

# INQUIRE

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A newspaper  
run by students  
for students of  
the University of  
Kent.

Kent Union

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Issue 5.4

## Kent Union welcomes newly elected officers Helen Wood is re-elected for a second term as President

Daria Oldale

The annual Kent Union election results, announced on Friday 19th March, saw two current sabbatical officers elected for a second term.

Helen Wood, Union President, and Samantha Kennedy, Vice-President Welfare, will continue to represent the University of Kent student body for another year after a gruelling week of campaigning on the Canterbury campus.

Joining the Sabbatical team for the first time will be Issy Lloyd for Sports, Laurence Carver for Activities and Lauren Crowley for Education. The five students will take on paid, full time positions running Kent Union for the upcoming academic year and will take on the responsibility of justly representing the student voice.

The Kent Union Officer election process began on 10th February 2010, when 41 potential candidates first announced their intention to run.

Following a candidate question night, known as 'hustings', the participants spent five days campaigning on campus; a vital aspect of the election process, giving each candidate the opportunity to personally engage with the student body.

Each UoK student was then invited to vote through an on-line ballot during a week long period, concluding with a results night in the Venue nightclub.

The night commenced with the announcement of 2010/2011's Disabilities Officer, Marsha

Todd, who easily surpassed the 'No Suitable Candidate' option with a majority vote.

Subsequent results saw Damon Read-Williams crowned new Ethnic Minorities Officer, Zoe Scandrett as Women's Officer and Nicole Whittaker as RAG president; all accumulated enough votes to exceed the 'No Suitable Candidate' option.

Following announcements included the International Officer election, which saw Cat Sperbund triumph over Aqeelah Ghaffoor, Matt Osbourne beat an absent 'BUKI!' in the election for Science Faculty Representative and Tom Pengelly appointed LGBT Officer after a close race against Jon Cornejo.

After a short break, the announcements for college presidents began, with Phil Butler "speechless!" after learning of his new role as Eliot president, Mary Nakpodia triumphant for Parkwood, Sabrina Turczynowicz promising to make "Rutherford buzzing" as its new president and Fern Gleeson triumphant for the Darwin president post, amidst loud chants of "Darwin till I die" from the enthusiastic crowd.

Perhaps one of the most intense announcements of the night was for the post of Student Trustee; the minimum quota for election could not be met by the five candidates, resulting in a three round elimination process, with both Tom 'Ritch' Ritchie and Colum McGuire prevailing in a close race, with Ed Atkins finishing third. Colum was also appointed Union Council

Representative, stating that he feels "excited and full of hope".

The night concluded with announcements for the new Sabbatical team, starting with VP Activities; the two candidates, Laurence Carver and Megan Hobart, closely competed, with an "ecstatic" Carver triumphantly elected to represent all student societies, events and RAG.

Results for VP Education saw Lauren Crowley elected; she later revealed that the VP Education post had been her goal since starting university three years ago, while Issy Lloyd was appointed UoK's new VP Sports, despite a very close race with three opposing candidates; current Sports VP James Budge commented on the high quality of this year's contenders, claiming that he "wouldn't have fancied his chances this year".

The final two elections of the night saw experienced Sabbatical officers, Helen Wood and Samantha Kennedy, triumph for a second time.

Wood, the first president in Kent Union history to be re-elected, believes her success was down to the strength of her manifesto, whilst Kennedy revealed that although she felt her first term was successful, her experience will lead her to do things differently in the next academic year.

A popular opinion amongst many students following the election was that sabbatical positions should be limited to one term; however, the decision made by the electorate at large tells a different story.



Vickie Campbell

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## Newly Elected Officers

**Union President:** Helen Wood  
**VP Welfare:** Samantha Kennedy  
**VP Education:** Lauren Crowley  
**VP Activities:** Laurence Carver  
**VP Sport:** Issy Lloyd

**Student Trustees:** Colum McGuire & Tom Ritchie  
**University Council Representative:** Colum McGuire  
**Darwin Committee President:** Fern Gleeson  
**Rutherford Committee President:** Sabrina Turczynowikz  
**Parkwood Committee President:** Mary Nakpodia  
**Eliot Committee President:** Phil Butler  
**Science Faculty Representative:** Matt Osbourne  
**International Students Officer:** Cat Sperbund  
**LGBT Officer:** Tom Pengelly  
**Rag President:** Nicole Whittaker  
**Women's Officer:** Zoe Scandrett  
**Ethnic Minorities Officer:** Damon Reid-Williams  
**Disabilities Officer:** Marsha Todd

Voter Turnout: 3714

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# Labour's bid to send 50% school leavers to university

Lisa-Marie Janes

The Labour Party recently revealed their target for getting 50% of young people into university.

Critics have expressed fears that such a move would devalue degrees and result in a decreased standard of education, with leading graduate recruiters arguing that these plans should be abolished.

Sceptics have dismissed the target as arbitrary and meaningless in opposition to Labour's idea that it would be vital to the future economy in the UK.

Simon Culhane, chief executive of The Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, has advocated the abolishment, arguing that the only degrees worth having were either firsts or 2:1s from the top twenty universities.

He also emphasised that sub-

jects including Business, Law and Maths were the few degrees that would lead to success in the job market, whilst English, History and other arts degrees were not worthwhile.

Due to the overwhelming encouragement for students to go to university, Culhane stated that the job market has been filled with over qualified candidates.

In addition, the earnings "premium" for graduates has decreased from £200,000 six years ago to £130,000 in the present.

Culhane commented: "Many aspiring students should be, and are, asking themselves if a degree is worth it. The answer may be politically incorrect and unwelcome, but if a key reason for an individual wanting to take a degree is to get ahead, then unless they are studying a relevant, vocational qualification at a top university and expect to obtain a 2:1

or better, they would be well advised to take a gap year and then enter the industry of their choice."

The Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) who represent 750 employers are also against Labour's plans; they propose that families should be encouraged to save for a university education through a national savings scheme in light of their support for the cap on tuition fees to be gradually removed.

Carl Gilleard, AGR's chief executive said: "Adopting these recommendations would have huge benefits for the economy and help to reaffirm the value of a degree. We know that some of these calls to action are unlikely to receive a universal welcome.

However, we have concluded that this package of measures is the best way to drive up standards in higher education, provide a better return on invest-

ment for students, and ensure the UK remains competitive in a global knowledge economy."

There will also be emphasis on "employability skills" in degree courses and better career advice for students and a "higher education degree report" monitoring student development.

However, the National Union of Students labelled AGR's proposals as 'offensive'.

Wes Streeting, the President stated: "When students are leaving university with record levels of debt, and graduate job prospects are at an all time low, it is offensive to argue that the cap on fees should be raised at all, let alone lifted entirely. If the cap on fees were scrapped, a disastrous market in higher education would open up, seeing poorer students priced out of more prestigious universities."

# Kent Union Election Results in pictures

Conducted by: Vickie Campbell & Daria Oldale



# 1-in-10 students do not believe they will ever pay back loan

Ben Rowan

Studentgems.com, a UK site dedicated to matching students with employers, recently published the results of a study revealing that one-in-ten students do not believe they will ever have to pay back their student loans.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) company policy states that if the graduate has not earned over £15,000 per annum for 25 years the loan is nullified.

Many students consider this as a likely option, revealing the grim outlook shared by graduates facing the prospect of entering employment in the current financial crisis.

Young people have been hit hardest by the high unemployment levels in the UK; around 1 million young people between the ages of 16-24 are unemployed, representing more than a third of the 2.5 million people without a job in Britain.

For many preparing to enter the working world for the first time the prospect of employment looks daunting.

Many graduates are forced to take on part-time or unskilled work because of the

lack of employment opportunities after leaving university.

Whilst there is still a higher proportion of people unemployed who do not have a degree, the pressure of loan repayments add an extra strain on the newly graduated jobseeker.

The lack of employment opportunities in the UK has also forced many graduates to seek employment abroad. An estimated 34% of graduates consider jobs overseas and whilst education remains an "absolutely vital resource" for the economy, according to MPs, the British economy is not providing adequate employment for those with a university education.

It also makes it harder for the SLC to recover the debt as David Willets, Shadow Secretary of State and Innovation has previously pointed out, calling the government "blasé" in following up the repayments.

The study from studentgems.com included over 1,000 students from across the UK and explained the large numbers of students that turn to high street banks in order to fund their time at university.

The study highlighted the fact that many students took out finance without knowing the proper terms and conditions in-

involved; of those polled, a staggering 71% admitted they hadn't properly considered how they were going to repay their debts after university, deeming it unimportant at the present time.

With the average graduate debt currently standing at £23,500, many students are forced to take out a student overdraft in addition to their loan provided by the SLC.

However, most banks do not rely on the Retail Price Index

to set their interest rates, unlike the SLC who charge interest in line with the current rate of inflation. As the interest rate is considerably higher and is compounded in a bank loan, this can prove very costly if the bank loan cannot be paid back quickly.

Financial ignorance on the student's part could prove very costly in the long run. The apathy shared by many graduates in light of their cur-

rent position is not, however, reflected in the number of students entering university.

University applications to study this autumn have risen by 100,000 since last year, now standing at a record high of 570,000 people.

Many people are thought to be applying in a hope of escaping the rising ranks of the unemployed. This is reflected in the rise in the over 25's age group, with a staggering 63% increase on last year.



## Have Your Say: Are you worried about student loan repayments?

Conducted by: Vickie Campbell & Daria Oldale

"I don't have a loan, but if I did, I would be scared to pay it back. I'm going to leave uni with a humanities degree, so job prospects are quite vague."

**Eeva Makisalo, 22**  
American Studies, History  
(2nd Year)



**Aaron Kiely, 22**  
Criminology and Social Policy  
(2nd Year)

No. Personally, I don't think I will ever earn over the £15k repayment minimum. I believe in free education; people shouldn't have to pay it back. I applaud those that move abroad for 15 years, thus avoiding loan repayments."

"No. Student debt isn't negative and it won't stand in the way of getting a mortgage in the future. I am upset by the large number, as I know my debt will be with me for a while, but I won't let that drag me down."

**Gayle Fentiman, 23**  
Law (3rd Year)



**Daniel Malynn, 20**  
Law (3rd Year)

Yes, but I'm only worried about paying it back in the short term. Many graduate jobs will pay £15k per annum, which will mean that repayments will begin immediately. I think a system should be introduced in order to delay this."

"Yes, as I don't think that I will be able to pay off my loan any time soon- it's like a weight around my neck, almost like a mortgage! But its a sacrifice you have to make for your education."

**Tobias Giles, 19**  
BioMedical Science (1st Year)



## Canterbury's creative commuting

Adam Silver

Unibuses around Canterbury will soon be exhibiting winning short story entries from both staff and students at the University of Kent.

The creative pieces follow the theme of 'Departures and Arrivals' and will be displayed later this month.

The nine winners for this year's competition had their work selected by Patricia Debney, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University's School of English, and Vicky Wilson, part of the Canterbury Festival Laureate team.

Both judges found selecting the winning stories a difficult thing to call: "The standard of entries was high, and Patricia and I had a hard time choos-

ing which ones to feature."

One of the winning entrants, Kylie Grant, a Masters student in Creative Writing, felt that the competition was highly beneficial to not just herself but to Canterbury as a whole: "I am thrilled to be one of the winners, the idea of people being able to read creative work whilst travelling around Canterbury is a brilliant way of getting people interested in the creative arts. Of course, I can't wait to read mine the next time I am going grocery shopping."

