from the beach back to the house...

After Miss Julie

By Patrick Marber
Directed by Jessica Jordan-Wrench
Designed by Shanti Delaplanque

What would you do if Daddy rang his bell and ordered you to cut your throat? You'd obey wouldn't you . . . because you must . . . because you were born to obey. Give the order, slave.

Julie Patrick Marber originally wrote *After Miss Julie* as a radio play set in Britain in the 1940s, but based on August Strindberg's 1888 play *Miss Julie*. Marber stresses that this is "a version" rather than a translation of the original Strindberg.

Miss Julie becomes the daughter of a Labour Peer thrust to power in the post war election of 1945. Although the First World War is traditionally thought of as the turning point for British society starting to rid itself of its class ridden structure, the change of government in 1945 was pivotal in changing attitudes.

Tickets are available from the Gulbenkian Box office, with discounts for students. Performances start at 7.30pm.

UKCDramatics Elections

Hannah Field - Drama Correspondent

On Friday 18th February the model of democracy that is the University of Kent's Drama Society held its annual elections to appoint new committee members. All candidates for each post had to write a 100 word submission which included their policies for the society and reasons why they would be an excellent choice. Sam Pacelli and Charlie Grandville became the first co-presidents the society have had (or at least that anyone of our generation is aware of), with Becki Pini to become the new Secretary. Andrew Norris, a mature student, was voted Technical Manager, with the aim of introducing more technical workshops and lessons for those who wish to gain experience of backstage crafts.

Computer Science student Oliver Cole is to be the new Web Master, while Larissa Hunter, with her experience working in advertising will be an asset to the society as Publicity Officer. Other new faces on the committee will be Matthew Grant in the often forgotten, but vital position of Communications Officer, and Rebecca Kenyon, who grasped the title of Social Secretary after an impromptu bid promising more theatre trips for society members.

Shows to see:

A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, the story of the mentally handicapped Jo, and how her parents cope with her disabilities in the 1960s is at the Missing Link, on 10th, 11th and 12th March. For more information contact secretary@ukcdramatics.co.uk

Next term's UKCD Gulbenkian show:

After much deliberation the Committee have decided that next term's Gulbenkian show will be *Wanted - One Body* by Charles Dyer, to be directed by Katie Frodsham. Look out for audition details in a future UKCD newsletter!

COMPETITION

Miss Selfridge

Shine this season with 10% student discount on the Spring/Summer Collection 2005 and win Miss Selfridge Vouchers

The weather is getting warmer and the nights are getting lighter. This can mean only one thing, the end of winter and the start to an eclectic Spring. Miss Selfridge's new range complements every occasion and with a 10% off for students, there's no excuse for not splashing out on a gorgeous new outfit.

Getting the latest fashion is made even easier with the Miss Selfridge Re-Loadable gift card and those in the know will be dressed in these latest collections:

Folkloric Chic is inspired by diverse Eastern European cultures, and has an authentic 70's folk feel. Simple broderie anglaise blouses combined with floral prairie skirts create a feminine yet eclectic look. Oversized beads, bangles and leather belts complete the look.

Rich Exotica unites florals, metallic stripes and bold prints for a colourful and exuberant style. Dresses are key this season with soft layering, handkerchief hems and halter-necks. The look is versatile and can be worn with strappy Grecian sandals or print covered wedges.

Summer Festival has a pretty hippy feel, merging retro and vintage with an emphasis on casualwear. Worn denim, cheesecloth shirts and printed kaftans create a festival vibe. Key colours are lilac, pink and lemon teamed with dark denim.

Use your 10% student discount and kick start your sensational spring and summer wardrobe with a trip to Miss Selfridge or check out www.missselfridge.co.uk

To celebrate the wonderful new collection, we have a brand new re-loadable voucher with £25 on it to spend. For your chance to win simply answer the following question:

Which collection unites florals, metallic stripes and bold prints?

Answers to tvhj2@kent.ac.uk by 31st March.



Is Gucci the new Burberry?

As one is all too aware, Burberry has been deemed a little too common place and we, as a society have gone in search of a new label to sport; Gucci, being the victim. Over the past few months I have grown all too aware that both sexes are sticking to their Gucci guns, from messenger bags, totes and clutches, advertised by the Victoria Beckham's of the world. Gucci is everywhere, not to say that it was not before, but the smell of Italian leather in the air is particularly potent this season. However, does Gucci await the same unfortunate fate as Burberry? Well, as yet the trauma of sighting the signature 'G' plastered all over polyester baseball-capped heads has evaded me thus far. The countless and truly repulsive reproductions of both Burberry and Louis Vuitton bags I have witnessed (and cringed at) hanging pathetically from a market stall exist due to the appeal of people wanting something that exudes luxury and is yet fashionable. This inevitably happens when consumers migrate from label to label and thus particular trends, such as the current Gucci one, are inevitably prone to being replicated en masse for a fraction of the real price.

