The Newly Elected

By Lianna-Kate Whitaker

"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.

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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 sledding trips that we haven’t partaken in since childhood.

pictures by Lianna-Kate Whitaker (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!
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Election Night Roundup

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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 Lervate, 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 nearly 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. Keyneses will see James Bull ‘Bullie’ take the helm, Parkwood will be represented by Danielle Seagge 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 evening's 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. Aithna 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 Baed, 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.”

Winners

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Sabbatical</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Welfare</th>
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<td>Emma Powell</td>
<td>Angie Turnbull</td>
<td>Liz Tomlinson</td>
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<td>Danielle Seagge</td>
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Postgraduate

Dre

Part-Time

Colin Moore

LGBT

Faye Mills-Bishop

International

Aithna Katsali

Women’s

Samantha Mansi

Ordinary Exec

Amy Godfrey and Sam Bullock

RAG President: Sophie Rayers
We’ve all been there – just as the evening is getting interesting that dreaded bell rings out, proceeded by the bar staff hollowing 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 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, is 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. 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 will make any difference as 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 enthusiastic 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”. Jude 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 simple serve to enhance it? We will have to wait until November to find out.
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 hard in order to use 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 this, he told me that when he travelled about the 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 stories?

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 where 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 join a group of four or five of us on Downsing Street and read out a famous Chinese poem from the Tao Te Ching.

When writing the play, did Philippe Cherbonnier have contact 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 book of the same name by 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

A visit to the Asylum Seeker Support Group in Dover

There is a small group of asylum seekers who stay at the Asylum Seeker Support Group in Dover.

The group was founded in 1997 by Reverend Norman Setchell. "When we started, there were a lot of refugees from Kosovo, than Afghanistan and then later from Iraq. There were many people who came from Iran and Iraq."

Today the group is under the care of a parish centre, Rev. Setchell: "I think there are businesses that are looking for people, and the church has been doing that."

There are 50 people in the group. They are having tea and are chatting or have joined in playing badminton. Someone plays piano and a little girl is dancing. Other children are painting with Rachel, a Christ Church College student from Dover who says: "I just love her, she's been 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."

"When I made them an offer, they were rather shocked in how much they felt on the money to play 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 ½ 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 immigration officer. He is now an induction officer. Being asked whether he likes England and whether he misses home he answer: "I don't have a family there, and goes on playing table-tennis with his Iraqi friend, who does not know whether he will be allowed to settle in England."

Yellow Earth Theatre

Yellow Earth Theatre, founded in 1993 by Philippe Cherbonnier, is Britain's only East Asian Theatre Company. Using theatre, music, dance, visual arts 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 Davide Tse, was written after the discovery of the 58 dead Chinese migrants on the 18th of June 2000 and was first performed at the Gulbenkian in September 2000.

It's too bad that the work of a police officer, who has to identify the dead bodies, with the help of three members of the Chinese refugees who lost their lives when they tried to make their way to a country where they hoped to escape poverty and find freedom. The unemployed people's highly shocking way, how much the fate of an individual actually depends on luck.
Outrage at Home Office Deportation Plans

By Nicky Burns

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 breaking 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 constituencies, in particular, they went from having pupils who all spoke English. I think there was one other language in the school - to having different languages in the space of half a term. That creates enormous demands on the teachers; it is an enormous change for the British people."

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 warlords 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 confuses 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 on 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 watch 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.

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 will make a net tax contribution - approximately £2.5 billion a year."

Similarly, Trevor Phillips, 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 2004, is it any wonder that students are dropping out to avoid crippling debts?

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, often the accumulation of large expenses such as a flat or a car may loom as well.

But why should students be crippled by these unnecessary expenses? Is it doesn't seem as if the diligent student studying at universities, the bright and for 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, say £300 to a lot of money for anyone. This seems more plausible, but the 'Russel Group' of universities, the joint 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 fail 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
Kent students continue
to house-hunt

By Lliana-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 fished from the University only to be told that 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/flat to see that there is no need to explore further, you just want to go home.