The eight other finalists were Jenny Brown, Gemma Everett, Sue George, Kasia Ladds, Heike Marie Lohse, Geraldine Travers and Daniel Parkinson with two entries.

The four year old proposal for innovative bus posters is

part of the University's Creative Campus initiative and was commissioned by Dr Jan Sellers, Creative Learning Fellow at the Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

Dr Sellers believes that the scheme allows the community to embrace and share original artistry: "The Creative Campus initiative aims to cultivate an inspirational learning environment in which ideas are shared and innovation promoted, providing greater opportunities for consultation and participation by staff, students and the local community."

This series will be followed by 'Photography on the Buses' in May, featuring a sequence of black and white images created by History and Philosophy of Art students.



## Graduates launch student TV station

Marina Kartashova

Rolling Empire TV media company, aimed at students hoping to showcase their creative work, is to be launched in April.

The company is run by a team of young graduates, fronted by creative director Danny Grey. The majority of the team recently left university and are therefore aware of the struggle graduates face in regards to establishing a career in media.

Grey, who completed his Media Production course two years ago, hopes to collect an array of student produced material, such as documentaries and short films, for an innovative TV station targeted at an audience of 16-34 year olds.

Grey commented on the opportunity the station will offer students: "A person can be burst-

ing with talent but if they haven't got a channel to express it or somebody who is willing to give them that opportunity it might never be seen. Rolling Empire wants to provide that channel so if you're a budding star ready to unleash yourself on the world, we want to work with you!"

For the last few years, the graduate employment level has decreased dramatically in almost all industrial segments; according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), almost 50% of employers surveyed last year were not planning to hire school and university graduates.

Some officials already expressed fears of a "lost generation" as a result of youth unemployment.

The Rolling Empire team aim to develop their company

into a vibrant and unique creative media outlet. The current members of the team include web designer Dan George, Business graduate Mark Heather and magazine editor Adam Tait.

The Rolling Empire broadcasts will include new music, documentaries and movies which will be produced in an innovative style that aims to differ from the standards expected from mainstream TV programming.

The company offers students with media or movie-making aspirations an opportunity to showcase their work.

To find out more and to submit material to the company, please visit the company's website <http://www.rollingempire.com>. Short films, at a maximum length of 15 minutes can be emailed to Danny Grey at [danny@rollingempire.com](mailto:danny@rollingempire.com).



The late Bob Friend

## UoK student awarded Sky journalism scholarship

Dean Kilpatrick

The Bob Friend memorial scholarship was presented to a University of Kent student at a ceremony that took place at the Medway Campus.

Daniel May, 19, was awarded the scholarship after a series of journalistic challenges in which he competed against his fellow students.

The prize will give Dan the opportunity to work with the Sky organisation for a month in the summer, as well as having his first year's tuition fees paid for. The annual scholarship is awarded to first year journalism students in the memory of the popular and highly successful Kent journalist Bob Friend, who died in 2008, aged 70.

Dan explained to Inquire that his success came as an absolute shock to him. He admitted: "I was totally speechless for ten minutes, and they were telling me all these details and I sat there and virtually took none of it in."

He also revealed that he feels humbled by the attention that is given to the winner of the prestigious award, but accepts that writers need to stand out if they are to succeed in the highly competitive world of journalism.

Dan commented on his success: "all of a sudden my name is everywhere, the Dan May brand has gone global which is a bit weird, but you get recognised by everyone and it's nice to have that exposure in such a difficult envi-

ronment - it means everything".

Dan, whose ambitions are to get into radio, wrote a multimedia treatment of a future news story, and was shortlisted for further examination alongside finalists Melanie Wimmer and Sara Malm.

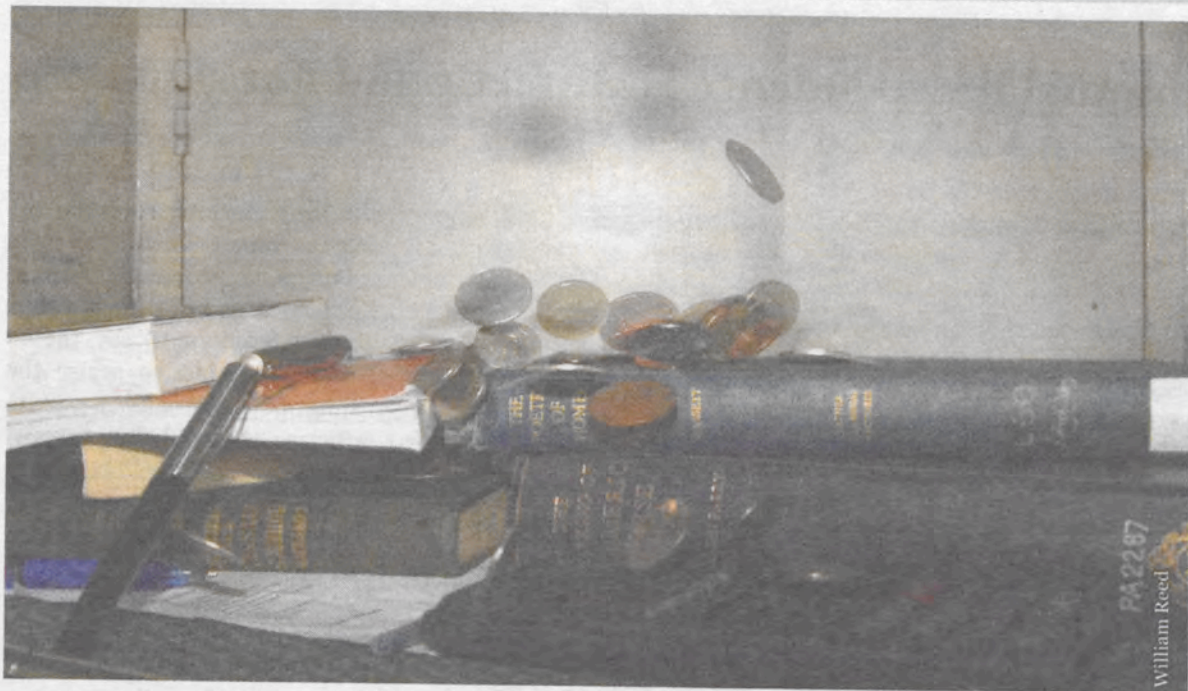
He then endured a grammar test, a current affairs exam and then an interview with a panel including Rob Kirk, Sky News' Editorial Development Manager, and Professor Timothy Luckhurst of the Centre for Journalism at Kent University.

Luckhurst, who has previously worked for the BBC, commented on the UoK's involvement with the scholarship scheme: "they (Sky) chose Kent because they were impressed by the quality in the degree that we teach at under-graduate level, and to that extent, it's hugely complementary award. It is essentially the holy grail for a student of multimedia journalism".

During the work experience, Dan will spend a week on different outputs, such as radio, online, TV and Channel 5 news, which will improve his journalistic credentials.

Dan, who comes from Rochford, Essex, said: "I get to work in a newsroom environment for an international broadcaster, which is preparation for the real world of journalism. Hopefully I can make a few contacts and make an impression on some people and hopefully go from there."

The young student also advised his peers: "It's the best prize a student journalist could get, so it's absolutely crucial that you go for it."



## University Vice-Chancellors' pay increases

Lisa-Marie Janes

Recent data has revealed that University Vice-Chancellors in over 80 institutions currently earn a higher wage than the Prime Minister.

Representing Britain's vice-chancellors, higher education action group Universities UK stressed that the salaries reflected the responsibilities of running a multimillion pound organisation.

However, the group also claimed that the increases would not be repeatedly implemented due to the "current economic climate", referring to the £950m funding cuts to higher education next year.

Chief executive of Universities UK, Nicola Dandridge, said that: "Salaries of university heads in the UK are comparable with those in competitor countries and are also in line with remuneration packages for directors and chief executives of public and private organisations of a similar size. As the role and importance of higher education have grown, so have the demands on the offices of vice-chancellors."

The University and College Union argued that the encouragement from vice-chancellors to raise tuition fees from £3,255 to £5,000 would not deter potential students; however, the UCU also stressed that their support of increased fees may "look distasteful next to their own exorbitant increases."

President of the National Union of Students, Wes Streeting com-

mented: "The fact they are giving themselves and other managers' huge pay rises will raise questions about whether students' money is being well spent."

In the last academic year of 2007-2008, vice-chancellors salaries rose by 9% with 71 earning more than the prime minister's salary of £194,250 in 2008.

In addition, the Times Higher Education's annual survey of staff pay revealed that four university heads earned more than £300,000.

Figures from the Guardian have highlighted pay rises of at least 15%-20% in 2008-2009, compared with a 45.7% rise over ten years for average higher education teaching professionals.

This data has raised concern amongst universities, with many suggesting that the figures will reinforce a negative impression of overpaid university seniors, further undermining future investment in increasingly difficult times.

A senior funding council warned that ministers believed universities awarded themselves "enormous great pay rises out of student fees".

However, chair of the Committee of University Chairs, Sir Andrew Burns, was quick to reassure that large rises for vice-chancellors would not continue, commenting: "We are all aware that the higher education sector is not immune from the economic uncertainty facing us all at this time and I would expect to see a different pattern of remuneration of vice-chancellors and principals in the year ahead."

generation of vice-chancellors and principals in the year ahead."

Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor at Nottingham University was the highest earner with a 90% pay rise alongside a salary and benefits package worth £585,000, closely followed by Professor Sir Andrew Likierman of London Business School, who earns a shocking £474,000.

Other universities with high paid vice-chancellors and senior staff include UCL, Liverpool, Imperial College, Kings, London and Bristol.

Oxford University, home to another high paid vice-chancellor earning £327,000, has defended the high salary stating that the university is the biggest research provider and number one university in the country.

However, an anomaly in the system would be Professor Eric Thomas at Bristol University, earning £309,000, who decided to donate £100,000 back to the university with no pay rise last year.

Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the University and College Union criticised the pay rises senior figures have enjoyed as a "constant source of ridicule".

She further stated that: "Vice-chancellors pocketing close to twice the pay rise is extraordinary. It is not surprising that staff are sometimes sceptical when their leaders ask for belts to be tightened. Nor should the government or universities be surprised that the public are outraged when university leaders call for increased fees and greater student debt."

## Digital Economy Bill may threaten freedom of speech

Melita Kiely

The recently approved 'Digital Economy Bill' poses a potential threat to social networking and user contribution based websites.

The aim of the new bill is to reduce copyright infringement, in response to the ever growing number of people downloading films and music illegally.

Offenders will be subject to a 'three strike' system; repeat offenders downloading illegally will be denied internet access, a move that the government hope will reduce illegal file sharing by over 70%.

However, many officials believe this is not a wise approach as it could be considered a threat to freedom of speech, whilst having no actual impact on copyright infringement; an independent survey carried out by Internet Service Provider TalkTalk found that 80% of young people would continue to file share regardless of the bill.

Popular sites such as Youtube and Facebook could be shut down completely if found to be in violation of copyright infringement laws.

In a letter sent to the Financial Times, internet service providers such as Virgin Media, TalkTalk and BT outlined the worries about the bill, claiming that there were other issues that needed to be dealt with initially, rather than taking such drastic and radical measures.