Naturally, the Gucci trend on campus is fierce too, noticing the civilized nature of Kent students (when sober), they have kept their tastes to the beige and black logo as well as the more understated bags. (I have also had three sightings of beige logo boots but am undecided on the status of shoes with logos as to whether they belong to the 'bling' sector of fashion or are downright overkill). Although one would usually expect an accessory and bag craze to belong to the female demographic, like Burberry before it, men too have been sporting messenger bags as well as various other accessories. But why Gucci? Why not Mulberry or Moschino? With Tom Ford previously heading the Gucci design group, creating sexually charged clothes, applying this same formula to accessories it is easy to see why we all go gaga for Gucci. Ford's designs are not only sexy and simultaneously elegant but are, most importantly, practical and usable. The epitome of this concoction is the elusive Gucci waist bag. Having invested in one of these myself, inspired by SJP, as well as being unisex, they are oh so chic. Not only do these waist bags come in the standard beige and black but have been re-introduced in baby pink, blue and yellow.

Many of us may have invested in a Gucci item and rightly so as Gucci is enviably en vogue at all times throughout the year, I cannot help but feel Gucci may eventually become *sigh* commonplace and I regrettably feel that those market stall baseball caps may not be so far away...

Shireen Dhaliwal.

Mikey the Musical set to hit the national stage

Director Joel Horwood interviewed

By Luke Nicholson

It always comes down to money doesn't it? A student's life often peaks and troughs according to the available balance in their bank account, or more accurately peaks in spite of the balance unavailable. A year on from graduating at Kent University, the director of the most successful student production in recent years has found life can be just as stingy on the other side of Canterbury's city walls. Joel Horwood, director writer and producer of 'Mikey the Musical' is back in Canterbury to announce 'Mikey' has been nominated for a national prize. But he's here to do more than gather his cast. He needs money – and fast.

Perhaps a word in the ear of his old employer wouldn't go amiss. Working for Paul Smith was not exactly how he had intended to cash in on a English Literature degree, but at least it got him into London where he could make, as he shamelessly describes, 'a network whore' of himself. After 3 near sell out-nights at the Gulbenkian last spring, there were few who doubted Mikey was a little bit special. Though as much as one hopes to see great things become of shows and individuals of the quality and personality both Joel and his rapacious creation exude, a regrettable shadow of doubt encouraged by realism looms over every daydream of success. Until receiving a call some 9 months after Mikey had premiered things had gone fairly quiet for Mikey. That was until legendary playwright Alan Ayckbourn saw it and insisted it be performed in his theatre.

Confidence, arrogance or blind faith in the musical (that he confesses to writing mostly in one night), had lead Joel to get in

touch with the National Student Drama Festival, an annual event showcasing and rewarding the best student drama across the country. Chancing his arm he invited them down to see the show. They loved it. "Basically we wrote off to the NSDF to enter the show, I sent the 90 quid off and Jenny Warton, one of the selectors came down to watch it. And then a second selector came down, and they were really interested in it but they knew that it was gonna be a good 9 months before the selection panel made a decision, so they asked for everything I could offer them."

Supplying his selector with a highlights reel and a Burberry cap, he was left to wait, selling the kind of designer clothes that the characters of the musical he was tirelessly hording around London would definitely not have although would probably know a man who knew a man who could sort them out. Around 90 shows are short listed for the festival, with this in mind Joel made sure he did all he could to make the musical stand out. "Our selector went in to the selection meeting wearing a Burberry cap I'd sent her in a Mikey pack". Grabbing the attention of the other selectors around the table, including Ayckbourn, the DVD was shown and Mikey was set for a return. Joel received the call confirming it had been chosen as one of ten shows appearing at the Scarborough festival later this month.

Swiftly handing his job in at Paul Smith, he has now returned to Canterbury to get to work with the cast he left to bask in the glory of Mikey last summer. All but three of the original line up remains, most of who, he generously offers, have gotten even better over the last few months. With the cast ecstatic to be working on the musical they

each hold a soft spot for, Joel is in the process of securing the funds desperately needed to actually transport and accommodate his crew in Scarborough for the week-long event. Head back to its home he thought. Tell the people that celebrated it 9 months ago how well it had done since, and that with a little (financial) help it could possibly do even better – and make the Uni look good in the process.

Whilst you'd think that Kent University would jump at the chance to be associated with a production born and bread in its own back garden, advertising the Uni glowingly on a national stage, for whatever reason, for now at least, no financial support is emerging from the uni. The Student Union Support Fund has commendably freed up an impressive £1275, Joel insists however, this figure needs doubling. Although support from the likes of The Enthusiast Magazine, Soft Office Clothing, Rokit clothing, Kru-Live and One-Six Productions has further helped the cause, Joel is ambivalent about crediting the university if their reluctance to offer support continues. "I'd rather it be a university production funded by university money. It is a collaboration of all the students here and I'm really proud of that. And it was a result of a buzz on campus and I feel it's bound to this university and it'd be a real shame if we couldn't get their support."