Images of hyperventilating are hopefully a exaggeration of how most students feel, 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 and use the house/flat as a business for whom 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 penthouse 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 clamor to obtain tenancy. But for those who fail miserably, it looks as though the drizzle of that anticipated 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 Eleanor Foster told me how 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 is a tell 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 item that can go to a recycling facility, you might be drinking out of it again 60 days later, newspapers will eventually be 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 fry our planet. Every ton of paper recycled can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 0.001 kilowatt hours 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 themselves 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 19 is set to be set for 2005 when recycling events will be held all over America to encourage local communities and the younger generation to get involved 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 waste 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 the vast majority 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 to recycle all those beer cans and wine bottles left after a good night out at the recycling centre in Canterbury or one of the local 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 student 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!”

Get the edge....

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/ult/learning

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

Last Minute News

Just as we were going to print, we came across this in th 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.

Joanne Ferraro
8 News

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

By Phil Neilly

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, the so-called five year 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 marginalising 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 Hersh recently published an article in The New Yorker claiming that Bush’s neocon faction had pushed through a military campaign that would make Iraq look like a children’s tea party. This has resulted in 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 the Greens (the latest Kenyon show) seducing voters in Tory heartlands, Michael Howard has reacted with hard-line asylum policies. These include withdrawing the 1951 UN convention on refugees and imposing new strict measures of potential immigrants’ economic usefulness. Race, though, is Michael 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 to the country 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’ seems strange and thinly veiled xenophobia, to say nothing of economic irresponsibility.

The 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 with respect. The government recognises the value of migration in enriching our economic and cultural lives, and inspires people to think they are also proposing to scrap tuition fees and the current disproportionate costs. British 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. But 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 main opposition. 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.

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 Vocational 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 pupillage 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 pupillages 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 pupillages, 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.

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 astrophysics on campus by holding regular meetings and viewing nights, using our permanently mounted 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 social 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 teaching officers Richard Clarke and Marc Corwall, and full training on how to build and use equipment from our senior 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 cr3@kent.ac.uk.

Richard Smith (r57)
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 then it 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 farce. 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 in opposition 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 himself 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 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 nutshell 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.
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 to 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 sick 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 delegates. 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 ULA 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 Jaffari of the Dawa party. Many other parties have given up their original candidates and are backing Mr. Jaffari, 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. Jaffari 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. Jaffari 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?

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 Claude Haigne. Unfortunately, like most political events this proved to be as good 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 to make his speech tactic of making a joke, 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 Haigne, 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 Claude Haigne’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 Haigne answering question with a general speech on Europe. However this was not the most annoying part of the hour long talk, that came when Haigne had trouble with her English, This is fair enough and is why there was a translator there for her. However it is one point because of the language barrier, Haigne 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 Malcolm in the Middle episode than a properly organised political debate.

The question and answers went on for some time further with the same topic 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

The clash comes just before a vote on the proposals for the Home Secretary to be able hold terror suspects without 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 make it, not some elected salesman who has no true 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 new arbitrary majority of the Labour party pass a fundamentally dodgy piece of legislation or will sanity reign through with the opposition parties?
"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 security guards. In all, about three hundred people received a hug.

Random Hugger’s Day is the brainchild of Mayella Johnstone (mayella@play50. funet.co.uk) who organizes 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 (eahs5) or visit the website www.randomhuggers.co.uk 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 (eahs5) President - Global Kind

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 European 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 comes down to it is that there is not so much a choice on Yes or No but rather a choice between huge prospective improvements and lingering uncertainty.

Glafkos Mitsisidis

*http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/1503113 privileges/europe/2992076.stm

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
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 Haq and Simran Bhullar, 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 KIAID 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-Bruni, 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-Bruni 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.

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 week 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 sabbatics 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.

All pictures taken by Laura Bottomley
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 Year's 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 mix their things 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, ultimately because their style is so unique, 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 the band's merging into a deliberate sound. Previously they have played in the rock venue Homelands (Ashford), Tap & Tank (Chatham), Infinity and Neighbourhood (both in West London). The band has just completed a Grotto gig when the vocalists get back from Uni. If you fancy something different from the usual, Funda-
mental Skillz are Definitely the band for you. We've heard them live several times, and every time they bring something new along. If you want to hear more check them on website fundamentalskillz.com or come along to the next gig that will no doubt be local.