The letter argued: "Put simply,

blocking access as envisaged by this clause would both widely disrupt the internet in the UK and elsewhere and threaten freedom of speech and the open internet, without reducing copyright infringement as intended. To rush through such a controversial proposal at the tail end of a parliament, without any kind of consultation with consumers or industry, is very poor law-making."

A poll for BBC News found that nearly 4 out of 5 people worldwide consider access to the internet as a human right, whilst countries such as Finland and Estonia have incorporated the protection of internet use in their constitutions.

Dr Hamadoun Toure, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) commented: "The internet is the most powerful potential source of enlightenment ever created. We have entered the knowledge society and everyone must have access to participate."

Toure went on to argue that governments worldwide must "regard the internet as basic infrastructure - just like roads, waste and water".

Whilst a high number of participants in the poll, notably from Nigeria and South Korea, felt that the government should have no involvement with internet content, many from European countries believed government internet regulation to be necessary; 55% of UK participants revealed that they felt government involvement was needed in certain circumstances.



Have you got a news story?

E-mail the News Editor, Daria Oldale, at [newspaper.news@inquiremedia.co.uk](mailto:newspaper.news@inquiremedia.co.uk)

## Inquirer on Chatroulette

Chatroulette allows you to begin an online chat using webcam with another visitor, and more importantly, allows you to leave the current conversation with the click of a button. Launched by 17 year old Ternovski in November 2009, the site has already reached figures of half a million visitors a day. Celebrity users of the strange chat website include Kelly Osborne, Joel Madden, Nicole Richie and Perez Hilton.

With no sign ups, adverts or need for accounts, it is easy to use. The concept is interesting enough, and like the users, the website design holds no glossed-over glamour. On start up, the site claims it should not be for users under the age of 16, and rightly so. On using the website, it seems being exposed to indecent images of some of the Chatroulette community is the norm here.

The misuse of such an amazing idea could surely be the downfall of this website, a curious child randomly linking up with a masturbating man's webcam would be all it takes for a law suit to be launched. But at the same time, the random choice of strangers to talk to is enthralling, on the occasion of getting into an interesting conversation with someone I wouldn't usually talk to is somewhat liberating, preferably with a clothed stranger.

The blind, unjudging roulette does not take into account gender, race or age, but presents to you a situation where you can see into the lives of anyone across the globe. Though this website presents us with an amazing opportunity to link up with people from all over, it seems a shame to have it taken up by a lot of pornographic and base sexual smut. However, in the spirit of Chatroulette, every 'Next' is a gamble; we cannot pick and choose who we talk to, something that makes the whole experience very interesting.

Hannah Gibbins

Please send your comments to [news@comment@inquiremedia.co.uk](mailto:news@comment@inquiremedia.co.uk)

## THE ESSAY: Postcolonial independence is cosmetic and not skin deep

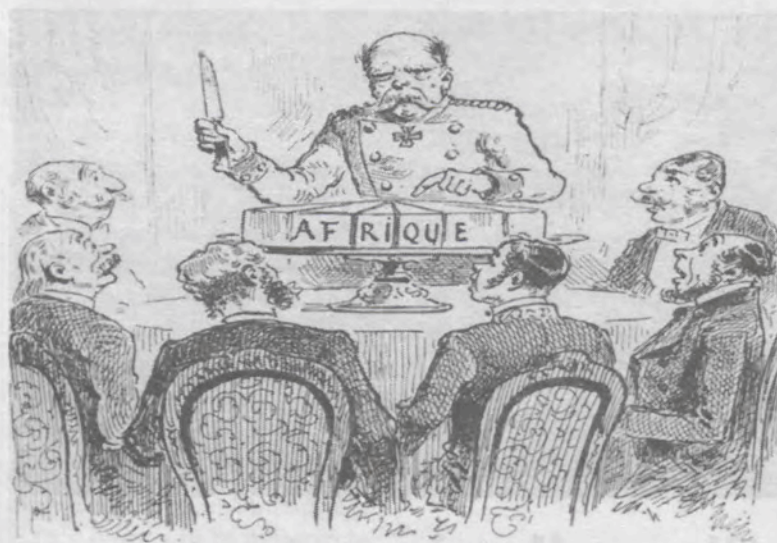
Tinashe Mushakavanhu

Zimbabwe celebrates 30 years of independence in April. I am a by product of this history. I was born in the euphoria of independence, but three decades later, Zimbabwe has become one of the most unpleasant places on earth. To a favoured few, Zimbabwe has been a cornucopia of riches and opportunity; for the rest of us, a living hell.

Robert Mugabe and his party are a subject of dread and tales of his repressive tendencies are a chief, if not whispered, topic of conversation that still echo beneath the scratchy music of township beer-halls, around meagre fires at every household that have become a daily source of cooking energy.

The nemesis is no longer white. Post-colonial independence is cosmetic and not skin deep. Charles Mungoshi's literary diagnosis, *Some Kinds of Wounds* (1980), aptly summarized the problem. The skin of independence is diseased. The wounds are visible everywhere; in every township, in every helpless newborn baby brought into this danger, in every disastrous news bulletin, in every widowed household, in the unemployed youths sitting at the foot-bridges smoking their existence.

Corruption became real, for example, not as a possibility but as the possibility. One would



The problems in Africa today can be traced back to the Berlin Conference of 1818 that led to the partition of the continent

never defeat one's circumstances by working and saving a dollar; one would never by working acquire that many dollars and besides the social set-up prevailing proved that one needed, in order to be free, something more than a bank account. One needed a handle, a lever, a means of getting on.

The new leadership in Zimbabwe and many other African countries simply replaced the whiteman in his house and copied the disgusting way he conducted his business. In any case, Fanon's pitfalls of consciousness were manifesting in this theft every hour that the new middle class lived and the immoral ground on which they stood. This new

middle class are now the judges, the juries, the guns, the law – in a word POWER, to a point where it has become criminal power demanding to profit and to be feared but not respected.

The leadership forgot several elementary historical details. They forgot their public mandate: to serve the people. But, as Zimbabweans we are to blame – we have been too busy to pay attention to our politics. This has everything to do, of course, with the nature of our independence dream. We did not dare examine it. There are too many things we have not wished to know about ourselves. We were not terribly anxious to be equal but loved

the idea of being superior, being the boss – shefu, the chef.

Despotism thrives in silence. Zimbabweans police themselves. There's freedom to say there's freedom but just to praise the ruling politicians, and never to criticize. The Zimbabwe government has this Orwellian obsession; it is so obsessed with every tiny detail of its people. We doubt the neighbor who smiles while looking at what we carry in our bag; of the friend who comes to visit us at too strategic times; and the relative who talks nonsense on the phone. The feared mole who could be anyone, and from whom we protect ourselves, is the most efficient gag and has been the most effective brain death.

Something very sinister happens to the people of a country when they begin to distrust their own reactions. It is this uncertainty, this inability to renew ourselves at the fountain of our own lives that makes the discussion, let alone elucidation, of any conundrum so supremely difficult. The person who distrusts himself has no touchstone for reality, for this touchstone can only be oneself.

This problem is not just a Zimbabwean problem. I see it in Kenya. I see it in Nigeria. I see it in the Congo. It is an African problem inherited from the legacy of colonialism and we have to own up to it in order to redress it.

## CampusOpinion: The death of the public library

Paul Carter

My local library services in Medway have a website. They'll lend you a book too, apparently. It's not quite perfect though.

The definitive annual library statistics, published by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) paint a picture of changing trends in public library usage.

According to a 2006 report the number of books borrowed from public libraries in the UK is down 35% over 9 years and the number of library visits is down 5%. The question being asked by library supporters and critics is one of publicity.

How do you advertise basic, front-line council services? If you

want people to come in you need to advertise your services. We all learn it in school (or if you're a bit slow with these things like me, then it might just be really hitting home.) Without a centralised network the local library systems just can't compete with the internet giants; Google, Amazon and Wikipedia (don't get me started on Wikipedia!)

Like the Roman public baths which became obsolete when water was plumbed into houses, libraries face increased pressure to adapt in the modern day when information is freely available (over 70% of households in the UK have internet access).

Yet there really is the most vital need for renewal in a service that offers books, games (video and board), CDs, activi-

ties, childrens entertainment, adult entertainment (check out the Mills and Boon, it's saucy!) internet access, council information and so much more.

Libraries offer necessary, highly accessible information to all areas of society. Oh, and its entirely subsidised so you might as well get your moneys worth after uni. Why don't you see adverts for your local library on TV or on the internet?

This is a more important question than you might assume. It's because they can't tell you where to look, or what those particular libraries hold. There is no comprehensive website or publication that reports on library issues, news and services.

Try searching on Google for "UK local libraries" and see

what you get. One of the first result will be a homemade (but quite comprehensive) hashing of local authority websites.

Library campaigner Alan Gibbons on Monday's BBC2 Newsnight blamed leadership for the falling trends and emphasised the importance of frontline librarians serving customers rather than back of house operations. Do public libraries have a future? I think the question answers itself.

Perhaps some will sneer at the idea of subsidised, state-provided library services but these people will never understand the wondrousness of non-discriminatory freedom of information. The future of the UK's library services is in the balance. They should never die, though if they do I will only ever read Orwell.

# The Lib-Dem porn candidate choice

Nik Williams

Politics and sex are always somehow inexplicably linked, whether it is Clinton's well known dalliance with Monica Lewinsky or John Major and Edwina Currie's prolonged affair, there has always been a connection. Whilst they have been realised by the public, it is above all hidden and covered up by the political powers.

Sex cannot sell the image they want, it can destroy everything, Clinton was impeached in 1998, only later to be found not guilty. It's as if every campaign manager would prefer their candidate to be asexual, to remove a pothole from the journey to Whitehall.

But, from this year, on the connection between sex and politics is less vague. Take the Liberal Democrat selection of Anna Arrowsmith for example. She is to run for the Parliamentary seat for Gravesend,

and with that the first conscious connection has been forged.

Under the pseudonym, Anna Span, Arrowsmith was a well known porn director, winning numerous awards across the world for her films. This was bound to make news: Sex sells; as every advertising exec drills into us as we watch television. But what makes this appointment truly exciting and daring is the political climate of today, which she hopes to enter.

Post-expense accounts and post-Gordon-Brown-has-a-temper, the political landscape is less weighted towards policy and more on character, MPs are having to campaign on the very fabric of themselves, not the party. With such a strive to paint MPs as laden with moral character and personas, Anna Arrowsmith has come asking the public to see her not behind the lens of a camera in an overly decorated bedroom but as an MP making decisions that affect the whole country.

Maybe in the face of fraud, theft

and bullying a little harmless sex is easily stomachable, the parameters of behaviour that would be defined as strong of character have surely shifted and this gap in voter expectation is what may allow Anna Arrowsmith to benefit this election season.

Are people looking to move away from the traditional image of the MP? Does straight laced, stern with a smart looking CV, boasting no porn films to their name just smack of the type of MP that got us in this distrusting climate in the first place? In this atmosphere, even porn has a chance but - as Jacqui Smith's husband showed - join porn and expenses at your peril.

She has her work cut out for her. According to the Guardian, in Gravesend, the Liberal Democrats are firmly in third place with only 10.7% in 2005. Many believe, with a gap of just 654 between them, this

seat is going to illustrate a bitter head-to-head tussle between Labour and the Conservatives.