One way or another Mikey the Musical will be making its way North in the near future. It will be the only musical in 50th Anniversary of the event, which is slightly peculiar, if not a huge compliment, when one considers that this year the NSDF has decided to celebrate musicals. The award for best musical should be wrapped up then.



28 Editorial Team



Tamasine Johnson
Deputy Editor



Dre
Production Editor



From the Editor

I get bored of reading in other student publications 'I'm writing this editorial at silly past stupid the morning before going to print'. But the sad fact is that seems the only time student publications ever get finished. At the minute there's an unspoken feeling in the office that we're trying to repeat a party trick. Such was the warm response to the change of format, and such is our frustrating and unshakeable habit of constantly wanting to improve, the price of ambition is telling on us all as the clock ticks by and our beds seem a long way away. I'm sure what you're reading now is a fine newspaper, everyone who works on it just wouldn't have it any other way.

The first week of March saw the Kent Student Union elections on campus and it's with complete admiration I salute all who braved the unique conditions and continued to campaign throughout the week. Furthermore, I'd like to congratulate the few who were victorious come the announcement of the results in the early hours of Friday 4th and also thank everyone for allowing our team to interview you and grab a few words on a night when I'm sure the last thing you wanted to do was just that.

With life naturally getting very hectic for us on the newspaper, juggling and compromising degrees social lives and KRED, it almost passed me by that this is likely to be the final KRED that I have sole editorial control over. To ensure that KRED falls into the right hands next year we are planning an early handover to ensure continuity and to guarantee KRED keeps driving forward. There is still time for candidates to nominate themselves for the role of editor, Thursday 17th March is the deadline for nominations. To find out about the role email KRED@kent.ac.uk.

Once more a big thank you to Tamasine and Dre – not to take away from the efforts of the rest of the team in the slightest – but their unrelenting and irrational commitment to meeting our deadline has again been so appreciated, although, being the people that they are I wouldn't have expected any less of them.

Good luck to Joel Horwood and the rest of his crew in the National Student Drama Festival later this month, enjoy it and do yourselves proud. And a big thank you to the proof readers who get little mention but their efforts are much appreciated by all.

All the best.

Luke Nicholson



Paul Skelton
News Editor



Chris Best
Sports Editor



Sam Mansi
International Editor



James-Fassam-Wright
International Deputy



Amy London
Music Co-Editor



Shauna O'Brien
Music Co-Editor



Jo Crawley
Film Editor



Loisa D'Souza
Film Deputy



Vicky Crouch
Arts and Literature Editor



Jenny Williamson
Arts and Literature Deputy



Peter Whipp
Photographic co-ordinator

Chris Kelly
News Deputy Editor

Milja Ranta
International Deputy Editor

Alice Furse
Music Deputy Editor

Contributors

Lianna-Kate Whittaker

Paul Skelton

Verena Volk

Joanne Vere

Nicky Burge

James Fassam- Wright

Debbie Johnstone

Daniel Measore

Phil Reilly

C. Harcourt

Bart Smith

Glafkos Mitsidis

Adam Parsons

Elizabethe Hornby

Sam Mansi

Tavette France

Vicky crouch

Liam Baxter

Tara Lakin

Laexander Goff

Thomas Nyiri

Alice Furse

Elizabete Das Neved

Miles Windsor

Katy Russ

Chantel Froyze

Walex Beber

Vanessa Holden

Alex Webber

Neelanjona Debnath

Genna Lay

Holly Grigg-Spall

Genna Lay

Janine Griffiths

Sam Edgar

Steph Hart

Hannah Wood

Rebecca Pini

Matt Hughes

Craig Hughes

Craig Wnnis

Shireen Dhaliwal

Geoff Flowers

James Campbell

Helen Gordon.

Apologies for any errors or omissions.

Contact KRED on kred@kent.ac.uk to suggest article topics, to contact section editors or respond to articles. Alternatively, come to one of our weekly meetings Mondays 6:30 at Keynes Seminar Room 17.



To advertise in KRED, please contact **Aaron Mannings** on A.J.Mannings@kent.ac.uk or call **01227-82-4225**

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those held by the Students' Union. So please don't sue us.

The Mandela Building, Kent University, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7NW
tel: 01227-82-4257 fax:01227-82-4204

Feedback on "Kent Students prepare to house hunt"

Dear KRED

I feel I must reply to your article in issue 7.4 of 'KRED' Student newspaper to try and set a few things right that appeared therein.

Whilst I sympathise with the majority of your article I would like to take issue with one or two points, firstly: - 'That Students are under pressure to sign their contracts'. Although I cannot speak for the other Agencies or indeed private landlords if a Student comes to Joseph Newman to rent a property after they have selected one to rent they will receive a Student Pack which contains a specimen copy of the contract for them to thoroughly digest and understand also a second specimen copy is sent to their parents or guarantor to do the same, so there is no room for misunderstanding when they come to sign the actual contract on the day they take responsibility for the property, usually from the 1st July.