Tara Lakin

Yanchak tells KREDF before the show, and cites Zeppelin and Pink Floyd as important influences to illustrate his point. "I...
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 one; most of them being re-released singles from Elvis Presley. One might wonder who is actually buying these singles, what sector of the public is this kind of music attracting, and how much 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? Clearly 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 sales have declined at an alarming rate. When one to achieve a number one it would take sales of over 100,000 copies, now it seems Elvis can quite comfortably at the top with less than 20,000 copies sold; that is in excess of an 80% decrease. So certainly sales are declining 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 around 15 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 not still 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 stations bosses (whose success depends entirely on the success of the record companies). Therefore the US Number One is basically determined by the guy who decided to give it the most airplay and not by the general public. It does not truly reflect 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 as well as ringtones, it would seem sensible to include digital downloads as sales. However this is exactly what Official UK Charts company are planning on doing this year, and what has already been done in US (approximately five weeks ago). As a result we can expect more unpredictable charts with songs rising more often, and songs dropping more often in the charts. Furthermore, the industry have introduced cut price CD singles (you may have seen the stickers reading "expert 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 is in 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 likes 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.

Radio Airplay

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 truth, 'Dance' sounds have to listen to this beautiful 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 called '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.

Funeral

Arcade Fire

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 over the 600,000 copies it was predicted it 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 so it show us some love"). In one of the best cuts on the album, The Game's love of hip-hop comes through in 'What's Up' 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.

Allice Furte

Still Not Getting Any...

Simple Plan

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 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 atmospheric and haunting ensemble effect. From someone who has never had a back-up plan, it is hard to believe that both this album and KT will do anything other than amaze.

Tamsin Johnson

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 that it was that made HIFH so irresistible in the first place. Crashing into 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 spit 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, while 'Quire 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 riots 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 winning Kaiser Chiefs have already stirred in the KROD office is seismic. Unmistakably British, Kaiser Chiefs, along with Franz Ferdinand are leading the renaissance of the modern rock sound. They are a band that make me think of rock 'n roll, but it just seems so formulaic; you're almost waiting for the television to come on and 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.

Nedaljona Debnah

The Documentary

The Game

(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 A Burn sleepless nights. 'I Love You Less and Less' is a tongue-in-cheek look at sexual boredom and 'Born To Be A Dancer' looks like the conception of an illicit lovechild between Divine Comedy and the Buzzcocks. But it's not all cartoon stuff; the livelier sing of 'Modern Way' and easy conveyed through 'Caroline, Yes' literally stepped me into 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 references. Well to all hear all year, Kaiser Chiefs craft tunes with a capital T.

Amy London

Album Reviews

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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 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

If you like electro-dance, this can’t fail to fulfil your New York electro-punk dream, being led by one half of your 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 befittingly 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 love money is ‘Tribulations’. This track is the best thing to come out of New York since The Raptures’ ‘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 even more than 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 in the same simplicity 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 / 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 wonderfuly structured and I highly recommend you see The Kills’ live performance in order to appreciate 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

Competitions, Competitions!!

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

Liam Baxter

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 Hcola Hoop’s Walls’ sounds like Franz Ferdinand, ‘The Departure and Rayoight 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 able to flog that successful single ‘The Irish Keep Gatecrashing’ 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

Single Reviews

Crabukkit
k-on

This record has a helluva lot of soul, and ambition. Having recently teamed up with The Roots, k-on’s destiny is becoming manifest. The bass (we’re talking the plucked, upright kind) punctures the song down while the producer chops it up into a gospel elevation; glorious vocal harmonies and brass solos turn this track into something distinctly old skool. ‘Crabukkit’ is a scintillating fusion of jazz, blues and hip-hop that demonstrates in exploring his musical roots, k-on 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 atmosphere with the cash machine is something we have all encountered once or twice in our lives.

Chantal Froyez

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 has more cretinous 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-Chewy Girls hybrid, perhaps we shouldn’t take them too seriously.

Amy London

Tonight the Midway Shines
The Ga-Ga’s

When any band is tipped 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… Thankfuly 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’.

Shauna O’Brien

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 Rass
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"

e-mail contributions to
pw26@kent.ac.uk

next page
top: Joe Wood
middle & bottom: Laura Bottomley
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<th>Location</th>
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<td><strong>27 Long Meadow Way</strong></td>
<td>Four bedroom house - ideal location for UGC</td>
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- **Forrester Close**, four bed off the Sturry Road
  - **£250.00 per person pcm**

- **Old Park Avenue**, four bedroom close to ASDA
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- **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**

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F: 01227 478235 E: enquiries@easyletuk.net
In focus:
Jeff Buckley & Nick Drake

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 father’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 reworking 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.