But one thing Anna Arrowsmith and the Liberal Democrats can do is show the public that there is not an established framework to become a MP. Diversity in a field populated by old, white, well off men is urgently required. A shift is what is needed to change the face of politics, away from the politician bred into political practices (and therefore into the mindset that sparked the ex-

pense scandal) towards the idea of passionate men or women from any field or background wanting to work for their area. In this way, politics will not be an insulated separated realm that can neither be understood nor affected; it will instead be embedded within the working world as a possibility. It needs to become a route, well trodden, distinct from the undergrowth for people to know it is there. Open to everyone. Open to you and me and porn directors.



## Coffee Party vs Tea Party: A back lash against Obama Is the Coffee Party movement a Tea Party alternative?

Matt Cooper

A new political movement has formed in the United States calling itself the Coffee Party with members rallying under the slogan 'Wake up and stand up.' The increasingly popular organisation has made use of Facebook to rapidly gain support and publicity.

They have held meetings in major cities across America and have discussed their views in the most respected US newspapers.

The Coffee Party was founded on January 26th 2010 by Anabel Park who emigrated from South Korea aged nine. She studied at Oxford University and is based close to Washington D.C.

Park was determined to start a reaction against the radical Tea Party who have angered some with their strong anti-immigration policy views. She squeezed her anger into a Facebook status update that has attracted a lot of attention: *let's start a coffee party . . . smoothie party. red bull par-*



*ty. anything but tea. geez. ooh how about cappuccino party? that would really piss 'em off bec it sounds elitist . . . let's get together and drink cappuccino and have real political dialogue with substance and compassion.*

Feelings of frustration have spread through many US vot-

ers who are unhappy with the failings of both the Republican and Democrat parties in the US government.

Part of the driving force behind the Coffee Party comes from the discomfort felt by voters who believe the governing process in US politics

is being overridden by corporate cash and is no longer listening to the average US citizen.

They are planning to use the internet to highlight the flaws in the government and convince voters that they can still participate in the democratic process. The Coffee Party also hopes to

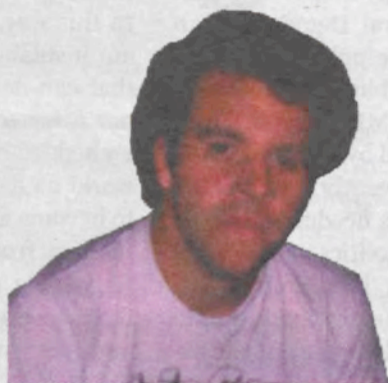
oppose the extreme ideas of the Tea Party whilst working with them to solve problems which both movements want to sort out. However, they are far behind the older Tea Party in terms of members and experience.

Regardless of their press coverage, it remains to be seen whether the Coffee Party or Tea Party will have any lasting significance in US politics.

Despite being larger, the Tea Party has no central structure or clear leadership, although they have given former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin an opportunity to strengthen her position among US voters as she attempts to threaten Barack Obama in the 2012 Presidential election.

These political movements will not concern Obama for some time but they will irritate the President due to the press coverage they receive and the ability they have in promoting opposition against several of Obama's more controversial proposals such as the healthcare reform.

# The good, the bad, and the damn right annoying



**T**he Internet is probably the most important invention of the last 50 years. It provides anyone with a connection an unlimited font of knowledge that will never dry up. Type a question into a search bar and more often than not the answer will be found within a few seconds. I am a devout supporter of this feat of humanity. I am not, however, a supporter of the infinite web space available to any-

one and everyone to vent their spleen about literally everything.

I don't want to sound fascistic, but blogs, those bland-looking unimaginative electric pages of text, are a liberty too far. I understand the appeal of having your own special space where it is all about you and what you think about any given subject, but I pose this question to you, blogger: who cares?

This is bound to upset some, perhaps many. It may seem that just by writing my opinion on this I am, in fact, contradicting myself, but you see I don't care. The problem would cease to exist if the content on the majority of the blogs wasn't merely a vehicle for complaining about the injustices of the world, or a regurgitation of YouTube memes. But thus far, though I can't claim to have read every blog, I would've killed myself long before anyway, they just can't be useful to anyone but the authors themselves.

At this point I must bow to some exceptions of this genre that apparently have some substance, for example Perez Hilton's blog, unbeknownst to myself, is massively popular. Video blogging or Vlogging, is sometimes worth a watch as well. The aptly named Vlogbrothers on YouTube are greatly entertaining as two brothers who communicated across the U.S solely through their vlog entries posted on the website. The reason this particular example is so much better than so many other attempts at any type of blogging is the content. What you get with the Vlogbrothers is two intelligent people talking about interesting subjects with humor and intrigue. Perhaps this is the formula for success, but of course not everyone with a blog is intelligent or the least bit interesting.

The Internet is full of infinite possibilities. All the time we see ways that the web contributes to

international aid, worldwide relations and pornography but blogging seems to me to be a waste of space. Isn't a Facebook status enough? Don't the endless arguments on YouTube comment sections satisfy everyone's need to be heard and to be righteous?

Perhaps I am being too harsh, perhaps these people just need a place to express themselves, they're not forcing it down my throats after all. No. This isn't enough, I know they're out there. I plead with them to stick with pen and paper, facebook, twitter or to come up with a real original idea that would warrant its own website. But if that just cannot be achieved and you feel the need to write about what was for dinner, how she broke your heart and which shoes you'll buy, think to yourself: who cares?

Alex Wood

Website Feature Editor

## Individuality is something to be embraced



**I**'m not pretentious. My housemates and I shamelessly dance around the house to Basshunter and I have no problem in asserting that both Sister Act One and Two are the best films of all time. Yet I continually find myself approaching anything 'critically acclaimed' or considered a 'hit' with caution; I am at university and therefore think that I am expected to spend free time on intellectually challeng-

ing outlets. This idea is quickly nullified following a recent conversation with friends, the focus of which is Dane Bowers- as you can see, invigorating stuff. Everyone is familiar with the guy or girl who goes out of their way to avoid the mainstream and occasionally, effortlessly cool individuals come along, but I, for one, look up to those that simply don't care. Yeah, you're 55, but that just makes the fact that you're reading Harry Potter (sans made for adults cover art) in public all the better. And while some, me included, will persistently complain that watching Dancing on Ice is a waste of time, the masses will continue to scream at the T.V. in anticipation whilst simply having a good time. It is astounding that something so chintzy and fun is looked down upon as a guilty pleasure, a phrase that suggests that by enjoying such programmes, one will instantly be excluded from a

non-existent elite cultured crowd.

By declaring my love for Florence and the Machine, will I really lose all sense of identity and just merge into the crowd? If I watch a typical Hollywood rom-com, and, shock horror, actually enjoy it, do I surrender myself to a lifetime of average films? The rational part of my mind tells me to relax, but does not explain why admitting that I watch 'What Katie Did Next' is such an embarrassing thing. In fact, one of the most interesting individuals I have ever come across is a Katie and Peter loving, tattooed, double bass playing rockabilly musician.

Personal enjoyment is not something one can bottle, mould, dissect or control; it is a natural impulse triggered by pleasurable experiences, sights and sounds. Therefore, the idea of suppressing enjoyment in favour of something that commands cultural prestige is reposterous.

It really isn't a case of worrying about how others perceive me, the ipod I listen to is enjoyed by no-one else and my friends are too old to judge my character based on cultural tastes. Moreover, I will always value my ability to have fun over my dignity since there is nothing more enjoyable than losing all inhibitions and, pardon the cliché, dancing like no one's watching to an awful(ly good) song.

However, I can safely confirm that despite all of my respect for those that openly enjoy the next big thing or the cheesiest new prime-time show, preconception and conceit will get the better of me. I wouldn't consider myself pretentious, but occasionally stubbornness gets the better of me; forget watching Skins, I'm off to listen to my Jack Kerouac podcasts!

Daria Oldale

News Editor

Have you got an opinion on these editorials?

E-mail the Editor, Adam Silver at [newspaper.editor@inquiremedia.co.uk](mailto:newspaper.editor@inquiremedia.co.uk) and see your comments published in the next issue



# IQ

FASHION SHOW

BLAIR'S MEMOIRS

BBC CUTS



Photography: Katie Prior

# Have we gone an "app" too far?

## The effects of technology on society today

Marian Cooke

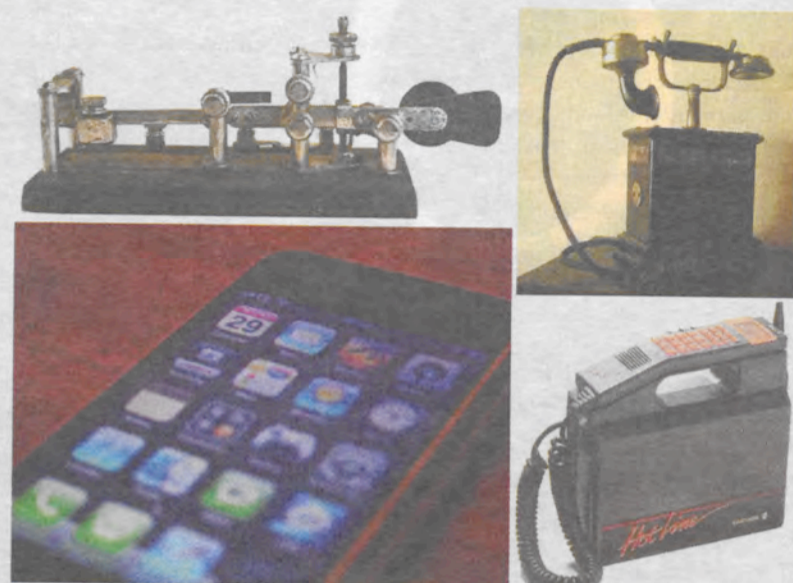
Facebook, playful iphones, finger-burning blackberrys. These are just a few of the latest social devices in this fastchanging world. Although we are regular users of new technology, do we sometimes fail to realise how much they impact our lives? We are intrigued by the ambiguity of these new gadgets, with their innovative features and functions setting them completely apart from previous inventions; but have the constant technological

developments led to a society too dependent upon them?

A particular area is communication. Once upon a time our only form of interaction was via the beat of a drum! Centuries later, and we have countless ways to communicate. The first mobile phone was created in 1973, and since then mobiles have matured immensely. In this day and age there are fast and efficient ways to get in touch with one another; phones, social networking sites or even by fax. The iphone attracts almost anybody. As one of the world's leading phones,

it is especially desirable for its applications. To date the iphone has a staggering 65,000 applications and is recorded to have an estimated 100,000 by the end of this year. Creative and engaging toys such as these may be exciting, but are we purchasing them for the correct reasons? Is it just about the iphone's usefulness and efficiency or simply to follow trends? There is an app for almost everything and a majority of them are jaw-droppingly absurd. 'GottaGo' for example, designed to get you out of any type of awkward situation. You set up the time like you would an alarm and it will call, complete with fake caller ID! This may be clever, but it is hardly a necessity. Teenagers in particular get sucked into the bizarre world of technology, becoming mesmerised with the anticipation of owning updated devices. Ironically, the main purpose of these devices, 'to communicate' is fast becoming insignificant.