Secondly as for unreasonable levels of rent, it would be irresponsible on our part to charge too much as you rightly point out there is plenty of competition, which brings me to the 'sub standard' accommodation.

Again it is not in the interest of ourselves and my clients to try to let try to let a property of sub standard as it will remain empty throughout the year, with each Student property having to attain an HMO Certificate from the local Council it does bring the property to an acceptable standard. As most Students come from good homes and backgrounds they are not used to sub standard and they are quick to turn down anything that is and if they don't, their parents most certainly do!

Having phoned the Accommodation Office myself they categorically deny that they advised Students to avoid using Agencies and to deal only with private landlords, it is this sector that is more than likely not to have HMO certificates and Gas and Electrical Safety Certificates which are required by law.

Incidentally the pictures that you show in your article of the top of a cooker and the sink are taken after the students have left not before they have gone in, I myself have many of such photos to match those, lets be honest who in their right mind would try to rent accommodation with a sink and cooker in that condition!

I would ask you to contact me to discuss this matter further, as, believe it or not, I am most concerned that you should print this sort of article without first hearing the other sides views.

Yours sincerely
Joseph Newman
(Director)

Dear Mr Newman

Firstly, I must apologise for the delay in responding to your original letter. As the newspaper is run voluntarily and on a part-time basis our post is not collected with regularity and regrettably I have only recently had the opportunity to read it.

I appreciate the time you have taken to contact us with regards to the housing article in issue 7.4. The article was written with the intention of highlighting the possible dangers and realities of house hunting as a student in Canterbury. Now, having received your letter and the contract enclosed, I am happy to acknowledge that your own company appear extremely generous towards the needs of Kent students. Conversely, the reports received by the university in recent years has indicated that not all letting agents demonstrate such understanding, which lead to us deciding that an article with a cautionary tone was warranted.

Having spoken to Andre Grant, Student Welfare Sabbatical, he informs me that the Marketing office and Welfare officers will soon be introducing an objective survey onto campus which will provide specific information about the different options available to students and the problems they have encountered. This will provide specific details and should your company be discussed, after what you have presented to me, I am sure the results will read positively of Joseph Newman Estate and Letting Agents. Sadly the same cannot be expected of all agencies - and landlords might I add - and the message of the article was to encourage students to go into the process responsibly, not to rush decisions important financial decisions with companies or individuals who may well take advantage of the naivety and inexperience of some students.

If you have no objections I would like to print your letter in our letters section. By no means was I stating that all letting agents should be avoided without exception. Due to restrictions placed on the publication and without us having had to resort to a 'naming and shaming process', KRED wants to make sure that Kent students did not go into the house hunting process without being warned of possible problems that they might encounter. The photographs you discuss, for example, offer an insight into a 'typical' student's kitchen and not a kitchen typically offered to students by landlords and agencies.

"There is and always will be music"

Ciao Kred.

I came across your article in KRED the other day... and just wanted to put forward my thoughts on it for future reference.. Please feel free to get in touch with me at anytime about what's goin on music wise in Canterbury, as i'm a "golden oldie" (third year now) and therefore may be able to make a few suggestions in future, because there happens to be quite a lot going on around here if you dig a little deeper! For one, I play various gigs around Canterbury once or twice a month at Venues like The Canterbury Tales and The Seven Stars- who between them have a number of live music evenings throughout the week including University of Kent musicians! Local Hero Records on Orange Street (near Marlowe Theatre) is also another place definitely worth checking out! www.localherorecords.co.uk Which I'm certain will have a few University musicians playing there over the coming months- including myself! And then of course you have Arnon's music evening every Monday at K-bar, which always supports any guests that want to play on the evening and is probably the best thing happening Live Music wise on campus at the moment!

So there ya have it... There is and always will be music! This isn't intended to criticise what you're doing in any way by the way, it's written with the sole intention of helping you on your quest for more live music in Canterbury! So good luck on that quest Shauna! And I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kind Regards
Alex Webber

Dear Alex.

We appreciate your sentiment and we didn't mean to give the impression that there was no live music in Canterbury. We were however endeavouring to provoke a reaction for the student population in regards to the limited music events available. If you turn to Page 19 we hope you will enjoy our feature on the live music which our own Music Editors, Shauna O'Brien and Amy London have introduced over the last few weeks, but in no means intend to suggest that this is the only live event available to students in Canterbury.

Dear Tamasine

Having just read a recent article in KRED regarding Faithless and a review of the new Chemical Brothers tune Galvanize I couldn't but help finding a contradiction made by Tamasine Johnson. In the article on Faithless she starts the article by saying 'I hate dance music', she then goes on to say 'I just can't understand what people

see in the incessant drone and the repetitive beat beat. Maybe my lack of involvement in 90's drug culture has a big part to do with it?' Is she implying that everyone who likes dance music have been involved with drugs in some way? If so then this is the typical view that people take to people like myself involved in the Dance scene, not all of us are drug takers and not all dance music has a boring repetitive beat. I must go back to the contradiction, she said she hates dance music, so why does this give her the chance to review the new Chemical brothers tune? surely if she had any understanding of music then she would know that the Chemical brothers have been heavily involved in the Dance scene for the past 12 years, always keeping to their particular style that has always been so distinctive. This is shown again in their new song Galvanise. The new song is refreshing to hear in a music world that has become ever so commercialised where you find it hard to tell the difference between these McDonald singers/artists.