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

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Eliot Dining Hall

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

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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 a 2000 watt sound system and a drum kit fit for Keith Moon, Alex Webber introduces the evening with an assortment of acoustic-origianls 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 Vaughan'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 Kildown 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; IgnousStone 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 Emi 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-Scezeer, the band members and all who contributed to this memorable occasion.

Wales Beber

There Must and Shall Be Music

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 delicate 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" diverse range. If you have an eclectic appetite for the alternative instead of the quirky cheese that is still being smeared 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 rumour is 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 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 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

Music 19

There Must and Shall Be Music

Thursday, 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 city. There Must and Shall Be Music is still kinda a dream, I guess. I can't believe how many great bands I've had involved, I assumed all the student bands would be ropey and the bigger acts I'd invite would make riders 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, complais or throws things, but it always works out. This week, we had Adrian Beno, 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 kazozos and a violin, and the fab Klin 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 Bice2 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 Ly's 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

The Kent University Rock And Metal Society Proudly Presents:

CyberCulture @ Kent
kent university's FIRST ever
EBM / industrial / electro night
FEATURING:
-Teratoma
-Deathboy (lbs)
-Exclusive Rock Society and
guest DJ's

DATE: 4th March
TIME: 2000 - 2300
LOCATION: Keynes JCR
PRICE: £2.5 members/£3

Rock&Metal society secretary
Alex (aka30)

pictures counter-clockwise:
The Rising
Adrian
Klin Down
all pictures taken by Shauna O'Brien
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’re not they getting married episode. Although Cam has been spotted wearing a very posh engagement ring, rumour has it that just 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 thick 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 luff co-star Kevin Bacon (Freedom Writers) 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 (eugh) 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 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 included Best Swank for best actress and Kate 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 much more to look forward to, especially this summer’s Hollywood blockbusters!! Watch this space!
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 recognizable 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 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.

Marry Poppins

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

Marry Poppins is still Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

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 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 it is “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 in the narry 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 nasal 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-A-Long 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 Whittouse and produced by Helen Gregory (EastEnders), No Angels focuses on the exploits of nurses Anji (Sanetra Sarker), Beth (Jo Joyner), Louise (Louise Delamere) and Callie (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, over and over, successfully curtailing 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 show 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 irrelevant 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.

Man on Fire

Distinctly British, the series is filled with moments of hilariously comedic and serious gags that are thoroughly well-balanced and perfectly integrated in the recycled, stale, low-angle 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 compensated by the wealth of extras: the obligatory, but insightful Making Of (15min), 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 Statley. 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 and tired, 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 friendship between Creasy and young Pita Ramos) totally unbelievable, if only because Pita constantly makes no like 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 at fault, especially for the bad styling and Mtv-style edits, he completely wastes his stellar cast (Washington, Walken, Rourke) on the scrolly 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 (22min.). As additional gagdetry, 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

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 on one cleaning products and the other Will’s sperm. (Yeah because that happens every day.) In a desperate rush to arrive at the in vitro insemination clinic, Grace knocks herself out on a lamp post and is rescued by hazed up Jack 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 long 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. Will prove too much for his ‘health’? And will Karen ever give up her alcoholic, rich and natty ways and go ‘girly’

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 exclusive interviews and in-depth interviews with the stars. If you’re not, it might make you wanna gouge out your own eyes. To show kind of over-potentialises on the fact that the subject matter gay and straight relationships that accumulate into a dysfunctional, alternative family, might be a little different. The result is an over-exerted 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 more than their friends, and the constant jealousy tension between the pair, may not wonder what the writers are trying to project.

That said, it passes the time relatively satisfactorily and 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.

Meryl Tate

COMPETITION

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 rhjz2@kent.ac.uk by 31st March.

Available from leading stores nationwide, take 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 Tamakie 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 Pony, the next it was a friendship-bands. I even joined the Brownie Troop for the sake of it - crafting brownie bracelets! Techwise 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 bled to ransom by such fads? If, like me, you have spent the last month wondering what those beautifully 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 ‘friendship bands’.