Facebook in particular gives users the opportunity to keep in touch and share their life experiences with fellow companions. Giving us no excuse to claim we 'can't



Communication through the ages: (clockwise from top left) original telegraph key used for morse code, an early version of the telephone, one of the first mobile phones and the well-known iPhone, used more for its 'apps' than simply as a means of communication



Technology taking over face to face socialising?

get in touch' with one another! As exciting as Facebook may be however, there is a dangerous element involved. Electronic interaction hardly goes hand in hand with social interaction. Those who get used to communicating through social networking websites are in danger of losing their ability to communicate with others face to face, particularly if you begin at a young age. This can change the way people interact including the ability to read body language.

Generally, communicating electronically needs to be balanced out with face-to-face interaction in order to avoid such dangers.

All in all, technology can be our best friend or our worst enemy. But if it is used responsibly, you can gain almost anything; the world is your oyster. Evidently, our lives have changed immensely with what has already been created, completely enhancing our communication. Who knows what the future will hold?

## FAJITAS, COCKTAILS AND MUSIC AT TACOS LOCOS

Emma Stanley

There's been many a time when I have walked past Tacos Locos and it has looked like a pumping bar with people dancing around in an odd selection of hats with lots of coloured flashing lights, so it seemed an ideal place to celebrate a recent birthday, especially as they welcome hen parties and stag nights.

On arrival, we were greeted by two very good looking waiters who seated us right in the middle of the restaurant before swamping us with attentive service and a massive choice of delicious looking cocktails. They are about £5 each but come in goblet-sized



glasses full of fruit and fun umbrellas so are definitely worth it.

The menu is fairly varied and everything sounds absolutely

delicious, as long as you are a fan of Mexican food. If you were completely undecided, I would recommend the starter platter for two costing £9.95.

There is an array of Mexican main meals to choose from including nine different types of fajitas, a range of grilled and barbequed meats, as well as sandwiches, tacos and burgers. I warn that afterwards you may be victim to a calorie headache but it includes everything you could want from a Mexican restaurant.

We hit Tacos Locos on a Thursday, which is quite unfortunate as it is the only day of the week when there are no special offers. Take a walk past and you will see that Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays all offer a free drink or a buy one get one free offer, so even though I have not experienced these bargains, we all know that cheapness is best

I must say that, although the music is loud and the atmosphere is buzzing, it didn't quite live up to the 'dance party' impression I had. There was definitely no dancing on the tables and our party of eight kept getting a few disapproving looks.

Despite that, we all had a very enjoyable time; with good food, funny hats, large cocktails and very scrumptious eye candy, how can you go wrong?

To book you can call 01227 379330. You can also visit their website to view menus and special offers: [www.tacoslocos.co.uk/canterbury](http://www.tacoslocos.co.uk/canterbury)

# The Brown Supremacy

Sam Bates

A famous saying has it that dogs and their owners often bear a resemblance to one another, and perhaps the same could be said about political leaders and their respective countries. Take Italy, Silvio Berlusconi represents something unique about the countries inhabitants. His womanising, love of the good life and forthright attitude make him extremely popular and his low regard for doing things by the book is often overlooked. The Italian people, long known for a certain Roman flair and excess, seem to enjoy having Berlusconi as a kind of national embodiment of this.

Now of course, this characterisation plays on crude stereotypes, but if we indulge the game just a little longer we could ask ourselves what exactly Gordon Brown says for Britain, and how we like our politicians. Dour, awkward, a bully and probably not all that likely to be found at one of Berlusconi's infamous parties, Gordon Brown shows how in comparison with Italy we British have a curious disdain for our politicians to be doing anything other than, well, politics. Brown like most of his westminster colleagues is a career politician and that is what it seems the public here wants.

In Britain we like to flirt with scandal, we like the hint of sleaze, we like a scoop on MP's expenses that tells us a politician paid for his personal stash of paperclips out of public money. We don't want our

politicians to actually be attending wild parties and promoting former glamour models to office a la Berlusconi. If they were and we all knew about it then what would the papers write about? What would old ladies across the country have left to be mildly disapproving of? In this country politics is a dish best served tepid.

The Prime Minister is about to enter into the most important six weeks of his life, at the end of which he and the British public will be much clearer about his place in history.. Will he go down as an unfortunate casualty of the Blair years, frustrated in his attempt to be a successful prime minister by circumstance and by his own limitations? Or come May the sixth, will he be looking ahead to four years in office having achieved what would be by many measures, an improbable victory?

Brown has no mandate, he is at the helm of a rudderless ship, a 12 year, and so by historical standards, elderly government. Involved in two unpopular wars and presiding over one of the worst financial crises in Britain's history, surely this election is Cameron's for the taking?

On top of all of these factors, there is the issue of Brown himself. A man who has been mocked by all as being the Mr Bean and Joseph Stalin of British politics. Whilst both of those may have something to say about his qualities it suggests, not many people, let alone prime ministers, would want to be associated with a blundering fool and a murderous tyrant.

The PM has looked ill at ease in

the spotlight since the baton was passed unopposed by Blair nearly three years ago. As a chancellor who was widely seen as Blairs' no.2 his clumsy presentational style was less of an issue, people liked the idea of Blair the face and mouth piece and Brown the industrious and technically proficient brain of the party. Brown also benefitted from 10 years of economic growth allowing his public image as a successful chancellor to prosper. Unfortunately for Brown at the very time his existent stylistic handicap was coming under the spotlight in his new role as PM, his reputation as the Iron Chancellor was about to be ripped from underneath him. However whether Brown was at fault in his chancellorship for Britain's position going into the financial crisis is open to debate.

The Conservatives have argued that Brown enjoyed the good times too much and failed to plan ahead for the inevitable downturn, indeed Brown's own unfortunate sound-bite proclaiming 'an end to boom and bust' has come back to haunt him. In Brown's defence it is clear that this was a global crisis beyond Britain's sole control, indeed when it comes to the countries economic position entering the crisis Labour have rightly argued that we were in fact one of the best placed major industrial countries to deal with the issue. The fiscal stimulus package that Brown led the G7 on was only possible in Britain's case because of our initial relatively low level of public debt, allowing room for it to be increased to help the economy recover. Browns critics further pointed to our poor



showing in growth figures since the global economy started to recover, and whilst it is true that Britain's growth figures are lower than similar sized economies such as France and Germany, Mr Brown can raise a robust defence. Britain's economic recovery is slower because its heavy reliance on the financial services sector which was of course the worst hit but for or worse was a preexistent fact of our economy.

In the build up to the coming election alot has been said and written about personality-Gordon Brown's supposed lack of it and David Cameron's supposed abundance. However I suspect this is not the issue that will decide the next election, the Tories believed it would be at one point hence *that* poster and the 'call me Dave' campaign yet as we near the election the debate is slowly turning back to policy. On this the Tories appear far less confident because whilst Cameron may be able to comfortably outshine Brown in front of a camera the outcome is not so certain when it comes to policies.

The issue which is coming to the forefront at the crucial time is inevitably, given the situation, the economy and here Brown not only beats Cameron but he really is quite good. The question of whether to cut spending now or later to reduce the public deficit is one area that the Tories have chosen to brave it and be clear on a difference with the government. They have said they will cut public spending immediately but Labour have made it clear that they believe this could risk cutting off the recoveries lifeblood before it is strong enough to survive on its own. The electorate would appear to trust Brown and labour more than the Conservatives on this, thus explaining how he has even managed to make a fight of it considering the weight of the other factors against him. For this, win or lose come may the sixth Brown should be saluted. Politics of personality, in Britain at least, looks as if it is set to remain second fiddle to policy but after the election, if Brown wins, he will be less Mr Bean, more British Bulldog.

## Students Learn And Succeed with the help of SLAS



Sandeep Sharma

Moving from across the Irish Sea, I arrived in Canterbury in 2003 without knowing anyone,

completely new to the concept of independent study and the daily freedom that went with it. I was having issues adjusting to campus life; sleeping in and missing seminars, uncertain about

relevant lecture material, even what modules to choose for the following year.

I sought help from the Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS), who enrolled me on the VALUE programme; this was an opportunity for me to focus on the key material of the modules I was taking, and receive advice about skills such as organisation and exam preparation. I achieved an overall mark of 2:1 in my first year.

Having someone I could talk to directly, face-to-face and over email, enabled me to assess the circumstances I found myself in, and work consummately towards set goals. From workshops to online resources, SLAS covers a wealth

of issues that all students come across at some point. I strongly recommend this service to anyone who wants to improve their study skills, as well as those who require broader support.

I spoke to Allia Wilson, Manager of the Student Learning Advisory Service.

**How do students approach you?**

Most refer themselves, whereas some are referred by their Schools or other departments at Kent. They come with the same goal in mind: to improve their learning, and take charge of their personal development.

**What do students gain from SLAS?**

Students receive free practical

advice and guidance on all aspects of their learning, including referencing, essay writing, report writing, maths, stats... SLAS offers a developmental service to enable you to enhance your learning over time.

**What kind of students do you work with?**

We work with every student whether they are based at Canterbury or Medway, or at one of our Partner Colleges. We cater for undergraduate and postgraduate students alike; home students, EU students, international students, mature students: our services are there for anyone who wishes to use them. Please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/uelt](http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt) for more information.

# UKC Photography and Modelling Society presents: The Annual Fashion Show

## Message from the Modelling President

As President of the society my aim was to achieve new goals for this year's fashion show, especially our emphasis of equality and diversity, which is reflected in both the models and the showcased clothing ranges. We wanted to prove that everyone is beautiful and, above all, that everyone deserves a chance to be able to express themselves. The Annual Fashion Show 2010 was a way that the Photography and Modelling society could give something back to our community, as well as giving all profits to the support effort of Haiti.

The success of the show could have only been achieved by the dedication and hard work of the entire team, the companies who not only donated their clothes but also their time, the hard work of models, photographers and society committee, without whom the show would not have succeeded.

Daniel Neighbour

## The Show

The fashion show was opened by Kat Cade and Nick Beat (describing his own outfit as a mix between Liza Minnelli and Sue's Cheerios from Glee), who announced the raffle, which included a £25 voucher from Kalico and Minuet, free baguettes from Baguette Ella and a teddy from Build-a-Bear.

The fashion show then began with a business theme, with clothing ranges from Slaters, in which kilts and grey patterned three pieces were displayed, BHS, from which the audience saw checked skirts and faded jeans for men and flowing cardigans for women. The girls showed off Kalico and Minuet's range, which consisted of shiny fabrics, button details and straight-legged trousers, many of which were in cream and grey.

After a break from the catwalk in which Kat and Nick demonstrated their comical abilities, the theme of "Rio" was installed. This was a mixture of spring and summer wear from Animal, with a fancy dress element and a "recycled range" thrown in (I was a particular fan of the dress made from Inquire editions). The models adorned colourful jewels and eye-popping make-up to enhance that summer feel.

After a short interval the audience saw a more 'natural' element to the models, as they strutted up the catwalk in beautiful florals from Noa Noa and Fatface's range of casual spring and summer wear which embodied bright fabrics, bold checks, floral shirts and linen. BHS bedwear was also featured, and consisted of silky slips for the girls and classic PJ's for the men.

The Capoeira and Circus Societies then entertained the audience with their skillful tricks and moves.