I hope you dont think I am being moany for the sake of it, its only that I have a real passion for the dance music scene and find it extremely annoying the typical stereotypes associated with it.

Thanks for you time
Geoff Flower

I apologise for any offence you may have taken from my articles - however I thought it may be worth me explaining a few details:

The Faithless piece (which if you are a regular reader you might know) was included in our regular in-focus section - this area is a chance for our writers to express themselves and their interests on a certain group or artist. My comments about the 90's drug culture were in no way offered as facts- as this was an opinion article.

The reference to hating dance music is explained within the article and I am sure that if you have read to the end, you might indeed realise that my statements are supposed to be ironic- it is these very stereotypes that I am suggesting which put me off dance music while I was growing up- however it is bands such as Faithless that have given me a chance to see what it is really about- the music. - Perhaps I should have said "I always thought I hated dance music, and I could never understand what people saw in it" - it is such stereotypes I was trying to show as false within my article.

My closing lines in the Faithless article are supposed to show how stereotypes are pointless anyway- I am not a regular clubber but this does not mean I cannot enjoy dance music like the best of the rest.

In regard to Galvanise- this is a hot topic in the KRED

office- I reviewed this before Christmas but it was just been printed in the last issue due to our deadlines- I have a strong appreciation of the Chemical Brothers- I have seen them twice and think, like Faithless, they are fantastic (are you beginning to see why my I hate dance music comment is supposed to be ironic?)

I was however initially disappointed with the new single, but over the last month I, like many in the KRED office, have continued to listen to it and it has indeed grown on me- your right, it is different, however I felt that it was too different from their "as you call it "particular style "- I like the Chemical Brothers for their unique and interesting music, however this track seemed at first to be TOO different to anything off their previous albums. If you have been lucky enough to hear the new album -I am sure you might agree with me- the new tunes are not bad, they are just very different and I felt that it is the commercialised world that you mentioned, that has pressured bands such as the Chemical Brothers to adapt their styles to become more mainstream- I was simply suggesting that I am unsure whether this reflects well in their music.

I, and everyone on the KRED team appreciate feedback- good or bad- I apologise if I managed to upset you- perhaps the ironic voice in which I intended my Faithless article to be read didn't come across.

Please feel free to come back to me on any of these comments and if your interested in reviewing or writing for KRED at any point then get in touch.

Tamasine Johnson
Deputy Editor

KRED invites its readers to respond to any article they feel warrants discussion.

kred@kent.ac.uk

Correction

Kred wishes to apologise for an error made in last issues International section, where the article on page 9, entitled Four More Years- relating to the Bush Legacy, was accredited incorrectly. This article was actually written by Philip Riley and we apologise for our mistake.

Varsity Victory

continued from back page

smashing balls at each other. Ball smashing or not the hockey provided much entertainment with the girls 2nd team on first. Kent ladies were far too good for their opponents and ran out 4 - 1 winners. It was an important victory for Kent and was to lay the foundations for a competitive afternoon. Following the ladies was to be the men's 2nd team. In a similarly impressive performance to the ladies, Kent Men's 2nds emerged with an identical 4 - 1 win. The falling of the sun did little to deter the hockey as the 1st ladies teams took centre stage. Following two consecutive hockey victories was always going to be a tough bill for the ladies to follow and unfortunately the run of victories was ended with a 6 - 1 win for C4. Although the score line wouldn't be remembered for time to come this match could boast the only streaker of the afternoon.

The cold weather had appeared to affect his performance too. With four hours gone, it was time for the highlight of the afternoon, the crunch match between the two premiere men's teams. There was little to choose between two distinctly competitive sides as the match ended in a 1 - 1 stalemate. Kent had the chances to win the game, yet the draw was more than enough to confirm a Varsity Hockey victory for Kent.

With Kent hockey recording a fine victory, it was up to the footballers to continue the trend. The afternoon didn't start perfectly. Playing off campus at Stodmarsh, Kent 3rd's went down to a 2 - 1 defeat. Captain Tom Brymer commented on his side's performance. "After some initially strong challenges Kent imposed the greater authority on the game and were unlucky to have a goal from Naoki Yasanaga disallowed for off-side. Soon after, Christchurch were awarded a dubious penalty for a supposed tug on the centre forward who picked himself up and sent the keeper the wrong way. This didn't seem to affect the direction of the game as Kent continued to dominate and after a series of close chances, almost equalised at the end of the first half in an almighty goalmouth scramble. The second half brought much of the same as Kent pushed for the equaliser. Against the run of play C4 doubled their lead when a tame cross was not dealt with properly and the ball fell at the feet of the on-rushing attacker.