The first people to get in on the act were Radio One, who in October 04 launched their ‘Brownie’ campaign. They claim to have distributed over a million of blue rubber wristbands and the likes of Bono, Jay-Lov and Mr Chris Moyle himself have all been seen wearing them.

My initial reaction to the bands was that they were a very clever marketing stunt but 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 popularity of ‘Brownies’, their 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 and simple when it comes to donating to those in need.

Now don’t say I am jumping to conclusions but isn’t it the idea of taking an item to raise money for charity? To my shock there are stingy fashion crazed individuals profiting by selling the bands on E-bay. But it is not just the bands, it is the entire concept on the latest fashion accessory worn by many celebrities and sportsmen and women including Rio Ferdinand, Beckham and Bruni Spears. Item is mint, new, in its original packaging and it is the Nike bag. These wristbands are officially licensed by Nike. Further down the page there is another band, with the words behind these yellow bands- a tribute to Lance Armstrong'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. It is fair to assume that such a move was instigated not by Kerry but by a clever adviser who realised the support that could be gained by encouraging Mr Kerry to jump on the trend. This is probably the same that the 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- selling your groups wearing their bands together based on the recent success of these latest trends. 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 want to make us aware of. There may even be a site called ‘DieHARD’ selling bands to support your own cause: one man claims: “I have been purchasing ‘DieHARD’ in past because I have to work on weekdays and spend 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 lambasted back in 1991. However, despite the fact that charities benefit from these items becoming fashionable, it is still important to ask why this trend is taking up a 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!

By Holly Gregg-Spell

CAPCOM recreates ancient Rome with the announcement of Shadow of Rome for the Playstatio 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 PlayStation 2. The game will be a computer generated action/adventure 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 where sovereignty dominated all of western civilization. Murder, false accusations and blood spilt 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 untruth and violence. Julius Caesar advocates drastic reform to bring the republic to its former glory, but is met with opposition. Before changes could be implemented, the enlightened head of state is murdered. The citizens' news finds its way onto the battlefield and to the ears of one soldier, Agrippa, who rushes back to Rome to find his friend. He will be confronted with the announcement that his old friend, and 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 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, flawlessly switching between Agrippa and Octavius, each of whom have their own area of expertise. Playing Agrippa lets the player perform 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, sling shots, 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 imposing the quest to achieve victory.

The venerable city will be reconstructed in full 3D with starting 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 classic battles and interrogations, all while being watched by the truth. The colourful cast of characters including actual historical figures appear throughout the game, deepening the level of realism and making the experience immersive.

To win one of five copies of Shadow of Rome all you have to do is answer the following question to the answer to following question:

In which year was Rome founded?

Any comments?
email hgs@kent.ac.uk

Make it stop

By Holly Gregg-Spell

The people I do not know, have never even spoken to, but pass every week 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 of some like Ritchie From North London. Likes Russian novels and old westerns. Maybe. And then there are the packs of snarly exs. The denim mini skirt Brigade. In their big furry faux Uggs boots that are the Land Rovers of the shoe universe. I see no Siberian wasteland that would warrant those. 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 have let some more creativity. No more hint of gypsy or nautical want. I want to see full sailor suits and original peasant outfits. It would be good to know for sure that people have a imagination. Cards are needed to prevent confusion. Cards that say: It's Ok, I understand the people are just going to have to change the channel.

Any comments?
email hgs@kent.ac.uk
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 surely 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 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 I like the artist, I want to represent them." I also asked if the art at the London Art Fair was archetypal of the MfAs (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 open the door 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. In other words, the studio is where they thought art was headed next, painting was a popular conscious. Is this because art has reached a ceiling? One student told me 'We have done st** in a can, we have done exhibiting nothing'. Does this consensus to paintings' incalculable 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 tide 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 Monart fire, which destroyed a lot of the late 1980s modern art, was described by some tabloid newspapers as "esthetic 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 more politically changed 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.