The final part of the show eluded a circus feel, and clothing ranges from Punkyfish, Unique and Armoire were displayed. The models wore squares of bright make up over one eye to enhance the circus look. Checked mini skirts with knee-high socks made the circus sexy, whilst Armoire's cute dresses softened the vibe.

Overall, the show was a success. It felt very professional and was fun to watch. I would definitely recommend going next year.

Nicola Standley



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATIE PRIOR AND WILLIAM REED

Look out for the Annual Fashion Show

# Fashion Show 2010



- Clothes From:*
- Slaters
  - BHS
  - Kalico & Minuet
  - Animal
  - Noa Noa
  - Fat Face
  - Punkyfish
  - Unique
  - Armoire

## Make up



The society managed to get on board professional make-up artists Ingrid Sudlow, Molly Doyle, Victoria Braund and Amanda Jayne Scott, who transformed the models from natural beauty with sheer lips and eyes to making a bold statement with half their faces donning bright greens and purples, with gems decorating their cheekbones. Hair Stylist Kala Rackham was also backstage, ensuring all the models had perfect do's before stepping out onto the runway.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE MODELLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY TO: UKC Capoeira Society and UKC Circus Society for entertainment. Thank you to Rina Mbugua for being Events Assistant.

Also, thank you to The Cuban, (Canterbury), The Shake Shed (Canterbury), Strada Restaurant (Canterbury), Noa Noa (Canterbury), Subway (Westgate Branch) 925 Jewellers (Canterbury), Rituals Cosmetics (Canterbury), and The Venue (University of Kent) for all donations.

2011 and get involved

# What has been left on the cutting room floor?

Nick Batley

When both *The Times* and *The Guardian* reported late last month on high ranking BBC executives' plans to drastically cut the corporation's size after many years of steady expansion, there was an almost bipolar range of reaction. There were the usual plethora of grinchers who would like to see the organisation shut up for good (the kind who skulk around the *Daily Mail* forums with an eternal grimace on their face) and there were people who, noticing that amongst the cuts were 6 Music, protested in the only way they know how; by tagging '#SaveBBC6music' onto the end of their tweets.

Unfortunately, great as the BBC is, it's not perfect, and the right-wing press have descended on it like a pack of vultures in recent years, first of all with the Hutton Report, accusations of phone-vote rigging and the Brand/Ross/Sachs furore, so the BBC probably sees little else to do than bow down to what seems like a widespread demand. However, I feel that their proposed cuts (and they are only proposed at the moment, and apparently won't happen any earlier than 2012), are going to leave many feeling shortchanged.

The reasoning behind many of the cuts seem cryptic, only understandable to a select few. The first to be cut is 6Music. 6 Music is what Radio 1 used to be. There is a double-edged sword to its niche status, which DJ Lauren Laverne inadvertently explained. When asked why she is never critical of the music on her programme, she replied "It's my show, so I tend to play things that I like!", a freedom I don't think is afforded with as much generosity to, say, Radio 1 or 2 presenters who all, in spite of their tastes, have a playlist that they more or less have to keep to, even in the early hours. Here, you get DJs who genuinely adore their job, and love playing things that the listener may not have heard in ages, or may have never heard before. 6Music plays artists that you would otherwise not hear outside of perhaps XFM and it's difficult



enough for new bands to make it without shoving them on a digital station. It's difficult to fathom why 6 music has been condemned to digital status when Radio 3, which it can be argued is just as 'niche' a station, has held on to its position on the airwaves. The BBC is already too hung up on being populist and commercial, which are the two things it does not need to be at all.

It can also seem disingenuous to offer out such harsh cuts where the BBC is not utilising what it has already to the fullest in the first place. We surely do not need more *Holby City*, we do not need multiple variations of 'Cash in the Attic' and in the face of cuts we can do without the 64th repeat of *Top Gear* (that's Dave's job). With the space, freedom and money coming from resisting the urge to plug repeats, the BBC would find themselves able to commission provocative and poignant shows, programming that first came to define the importance of the corporation. The problem is that the BBC have really shot themselves in the foot with iPlayer; many students and similarly financially crippled people, who would still previously have bought a TV licence, now find that they don't need to. Saying this, I suspect that the uproar

caused by axing or charging for iPlayer may deafen people as far as the Baltic.

The confusion is compounded by the stubborn support of both BBC 3 and 4. If it is the niches that are to be cut, it adds to further confusion why these are still highlighted to be saved. Surely there only need be one of these channels as the programming offers neither a substantial whole nor a remarkable collection of interesting programmes, as Jeremy Paxman illustrated in his grilling of BBC head, Mark Thompson. This hidden reasoning, apparent to, it seems, only the BBC itself, also concerns the formation and continuation of the two children BBC channels, CBBC and CBeebies. Like BBC 3 and 4, the overlap would surely mark one of the pair out for cancellation, but the BBC has remained firm in its silence. The corporation, in seeking separation and diversity, acts to add ballast to an already leaky and sinking ship.

There's almost an innate arrogance in the way that they have decided that they can survive on British programming alone, and refusing to put aside a specific dedication for these imported shows they seem so eager to cut, highlights this arrogance

because BBC can't remain so isolationist in its programming without committing money that ensures the quality of this homegrown talent is enough to blot out the numerous questions aimed at the BBC and its policy towards imported shows. But with networks such as Sky and ITV buying shows from places like the US, and thus reaping the rewards it's uncertain how long the BBC have before they are left in the dust.

The cuts the BBC are proposing, threaten to disarm and maim the corporation; they show short sightedness, gluttony, stubbornness and a dangerous disregard for the public airwaves that is threatening the make up of the company, the quality of the shows and, more importantly, the public's image of the company that has defined television for over seventy years. It is an institution enshrined with the charge of representing the public with thought provoking and creative programming and for many decades it has borne this job admirably. Hopefully this is a blip, a rather large and cumbersome blip, but something that it can endure and recover from. Only then will the public's trust in the institution return, switching on and tuning in again.

## NEWS IN (Y-FRONT) BRIEFS

- The children of Marvel artist, Jack Kirby, are suing for the right to create opposing film versions of both Spiderman and Ironman.
- Mark Linkous, the creator of the band Sparklehorse took his own life on March the 6th. His last piece of work, *Dark Night of the Soul*, has finally been granted a release.
- Eccentric singer, Björk and DIY visionary, Michel Gondry are to unit in creating what has been called a 'scientific musical' that is 40 minutes long and destined for 3D IMAX screens.
- Jack White, frontman for The White Stripes is to team up with rapper Jay-Z for a forthcoming track.
- Oscar winner, Philip Seymour Hoffman is in talks to star as seminal singer songwriter, Daniel Johnston in a biopic of the troubled singer's life.
- Rapper/entrepreneur, P.Diddy, is in talks to buy Crystal Palace FC. The team has already been docked ten points due to it being placed in administration.
- Lady Gaga is being sued for a reported, \$35 million by her ex producer and boyfriend, Rob Fusari.
- Artist Steve McQueen is continuing his fight to make the Royal Mail put the faces of soldiers killed in Iraq on postage stamps.
- Andrew Lloyd Webber is to sell a painting Picasso painted of Angel Fernandez De Soto and with an estimate of £30-40 million it represents a record pre-sale estimate for any painting sold in Europe.
- Recent Oscar recipient, Christopher Waltz, is set to direct a rom-com called *Up And Away*. Produced by Fox International it is to be made entirely in German.
- Tim Burton is to return to *The Addams Family* by creating a new 3D stop-motion animation of the famous cult family.
- Ian McEwan is planning to create an opera based on his wildly popular book, *Atonement*.
- Famed author, Margaret Atwood has appeared in a cameo role, singing, in a musical about ice hockey.

That is all for now,  
Nik Williams

# IQ REVIEW

## MUSIC



### JOANNA NEWSOM

#### 'Have One On Me'

When news first broke that harpist folk queen Joanna Newsom's latest endeavour was to release a triple album, even diehard fans may have worried that the breadth of her ambition would inevitably fail to achieve the dizzying heights of 2006's critically acclaimed *Y's*. They needn't have worried. Newsom returns with a two hour plus record that is far more a treat than a test of endurance.

Her vocals have never sounded better, and there is a wider range of instrumentation including guitar, piano, drums and kora with tracks masterfully sequenced and produced.

Undoubtedly this is her most accessible record to date, but in no way does that spell compromise. Though surprisingly upbeat at times, as on the incredible *Good Intentions Paving Company*, this is essentially a melancholic break up album. Alongside her beautifully woven fairytales are new autobiographical and deeply personal songs (such as the crushing *Baby Birch*) intertwining to form a perfect whole. *Have One On Me* demonstrates a confidence and refreshing candour that comes from maturation. As ever, there are moments where Newsom seems to embody Joni Mitchell and Kate Bush, but this is a truly unique record that rewards repeated listening and may just be her best release yet.

Patrick Smiley

9/10



### THE FEATURES

#### 'Some Kind of Salvation'

The second album from Tennessee four-piece The Features is an excellently produced slice of southern indie-pop and soul. There is nothing particularly new or exciting about this band; no unusual instruments, crazy time signatures or odd lyrics. The only striking thing about them is the excellent execution; the clean, well arranged melodies accompany honest vocals, and every song on this album would do perfectly well commercially.

While the album doesn't have a clear running lyrical theme, the musical style is very consistent. Catchy lyrics and a strong beat spell success, even in the highly competitive current indie scene

- despite the band's surprisingly low exposure in the US, they have a very loyal following in the south east United States and they are attracting increasing attention from UK music journalists and critics.

The Features hail from Sparta, Tennessee, a town of less than 5000. Matt Pelham and Roger Dabbs formed the band at a relatively young age - allegedly out of boredom - and learned their instruments by playing covers of Guns 'n' Roses and the like. Later, during their college years, they cut their teeth musically, eventually dropping out entirely in order to focus on the band full time. Their first LP was recorded in 1998 for Spongebath records, but was never released.

Currently they are signed to 429 Records, a label established as a joint venture between Bug Music and the Kings of Leon. The signing of new artists is left entirely to the Kings, allowing them to champion artists of their choice - they have taken quite an interest in The Features, going so far as to have them support the Kings of Leon on various tours.

Edward Bowles

7.5/10

## IS POP THE NEW PRODUCT IN THE MARKET?

Sophie Power

The release of *Telephone* into the 'Haus' of Lady Gaga has brought product placement into a whole new dimension - it no longer (at least it would seem) needs to be subtle.

Gaga's 9 minute epic video to accompany her latest single features not only mega-star Beyoncé but a feast of other ubiquitous brands. Diet Coke-can hair-rollers, her own-designed "Beats by Dre" headphones (as well as the original "Beats by Dre" design) and American food products by Kraft all accompany Virgin Mobile's inescapable and somewhat cynical sponsorship (Virgin Mobile also sponsor her hugely successful "Monsters Ball" world tour).

So what happened to a simple sip of Coke or a billboard in the background? Why are we now assaulted with brands instead of the main event? We've all seen or heard about a dystopian idea of advertising 'in the future' - yet with *Telephone* it seems we're there already. This however is nothing new for Gaga - all her videos have featured "Beats by Dre" headphones, sponsors from "B-win" poker, Nemiroff Vodka, and fashion brands Dior, Burberry and Jasmine Guinness. It happens



in many films and many chart songs have been associated with brands (think back to the Pepsi "songs" with the likes of Michael Jackson and Justin Timberlake's "I'm lovin' it" for MacDonalds) and brand association is becoming as omnipresent a part of mainstream pop culture as the actual music itself. While Lady Gaga is arguably a rare 'self made' pop artist she has taken on product placement and branding and used it to fuel her "Fame Monster" machine.