This setback led to a change in formation for Kent as they changed to a 4-3-3 and the result was immediate with Kent striker Olu placing an accurate shot from the edge of the box into the top left corner. Kent were spurred on for a final push but couldn't find a killer touch. But for some poor finishing, the score line could have been very different". Kent 2nd team were also on the wrong end of a one-goal score line. After a well contested game, C4 took the lead towards the end of the second half and this

was enough to kill the game off for a 1 - 0 Christchurch win. Kent first team were in slightly better form as a solitary first half strike saw the home side take a deserved 1 - 0 victory. Kent ladies followed the men's example with a 1 - 0 win over their female counterparts.

Of the racquet sports Kent enjoyed a mixed afternoon. Kent's equivalent of Henman Hill was present to witness 3 Men's singles victories of the 4 played. Kent's own Danny Cox (6-2, 6-0), Nick Rollings (6-0, 6-3) and Nick Bendings (6-0, 6-4) all recorded straight set victories however 1st team captain Adrian Todd was on the wrong end of a three set defeat (6-2, 4-6, 6-3). With time and light a factor there was time for just one doubles match which Danny Cox and Nick Bending triumphed 8-2. An excellent success for Kent yet it was an odd reality to think of Henman Hill celebrating a victory. Badminton provided more of a nail biting finale in which Kent lost 5 matches to 3. The final match of the afternoon saw Kent's fight against the tide of defeat. With the opportunity of avoiding defeat Kent unfortunately lost. Disappointed, the Kent team described how they had "choked". Staying in the Sports Hall Kent's netball team pirouetted and danced past their polytechnic opponents to race to a 47 - 36 point victory.

All in all, a superb afternoon for Kent University sport but after another fiercely contested Varsity, the touch paper has truly been lit, and we can but wait for the next meeting of these two old rivals.

Chris Best

With the rivalry and tension of the varsity event clearly dominated by the football and rugby matches the Basketball team rose to the occasion and proved Kent's dominance and superiority over their polyversity opponents.

Kent fielded a team of foreign superstars who evidently understood the passion and importance of the biggest sporting event on campus, with players from Spain, Greece and Australia in the starting five.

The Tip off / tip-off came an hour later than the scheduled 4pm with a loyal, supportive crowd eagerly anticipating the canary yellow kits of Kent to grace the court.

With both teams fast out of the blocks Kent stamped their authority on the game early on with strong rebounding and aggressive lay-ups to avenge Christchurch's attempt to dominate the paint. Christchurch's power forward Larry Braggard (12) was their only form of attack with their long ball tactics, however Kent with their clear intellectual advantage made use of their extra man on the attack to draw in the fouls leaving Kent with a 9 point lead after the first quarter.

The second quarter began as the first had finished with Kent making the most of their numerous turnovers and converting chances with ease and the 6ft 4inch Australian centre Kyle Lees (13) attacking the basket alongside Anel (31) through a flurry of arms with both of them racking up the points inside the key and hitting

a high percentage of their free throws.

Kent went into the third period 36 to 23 increasing on their first quarter lead and showing no mercy to the tiring Christchurch with Johnson (10) and Cervatez (4) both knocking down the threes to extend Kent's lead by the end of the third quarter to 36 points, leaving the visitors a lot to do in the fourth to even contemplate a win.

It came as no surprise that Kent would go on to dominate the fourth quarter with ease, their calm and confident display of basketball left Christchurch dumbfounded and by the end of the quarter they were left with no place to hide. Kent racked up another 31 points with Christchurch only answering to five of them leaving Kent the victors 97-35 and Christchurch humiliated.

James Campbell (jahc2)



all pictures by Gary Cottingham



Back the Bid London 2012

I would imagine that the majority of students and faculty alike here at Kent University (Apart from the French among us!) would like to see the Olympic Games come to London in the year 2012. There may be a number of reasons for this, whether it be for better facilities in London for 'up and coming' sports people of all ages, an improved transport infrastructure or simply the chance to see top-class athletes competing in our capital city for that most prestigious of titles, 'Olympic Champion'. But it's not only those in London who will feel drastic improvements.

Sean Holt, 'Sport England' Regional Director South East has said: "If we can bring the Olympics to London there will be some tremendous benefits to us here in the South East and we hope that people in Kent will recognize just how much they could gain... There's a real prospect of new jobs being created through all the building work that will be needed and in the long-lasting facilities which will be developed. The tourist industry will receive a big boost if we host the Olympics in the run up to the Games, during the event and for years to come. Another legacy will be the world-class sports and leisure facilities which will be within the reach of people in the South East."

The men and women involved in the committee aiming to bring 'the Games' to London have been working hard to convince the Olympic Evaluation Commission (the decision-makers!) that this is the place that should host them, and that they will be the best yet. But what can we do to boost England's prospects of hosting the Olympics?