Sea Change Review

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

pictures by Laura Bottomley
Bending the Landscape: Horror
Original Gay and Lesbian Writing
Edited by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel

"Bending the Landscape" is a series of books, with Horror following Fantasy and Science Fiction as the third volume. Contrary to what I thought, the authors themselves are not necessarily gay or lesbian, but the main characters in each of the stories are, which in some ways makes for a more compelling read. It seems to me, however, that the majority of the stories have been picked because they feature gay characters rather than because they are particularly well-written or horrific- despite the fact that Griffith and Pagel have gone to great lengths to define what makes a horror story, including turning to the Oxford English Dictionary for explanation. The story: Explanations Are Clear, in which a woman takes her lover to meet her parents for the first time, is stunted by completely unrealistic dialogue and the ending is more bizarre than scary. By contrast, 'Coyote Love'- about the lengths one man takes to remain in denial about his sexuality- and 'The Man Who Picks The Chanomile'- about the extent to which we can really know other people- are the most memorably atmospheric from the book. They work well because the reader is drawn into the character's world in a subtle and disturbing way. Although the issues of being gay or lesbian completely supersede most horror elements in the stories, it still makes for an intelligently written book, and is certainly not just for a minority group, but has wide appeal.

All Pure

Slayer Slang
By Michael Adams

During the first chapter of his book, Michael Adams (an American Professor of English) describes the seven-year running, hit television series 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer', as something of a phenomenon. Although the tale of a teenage boy born to fight demons has admittedly created

many 'Buffyolics'; the concept of writing a book to explain the 'Buffy lexicon' cannot help but appear as slightly bizarre to non-hardcore fans.

However, it would seem that the formation of Slayer Slang bears great resemblance to the everyday teenage slang already in use. Apart from conveying his genuine devotion to the programme, Adams uses the show to explain the effect of television on popular culture and language. References to old English (e.g. Chaucer) are touched upon. Adams points out that whilst we have no proof that the style of language used in 15th Century texts reflected colloquial speech of the time, we can be sure that many of the language forms used in Buffy reflect those used in teenage societies today.

The full Dictionary, which follows the explanations of the structure of Slayer Slang, proved to be my favourite part of the book. The reference to Buffy as the Buffy-aries and as the Buffymester and the idea of a male lover as a "cuddles monkey" amused me greatly, reminding me of common slang put together in high school. That such witty use of language came purely from Buffy I very much doubt, but I can believe that this show, along with others, has been a large part of the popular culture shaping language today.

Despite being a fairly interesting read, the audience which will gain the full appreciation of Adams' study will be limited to either Buffy fans or linguistic scholars and enthusiasts.

The Ends of Our Tethers: 13 Sorry Stories by Alasdair Gray

Alasdair Gray's latest literary offering is a confusing collection of short stories. Confusing because there is no cohesion between the individual stories, while the choice of subjects is varied. It is 2003. The story "15 February 2003" is a non-fictional account of the day Gray joined a political demonstration against the invasion of Iraq. "Moral Philosophy Exam"

He waits, patiently
By Rebecca Pini

He waits, patiently.
Beside him, the stream giggles, bounces, splutters and continues, careening the rocks that lie beneath.

pushing past the pieces of dead wood that float in the water.
He sighs, he knows this well.
His loathing hide is old, and has withered over time.
Quarrel tangled roots, twisted, knotted, planted into the barren earth
That soon the rolling arms will explode with an abundance of glowing golds and yellows,
And he can stand once more, proud, aloof, dignified.
He knows each tiny veined paperthin leaf.
Each swollen drop of water.
Each coarse grain of parched soil.
Echoes the lifeblood of the Torres.
There are others, exhausted, dying.
They will not breathe again, but give their last remains to the ground
To new life.
But for now, he waits, patiently.

Chile Chico, Chile
By Rebecca Pini

In the dead of night
she wakes up gasping,
clutching at her naked breasts
in fear of the darkness from within.
No nightmare this
but her reality.

A neverending ache
which tortures her from sleep
Your pain not mine
but sometimes I feel its distant echoes.
Exhausted tears
and a silence no words could ever fill.
Each kiss each loving touch
how many more?
Endless poisons
Pallid sickness
and fading hope.
From these breasts
came beautiful feminine sexuality
that nourished her babies
Now fragile tender.
Swollen with disease.
Your pain has touched me
From the shadows of your darkest moments
you are rising strong beautiful.
And you inspire me.