While a lot of viewers of *Telephone*

will be hooked on its catchy chorus and Gaga's trademark theatrics - many will consider the 9 minute music video more of a 9 minute advert, promoting consumerism over the music. A music video has always been a platform for promoting the music - however it seems more and more in the industry that music videos are as important as the songs themselves. Lady Gaga isn't the first to create a "story" with her music video, many artists choose to envelope the music with a visual

plot which in turn allows for the occasional brand plug; artists that choose a more simplistic video - for example a performance of the song - have little scope to do this.

The product advertising in music videos is in danger of overshadowing the actual music itself, as pop music becomes as much about the culture of celebrity and theatricality as it does the song itself in an attempt to ally the catchy tunes with big money-making brands to increase profits. One possible cause could be the rise of the likes of Limewire, Spotify, YouTube and Zamzar - all of these sites allow anyone to download, stream and watch music and music videos for free, causing highly publicised losses to the music industry and so companies like Virgin Mobile and various fashion and music companies who can offer money to recoup some of the loss seem more than willing to 'get into bed' with the record companies.

The simple answer (if you deem this hyper advertising a problem) would be to simply pay for what you listen to but with a youth culture so naturalised to multimedia piracy it seems that the adverts will continue to cloud modern music.

## LIARS

### 'Sisterworld'

There is always something deeply powerful and visceral about a Liars album and *Sisterworld* is no different. The chugging, thick wedges of guitar erupt, sometimes out of nowhere (as in *Scissor*) and this slow build is sinister and each song is heavy with tension. You know it is coming, but when? But this album, the band's fifth, is not just a noisy album, far from it. It is a perfect example of balance, between the fast thick walls of noise and carefully constructed slow dirges that, without losing any of the menace, exhibit a band at the height of their game.

Like many of their albums there are numerous levels to both the album and the songs, the recording of their previous album *They Were Wrong, So We Drowned* was informed by witchcraft and the resultant trials. *Sisterworld* involves the cryptic imagery of a lock/ door that can offer many intriguing readings.

The first song, *Scissor*, is a slow building song, moving from an eerie period of chanting and choral voices, with Angus Andrew's distinct low voice emerging, growing evermore distinct and loud until the crash of guitar and drums drowns everything else. It is a perfect gateway into the album that works to either listen to in depth, dissecting every part of the song, or just to put on in the background, letting it coat you.

Nik Williams

8/10

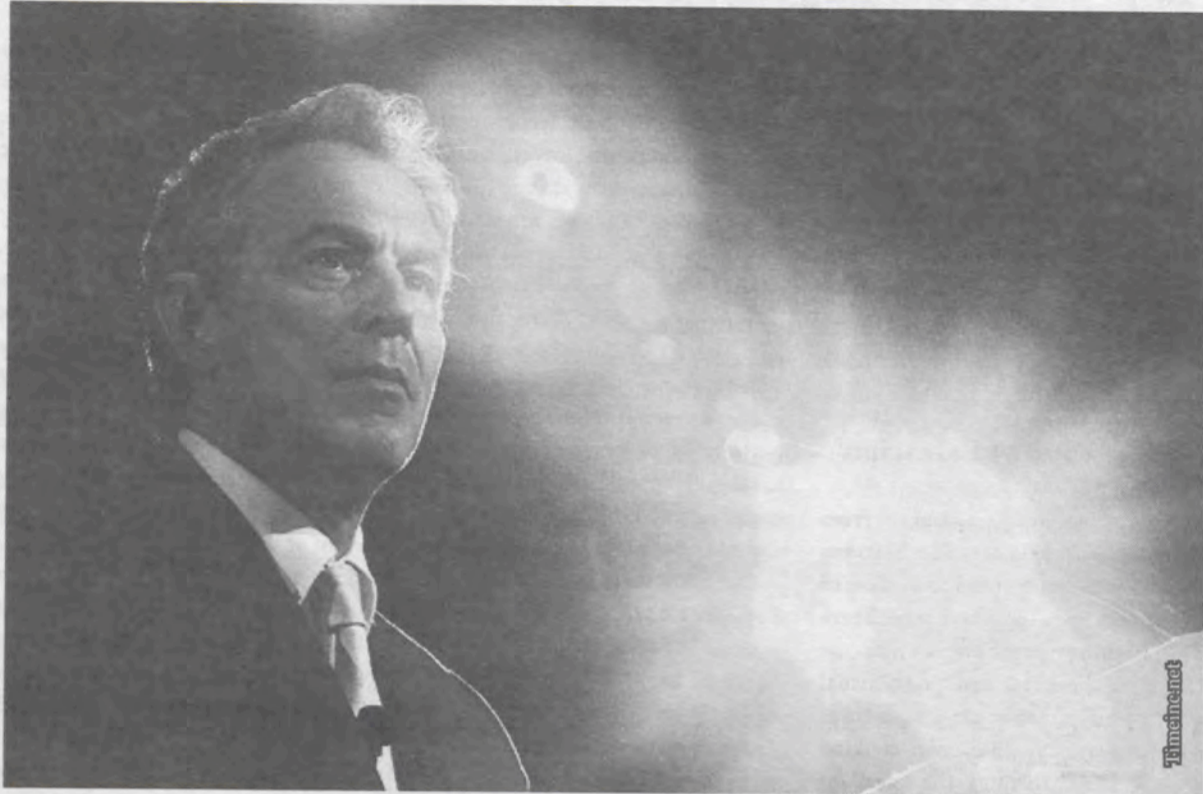


SISTERWORLD

### Editor's Playlist

- Cocorosie - 'By Your Side'
- HEALTH - 'Die Slow'
- M83 - 'Kim and Jessie'
- Handsome Furs - 'Hearts of Iron'
- Destroyer - 'Painter in your Pocket'
- Taken By Trees - 'My Boys'
- Sparklehorse ft. Wayne Coyne - 'Revenge'
- Liars - 'Mr. You're on Fire, Mr.'
- Menomena - 'Wet and Rusting'
- Wye Oak - 'Warning'

# The Fiction of Politics or the Politics of Fiction



Ben Rowan

The memoirs of former Prime Minister Tony Blair are to be published in September, Chairman of Random House group Gail Rebeck has announced. Titled *Tony Blair; The Journey*, the book will be released as a £25 hardback by Hutchinson, an imprint of Random House.

It's thought that Blair was paid an estimated £5 million for the rights to the book and it's hoped that the publication will shed light on issues like the Iraq war and the difficult relationship Blair shared with Gordon Brown during his time as Prime Minister.

Tony Blair follows the famous tradition of former leaders who go on to publish their memoirs,

including former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Other famous leaders who have had their memoirs published include Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and Bill Clinton.

Gail Rebeck, chairman of Random House Group, has promised that the book will be 'frank, open and revealing', whetting the appetites of many

people who want to understand Blair's 12 years in No. 10 Downing Street. It will also be interesting when coupled with Cherie Blair's autobiography, titled *Speaking for Myself*, released back in 2008.

Although I will probably go out and buy the book later this year, as a history student we are constantly told to be aware of the dangers of using autobiographies as accurate sources of historical evidence. One thing that is drilled in to us is the importance of having an awareness of context. As Tony Blair is still very active in the public sphere, working as a Quartet Representative as well as advising various global banks across the world, it is important to consider that there will be an image to uphold and an agenda to pursue. Whilst Blair's autobiography can reveal the intricacies of his political life and hopefully help reconnect the public with politics to an extent, it will ultimately be used as a tool to self promote.

Blair is also under pressure to make the memoirs sell. Thatcher's *The Path to Power*, released back in 1995, has sales figures that boast half

a million. The speed in which Blair has written and released his memoirs shows that money is a key issue for him. Publishers understand that the closer the memoirs can be published to the time in office, the more the possible profit. As Blair only stepped down from office late in 2007, the publication of his memoirs is especially quick.

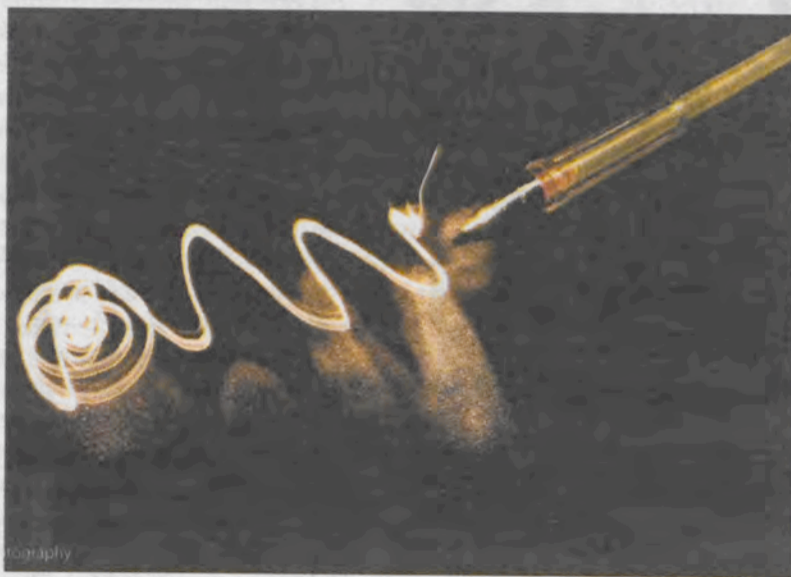
Former editor of *The Times* and *Guardian* columnist Sir Simon Jenkins, says this. '[I] can remember very well a certain chancellor of the exchequer, inquiring in to how much his memoirs might be worth'. The answer? 'A quarter of a million tomorrow, £100,000 next week and £10,000 two months from now'.

Due to both the Afghanistan and Iraq war and the resultant Chilcot Inquiry, Tony Blair and his actions in government are still very much in the public consciousness and this continued presence will surely only boost the sales of his forthcoming memoir. It may be said that not for a long while has the mindset, mentality and thought processes of a former prime minister been of such importance, long after his term has ended.

## ISM: A Literary Movement

Nik Williams

If you write or even just think about subjects in terms of words or how they move you then you could be part of a growing radical movement entitled ISM. Why was ISM formed? ISM was originally started as a society where people could get together to talk about their literary ideals and discuss any pieces that they were writing in an informal environment. The weekly Wednesday morning meetings were an opportunity to talk about their passions and pet hates in both what they read and wrote. They tried to show how diverse, creative and innovative writing at Kent could be but they soon discovered that ISM was more than just a literary society it was also the catalyst to encourage many more budding writers into expressing themselves through the



written medium and to join a movement that makes words count.

ISM has been established at UoK by students to highlight their writing talent. Writing can be a solitary process but together they have started a movement which allows people to share their literary thoughts

and ideas. They want to show how writing can be more than just words on a screen or in a notebook and how easily writing can help overcome many problems. ISM is foremost about collaboration and they try to encourage contemporary forms of writing and displays of words.

The members of ISM are all keen writers with a love for words. Writing can be cathartic and expressing yourself on the page can help organise and overcome your thoughts or problems. There is a power in writing which is liberating and satisfies more than, at times, anything else can. Writing is so vital. They want to get the campus talking about what words can do and show them what you can write.