People across Kent are being urged to back London's Olympic bid. Half a million people have already signed up on the official bid website to show their support - www.london2012.com - now those involved in the bid hope to raise that number to a million. The London 2012 website includes a section where people can sign a flag to register their support. Local people are also being encouraged to sign up as volunteers. "2005 is the Year of the Volunteer and there is increasing attention being paid to just how rewarding it is to be a volunteer," said Sean. "Volunteering for such an incredible event as the Olympics is a fantastic opportunity in itself, but anyone involved will also learn new skills and experience what it is like to be part of the huge team that makes the Olympics a success." Information on Volunteering opportunities can be found on the London 2012 website.

So what are you waiting for? Get online, get involved, and play YOUR part in bringing the Olympic Games to London!



Five is the magic number

'Unifives' is the first and only national university 5-a-side football competition of its kind and it is taking place in late March at locations across the country. There will be separate regional men's and ladies' tournaments being staged in Bristol, Manchester, Nottingham, Barnsley, Paisley and London (Luton). This will be followed by the national finals in May. If an incentive to get involved was required, there is £5000 worth of cash prizes to be won!

'But I'm not in one of the Kent football teams, and I have two left feet', I hear you cry. Firstly, I would like to suggest that if you are left footed and have two left

feet then you are destined for glory my son. Secondly, this competition is open to players of all standards and not just from the teams. So whether you have the skills of Ronaldinho or just his looks, these championships are for you!

You could enter a team representing your college, department, society or just a group of mates, but hurry as the deadline is the 28th February. Entries should be made online at www.unifives.co.uk, where you can also find details regarding dates, venues, match rules and all other information about the Championships. So step up to the challenge boys and girls and make us proud to be Kentish!

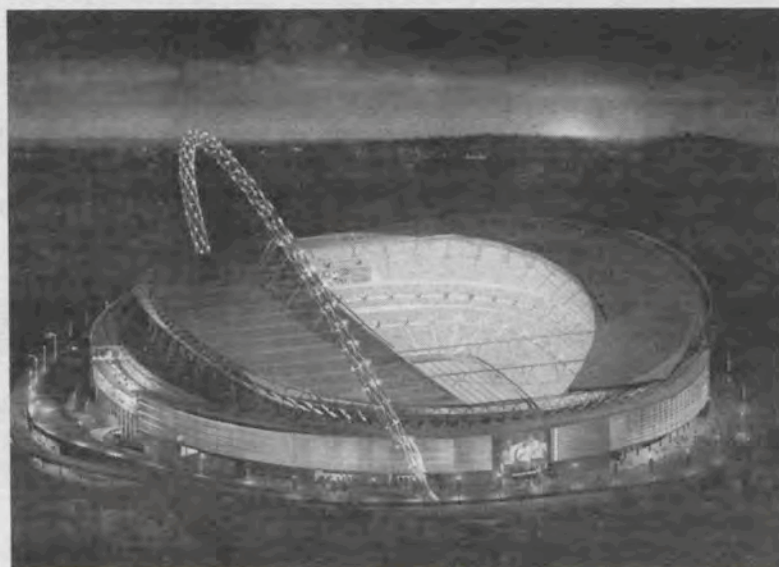
Miles Windsor

Surfing comes to UKC!

This month saw the start of a new sports society - the Kent University Surf Club. The club is offering lessons to learn how to surf as well as weekly trips to the coast to practice your gnarly skills and allow you to rip the waves of Kent. OK so rip might be a bit of an overstatement given the size of the surf in Kent but there will be plenty of laughs and a fantastic atmosphere to compensate for that! There will also be regular weekend trips down to the South-West coast where we can show off our stuff to the crowds at Cornwall. There is also a BUSA competition held

every year in Newquay for those who want to compete. All this as well as many socials in and around campus and town, this club really does offer something for everyone. Kent boasts a large and friendly surfing community and there are many experienced surfers who are ready to help out and join in on surfing expeditions. Everyone gets on well and by joining the Kent Uni Surf Club you are guaranteed to end up with a lot of new friends! If you are interested then visit www.kentsurf.tk for the latest info on joining, lessons, trips and socials. Everyone is welcome so we hope to see you out there in the water soon!

Helen Gordon



Cheerleaders go commando!

If you have been on campus in the last few weeks it would have been near impossible to have not noticed the flyers. Yes we did go commando! Well, we dressed like army commandos.

On Wednesday 2nd February the Kent Falconettes Cheerleading Squad had their annual Slave Sale in The Venue. For those of you lucky enough to witness the event you had your chance to buy your very own cheerleader. The entire evening was a complete success and we managed to raise a considerable amount of cash to go towards the Asian Tsunami Appeal.

On behalf of the squad I would like to express our thanks to all those who came to support us and donated to such a good cause. We would especially like to thank the staff of The Venue for making the night possible. Congratulations to those lucky few who managed to bag themselves their very own

personal cheerleader, and to those who missed out perhaps you'll get your chance next year. Once again a big thank you to everyone who made the night possible and hopefully next year's Slave Sale will be even bigger and better.