Voice and Vision
By John Trellawny

Voice provides the fuel for voice.
Voice has no substance until it has been fired by vision
Vision comes first.
Voice is the tool that allows vision to be shared
Vision is not the sense of sight- blind people have vision
It is the language of creativity.
Voice belongs in Babel unless it has passed through the filter of vision
Voice is the sauce which gives flavour to the unseasoned diet of vision
Voice can be written or spoken or expressed in drawing or film
Even the most soaring vision is imprisoned in the mind of the visionary.
It needs voice. To set it free.
The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is a voice.
Michelangelo's vision would have been silent and stillborn.
But he had the skill to give it a voice which has been understood for 500 years.
Without a word.

If you think you can do it too, please contact vacsl@kent.ac.uk to submit one or two poems.
Play Reviews: Guiblenkian

Ed Byrne
The Guiblenkian Theatre
9th February

Have you ever gone to a stand-up session and fallen asleep? Well neither have I, until I went to see Ed Byrne at the Guiblenkian. I actually had a 5 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 napping 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 set 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

UKCDramatics Elections

Hannah Field - Drama Correspondent

On Friday 18th February the model of democracy that is the University of Kent's Drama Society announced the nominations to appoint new committee members. All candidates for each post had to write a 100 word essay on why they would like to be their policies for the society and reasons why they would be an excellent candidate. Sam Pacelli and Charlie Grandville became the first co-presidents the society have had (or at least that anyone of our age can remember). With Becki Plini to become the new Secretary, Andrew Norris, a mature student, was voted Treasurer. After the election, the aim of introducing more technical workshops and lessons for those who wish to gain experience of backstage crafts.

Nod and Smile
UKC Dramatics
The Guiblenkian Theatre

This was perhaps the most bizarre play that I have seen in a long time! The basis 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 rival families, but two rival universities- UKC and Churchstret, 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 produce 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 unpredictability and originality 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 similar to that of a children's pantomime, and more 'the hallmarks of such; namely that of the 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 alight mock predictable theatre. All in all, it made for a very light-hearted and mildly entertaining show.

Verena Volk

The Alchemist
by Paulo Coelho
Scene and Design Collective
The Guiblenkian 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 ounen-telling stones, create the atmosphere of a real performance. 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.

Janine Griffiths

Rosebud: The Many Lives of Catherine

The Guiblenkian Theatre
28th 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, on the other hand, 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 US 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 dealt with some restraint, but the effect never fails to be moving. 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.

Verena Volk

The Four Year Director's Shows

Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March

Star Throwers

By Paul Lucas
Directed by Mark Carreras
Designed by Katie 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 unobstructed here and there by bees-highs that stand like sentinels guarding the dawn mist against intruders. Hear the bees buzz daily in the thick gloomy morning, their droning but a counterpoint to the tireless booming of the sea. The raking mist 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 tested blood that leads from the beach back to the house...

After Miss Julie

By Patrick Marber
Directed by Jessica Jordan-Wrench
Design by Sparshi Dalmiapurco

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 states that this is a "version" rather than a translation of the original Strindberg.

Tickets are available from the Guiblenkian Box office, with discounts for students. Performances start at 7.30pm.
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 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 boots, 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, checkshirt 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 tvj2@kent.ac.uk by 31st March.

Is Gucci the new Burberry?

As one is all too aware, Burberry has been a household name for 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 last few years, the looks have grown all too aware that both sexes are sticking to their Gucci guns, from monogram 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 have given (at least from a hanger) a haggardly from a market stall exist due to the appeal of people wanting something that is so easy to see. Gucci is still fashion. This inevitably happens when consumers migrate from label to label and thus particular pieces of the current Gucci one, are inevitably prone to being replicated en masse for fraction of the retail price. Naturally, the Gucci trend on campus is fierce too, noticing the civilized nature of Kent students when seeking their fashion, as well as the more understated bags. (I have also had three sightings of being lugged boots but an, as usual on the status of shoes with logos as to whether they belong to the 'bling' sector of fashion or are downright me-dull for. Do one usually expect an accessory and bug crazy to belong to the female demographic? Gucci often used it, men too have been sporting messenger bags as well as various other accessories. But why Gucci? Why not Mulberry or Louis Vuitton or Tom Ford? 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 ga-ga for Gucci. Fords designs are not only sexy and simultaneously elegant but are, most importantly, practical and usable. The epitome of this concoction is the elusive Gucci wallet which I 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 on vogue at all times. he left a mark in the glory of Gucci melted in the one night, led 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 NSF to enter the show, I sent the 90 and off and Jenny Watton, 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 hounding 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 sent her in a Mikey pack' Grabbing the attention of all the other selectors around the table, including Ayeckbourou, 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 and crew. "No idea! The original line up remains, most of who, he generously offers, have been with the show for the last few months. With the cast ecstatic to be working on the musical they each hold a 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 his house 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 bred in its own back garden, advertising the Uni glorifying on a national stage, for whatever reason, for some reason, no financial support is emerging from the uni. The Student Union Support Fund has commendably fired up an impressive £1,275, 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 ami-able 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 NSF has decided to celebrate musicals. The award for best musical should be wrapped up then.
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 demand for 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 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.