Ellie Coker
Kent Falconettes

We are currently recruiting for more male cheerleaders, you will need to have rhythm, and good timing, great balance and good upper body strength, if you reckon you've got what it takes then please get in touch on: ukcfalconettes@hotmail.com

Cheerleading...the perfect way to pick up girls!

If you are interested in joining the squad or would like further information on the things we get up to, contact: ukcfalconettes@hotmail.com

Check us out at: www.eteamz.active.com/theKentfalconettes



KUCC - Kent University Caving Club

Before caving the closest I had ever been to being underground was using public transport in London. I had always enjoyed sports but I had never found a sport that I thought I could become obsessed with. That is until I started caving.

So what exactly is caving? It's a completely different world of climbing; crawling and squeezing through dark, tight passages that lead to incredible chambers the size of the sports hall.

But why would anyone want to go underground and get dirty, muddy and wet? Well, it's the whole experience of exploring a new world that you would never have had the opportunity to do before. It takes over all your senses and as soon as you enter the cave you are fully focused on your surroundings. It is an amazing experience and is a great weekend trip to go on to get away from the stresses of university life. It also gives you the opportunity to be introduced to other cavers from other universities and share your experiences and stories with them.

Anyone can try caving. You don't have to be a certain size or ability. The club runs various trips from allowing you to practically walk through caves to hardcore adrenalin power caving. Last summer the club held its own caving expedition to Ireland. It was an extraordinary experience and it meant that the members could spend longer than a weekend exploring caves. It was held in June in Doolin for two weeks. This year we will be staying in England for our expedition and spending time exploring the Yorkshire Dales and South Wales.

The club also runs social events so that our members have the chance to get to know one another outside caving. We will shortly be having a quiz night and there will be other events held such as paint balling and a trip to laser quest.

If you are interested in caving here's how to contact us: email committee@kucc.org.uk, www.kucc.org.uk or we meet every Thursday in Origins at 8pm.

Elizabete Das Neves

Kent Win Varsity Competition

University of Kent 10.5
Canterbury Christchurch College 7.5



picture by Gary Cottingham

Wednesday 19th January was to witness a struggle of immense local rivalry between Kent University and their Polytechnic neighbours, Canterbury Christchurch College. A cold, windy afternoon did little to dampen the spirits of the competing athletes in a fantastically entertaining afternoon of sport. With the rugby 1st XV fixture already out of the way, The 2nd XV took centre stage in a bid to avenge Monday night's Varsity defeat. A well-contested match was eventually shaded by the side from down the hill as Christchurch triumphed 23 - 12. It was a disappointing reflection of an even game and to make matters worse for Kent it was to come simultaneously to Kent women's 58 - 3 defeat. This had given Kent the worse possible start to the day as Christchurch celebrated 3 rugby victories. It was time for the Kent to stand up and be counted.

After wading around in mud for 80 minutes it was time to flee to the relative safety of the Astro Turf. Safe the hockey was certainly not as I was to watch 22 girls in short skirts **continued on page 30 inside**

COMPETITIONS



UEFA Champions League on the PlayStation 2 NOW!

Electronic Arts and UEFA have teamed up to create the first ever mission-based football game. Out now there are over 50 challenging on and off-field missions to conquer throughout the domestic and European season. A new owner with new money and new prestige has taken over your club. You'll have to cope with his pressure and interference to lead your team to Champions League glory. Using the new owner's money, you'll have to invest wisely in the world's best players. Achieve the owner's objectives and you'll be rewarded with performance bonuses. With 239 teams to choose from including those from the FA Premier League, German Bundesliga, Spanish Primera Liga and more, you can lead any team to the success you've always dreamed of.

To celebrate the release of UEFA Champions League on the PlayStation 2 we have a copy of the game to giveaway. For your chance to win simply answer the following question:

How many teams feature on the UEFA Champions League game?



THE HARDEST GAME ON THE STREET - FIFA STREET

Watch your shins and look out for those dirty tackles, as the world's favourite game goes "street". Forget the rules that govern your usual football simulation game, this one is all about heart and soul, your heart and soul.

FIFA Street is out now: skill, technique and careful selection of specific moves will be required to knock out your opponent. With ten distinctive street locations from around the world including the Favelas of Brazil and the urban courts of Amsterdam, you'll be playing in global venues that truly represent the culture of street football. Playing against the world's top professional players, all rules of the modern game are barred and you'll have to use a combination of freestyle moves to dominate your opponent.

We have a copy of the game to giveaway so for your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

How many Street locations feature on the game?



Answers to tvhj2@kent.ac.uk by March 31st

^a ANTONIOU HAIR & BEAUTY

The ultimate hair & beauty experience.



Available: Gift vouchers, Wella hair products, GHD straighteners, Brushes, Guinot and Dermalogica beauty products.



21 High St, Ashford - 01233 633171

16 Orange St, Canterbury - 01227 456956

79a Preston St, Faversham - 01795 591867

2 West St, Faversham - 01795 533471

31 Harbour St, Whitstable - 01227 277245

Student Discounts available
(call for details)