Contributors

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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
Dear Mr Newman,

Firstly, I must apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. I understand the student newspaper is run voluntarily and on a part-time basis our post is not collected with the regularity of a daily newspaper, 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 your letter. I was not asked to write this letter with the intention of highlighting the possible dangers and realities of student accommodation, particularly in Canterbury. Now, having received your letter and the contract enclosed, I am happy to acknowledge that your own company appears extremely generous towards the needs of Kent students. Conversely, the company that I work for, University in recent years has indicated that not all letting agencies will always be as 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 online, which will provide specific information about the different options available to students and the process they have encountered. This will provide specific details and should your company back up your assurance that no one has been affected.

Kind Regards

Alex Webster

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 simply trying 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 won't be stopping any time soon, however we would love to get your feedback on this.

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 help but call you this morning. I'll explain in 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 in writing on a certain topic or artist. My comments about the 90's drug culture were in no way original and as such this was an opinion article. The reference to hating dance music was also an expression 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 into that mindset. I was growing up- however this is bands such as Faithless that have given me a chance to be heard, to express what 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 since I wrote my review.

My closing lines in the Faithless article are supposed to show how stereotypes are pointless and can stifle the new talent 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. Maybe my lack of involvement in 90's drug culture has a big part to do with it’. I am asking you to accept that everyone who likes dance music have been involved with drugs in some way? If so then this is the type of art that society likes, it is what 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 then are there so many people playing there over the coming months- including myself. And then of course you have Arnon’s music offer at K-bar, which always support 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 just that I feel it's important to help with what you're on your quest for more live music in Canterbury! So good luck on that quest Shafta! And I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kniggs

Geoff Flower

I apologise for any mischief you may have taken from my articles however I thought it may be helpful in 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 in writing on a certain topic or artist. My comments about the 90's drug culture were in no way original and as such this was an opinion article. The reference to hating dance music was also an expression 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 into that mindset. I was growing up- however this is bands such as Faithless that have given me a chance to be heard, to express what 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 since I wrote my review.

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Continued from back page

Amashing balls at each other. Ball smashes were not possible in such an environment and so the 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 a 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 become 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 sides. There was little to choose between the 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 Yashina disallowed for off-side. Soon after, Christchurch were awarded a dubious penalty for a foul on the centre forward who picked himself up and sent the keeper the wrong way. This didn't seem to affect the rest 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 would 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 raucous 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, 9-0), Nick Rollings (6-0, 6-3) and Nick Bendingd (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.

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 of / 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 Andel (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 three 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 (Jab32)

Chris Best

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 Olympics 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 the students and 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 just those in London who will feel drastic improvements.

Sean Holt, ‘Sport England Regional fan-makers’ said last week that ‘if we can bring the Olympics to London there will be some tremendous benefits to us here in the South East’ and that people in Kent will recognize just how much they could gain...

There’s a real prospect of new jobs being created through 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 buy into the 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 Windor

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 staff 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.uk 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 Falconsettes Cheerdancing 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.

Eille Coker
Kent Falconsettes

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: ukcfalconsettes@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: ukcfalconsettes@hotmail.com

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

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 adrenaline 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 paintballing 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.

Elisabeth Dai Neves
Kent Win Varsity Competition
University of Kent 10.5
Canterbury Christchurch College 7.5

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 78 - 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

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THE HARDEST GAME ON THE STREET - FIFA STREET
Watch your shirts 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 Pavilas 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?

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)

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.

Competition

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?

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