ISM is holding a number of key literary based events in the hope that they can shake up the writing scene at Kent and show how inclusive and proactive it can be. The latest exciting event is our writing competition which is open to both University of Kent and to local schools. This joint venture has been set up to let people know what is happening at Kent and to highlight diversity and innovation. This competition

has been designed to reach out to students at schools as well as University so that they can see how writing is more than just a solitary quest or a singular piece of writing. This is an opportunity for you to write about what you feel. ISM provides a stage for your words.

ISM would like YOU to join in, Participate, Innovate and get your words noticed.

### Competition details:

E mail submission: [ukcism@googlemail.com](mailto:ukcism@googlemail.com) (Please include name and email.)

**Closing date** - 10 May 2010.

### Contact information:

Shaun Walton - [smw30@kent.ac.uk](mailto:smw30@kent.ac.uk)  
Michelle Lloyd - [mtl4@kent.ac.uk](mailto:mtl4@kent.ac.uk)



# It's not all banjos and baldies

London's Calling

Chris Lukar

## Review

I was asked to review the alternative/folk music night with the live music society on Friday the 12th March with no idea what to expect. My image of folk music was of a middle aged man, picking up random objects from his house and going "I can play this as a musical instrument". I still didn't know exactly what I let myself in for so I kept an open mind and expected the best.

I had been to a few other nights set up by the Live Music Society and knew that they always created a good night. However, I had no idea I'd enjoy a night so much and was pleased to find out how wrong my stereotype was!

The first act was Adam Sampson, a great choice for the start to the night, who warmed the audience up with a taste of what was to come. I was listening to this lone man with a guitar which was relaxing as well as perfect for a pub environment. He also broke my earlier mentioned

stereotype about folk music and made me open my mind more than I thought possible. It reminded me of a manlier and better James Blunt; perfect acoustic sound with charming lyrics.

The second act brought out a banjo, and they were a double called the Craters who were a mix of 80's pop with a folk twist.

They turned away from traditional folk music and towards a more popular direction of 80's music. I think it was before Michael Jackson's "Bad" and after Aha's "Take On Me" that everyone was taken in, sitting down and staring up at the stage smiling! Their preference towards the 80's genre was enjoyed by the artists as well as the audience. We were given clues before each song and all smiled in surprise as "yes, yes we are listen-

ing to super trooper, folk style".

The final act brought on an Irish tin whistle, old style drum and a strange man from York which was closer to what I expected from folk music. This act was a band of three, called Relig Oran, one of the members was a lecturer at Kent University which made him the pun of many jokes by the other two. This group was closer to my normal idea of what folk music was like, yet to my surprise I was tapping on the table with every beat. They were able to show that folk music isn't just a music genre for middle aged men and easily ensured it was a night everyone enjoyed. The only shame was that I didn't have the chance to hear any more of it, I really hope the Live Music Society perform another folk music night! My final impression from the majority of the people who attended was that they didn't expect much from 'folk' but all left glad they went and that the night didn't feel like they just sat in a pub listening to music that they didn't enjoy.



# Enjoy a slice of real life with "Bouncers"

David Newell

## 24th March onwards

You know those guys who stand outside bars checking ID, keeping everyone in line and stopping those of us who have, perhaps, had a little too much to drink? Bouncers, of course, we all know bouncers. Right? Wrong!

Set in and around a typical club, John Godber's play *Bouncers* (voted as one of the greatest plays of the 20th Century by The National Theatre) shows the night out in full, warts and all, and with only a cast of four men. The four play all the parts including, of course the bouncers, but also a lads night out and, most hilariously a group of drunken teenage girls, as well as a whole host of other characters you may, or in some cases may not, expect to find on a night out.

The play is raucously funny, and will have you with splitting sides roaring in the aisles, even if some of the scenes may bring back scary memories which you thought you had forgotten.

The play epitomises the phrase

'spice of life' as it bubbles comically from scene to scene with frighteningly true undercurrents of social comment just beneath the surface as we discover more about the characters. But all that said this is a wonderful romp through a Friday night with all the belly laughs you would expect from any other Godber play.

The show will be T:24 Drama Society's third show of 2010, and the bar so far has been set very high with *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *The Visit*, but Lawrence Watling, director of *Bouncers* is confident that the show can more than live up to its predecessors. "We have four lads who like a challenge, and they are rising to it brilliantly" he comments when asked about his cast, who have been rehearsing for around two months for the production, which has been "a challenging yet very enjoyable process for all involved". Certainly the four actors; Thom Short, Elliott Farr, Danny McGuire & James Moem-

ken have been put through their paces in an interesting rehearsal period, not only having the usual jobs of learning lines and blocking but also combining learning to be beefy bruising bouncers as well as walking and flirting like giggling girls, as well as grappling with a handbag, which apparently is more difficult than it sounds,

to the extent that Watling had to employ a group of girls to come in and teach the actors. Certainly it will be a show not to be missed. The show runs on 24th, 25th and 26th March at 7.30pm in Keynes Seminar 17. Tickets are available on the door and are £3.50 with a valid T:24 membership card, £4 without.



Kate Hoare

The cast of *Bouncers*

## Hands On

### Funghi Workshop, Hampstead Heath

This workshop and walk, run by Andy Overall at Fungi to be With, aims to widen people's appreciation of wild food through foraging for mushrooms and fungi.

Tickets from £30, booking essential

## Exhibition

### Pandora's Box: Curiosity and the Dangerous Pursuit of Knowledge@ Museum of Zoology

An installation of boxes and cabinets collected around the world, and the curiosities they contain

Free Entry

## Theatre

### Wicked! @ Apollo Theatre, Victoria

The critically – and publicly – acclaimed musical is set for a cast change on the 29th of March, a fresh start for the Oz prequel set during the Wicked Witch of the West's high-school years

Tickets from £15

## Music

### Star Wars- in Concert @ the O2 arena

The Philharmonic Orchestra offers a rare treat to fans of the trilogies with a performance of John Williams' legendary scores.

Tickets from £30

## Outdoors

### Inland Waterways Boat Show@Little Venice

Get involved with Britain's river history with the Inland Waterways Association at their show in the beautiful area of Little Venice Garden

Free Admission

Gwen Wordingham

For more information on up an coming events check out the website at: [www.inquirelive.co.uk](http://www.inquirelive.co.uk)

## Musical Theatre Society returns with Fiddler on the Roof

Georgina Evenden

*1st April onwards*

"After a phenomenally successful year", University of Kent's Musical Theatre Society has become one of the most prolific performance companies on campus at present and with their new show *Fiddler on the Roof* just around the corner,

anyone with a passion for musical theatre would be a fool to miss out. For those unfamiliar with the story, it is set in Russia 1905 where we witness a father trying

to balance a life under the Tsar whilst accommodating the needs of his strong-willed daughters and maintaining his own religious traditions. The show's appeal is international and as such has received high critical acclaim, particularly on Broadway where it was labelled the longest running Broadway musical for a record-breaking ten years and enjoyed nine out of a nominated ten Tony awards, including Best Musical, Score and Choreography.

The production's commercial value is not to be underrated; this is a very popular show and for good reason. The substantial cast are eclectic enough to fill out every creative corner of Joseph Stein's award winning musical which features classic hits such as "If I Were a Rich Man", "Matchmaker" and "Far From The Home I Love".

Under the direction of Laura

Harrison, Mia Manzi-Davies shines as Hodel, Lucie Nash plays a fantastic Golde and Jon Bolitho-Jones is absolutely fabulous in drag as Grandma Tzeitel.

With a set designed by Ruth Boston, the music directed by Elizabeth McIver and choreographed by Jamie Mount, *Fiddler on the Roof* promises to be an entertaining family-fun night out; certainly a pleasant alternative if you are fed up with *The Venue* on a weekend.

The chosen venue is The Whitstable Playhouse Theatre, which admirably accommodates and supports a variety of local Kent Drama groups including The Canterbury Players and its resident company, The Lindley Players. The auditorium is waiting to be filled for the three dates; 1st, 2nd and 3rd April at 7.45pm with an additional matinee at 2.30 on the 3rd April. Tickets are available for £10, but only £5 to us lucky students through contacting the box office either via [www.theplayhousewhitstable.co.uk](http://www.theplayhousewhitstable.co.uk), or by phoning 01227 272042. And don't be put off by the thought of having to leave Canterbury; Whitstable is only twenty minutes down the road, accessible by a bus that leaves from town or campus and drops you off at the theatre's doorstep.



## Tapping away to Chris T-T

Sally Gower

*26th March*

He's poetic with lyrics, a natural on the piano and will have you smiling with every verse. And what is more, he's on tour and heading for Canterbury. On Friday 26th March, the Farmhouse will host singer-songwriter Chris T-T on his lengthy current tour promoting the release of his latest album. "Love Is Not Rescue" was released on 15th March, with supporting single "Nintendo", released on the eighth of March.

Primarily a charming and mellifluous song, this musical marvel takes the listener from one moving lyric about the "seafront with Maria" onto the next satirical order to, "find a job, buy a Nintendo", an absurd composition complete with the gentle build up one would expect from a ballad.

"Love Is Not Rescue" is his seventh studio album released since his debut "Beatverse" in 1999. Having also released one live album, "Live Tonight", in 2004, he has a wide spectrum of performances under his belt, featuring alongside household

names such as Ben Folds, The Divine Comedy, Elbow and KT Tunstall, to name just a few.

He also brought his 2009 to a close with an incredible acoustic set supporting Frank Turner. Originally from Brighton, his musical career has had him galivanting about the globe, with main destinations such as North America, Europe and all over the UK. His current tour, which began at the start of March and lasts until the end of the month, has witnessed him perform in places such as Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, Nottingham and Cardiff, with many more on the list.

Popularity isn't an issue for T-T as favourable reviews follow this entertainer wherever he goes. Thisismusic.com has deemed him "one of the finest and most consistent songwriters this country has seen this century." Furthermore, he has been widely acclaimed for his "lyrical genius" and "poetic ability".

When gracing the ears with

a morsel of the delights this man has to offer, a few obscure likenesses sprang to mind, a softer and more harmonised Just Jack being amongst these. Whether or not he features in the indie genre his record label would suggest, he has diverse sounds throughout his entire discography, including acoustic pop, country and folk. With uncanny likenesses to the sort of acoustic sound you'd hear in Canterbury's Coffee & Corks (before it closed down!), T-T's latest album favours personal themes of career choices, love and the complexities of relationships, rather than previous themes of evident political dispute.

"British pop's street-poet laureate and unsung genius" (The Sunday Times) is one not to be missed. While the not-so-delicate lyrics of "Malcolm Tucker" aren't for those fussier listeners, he has previously composed music for an interactive exhibit at the Natural History Museum, perhaps proving that he won't always be obscure. Find out more about him at [www.myspace.com/christtuk](http://www.myspace.com/christtuk)

MANZ CMYK

## Top events of the fortnight... for more, visit: [www.inquirelive.co.uk](http://www.inquirelive.co.uk)

### Thursday 25th

#### Inquire Presents... HELP FOR HAITI

Inquire is hosting a Haiti fundraiser at the Venue, with a headlining act, huge raffle and wristbands for drinks promotions. Free Entry, £3 donation

### Friday 26th

#### "The Day After The Fair" @ The Whitstable Playhouse

Thomas Hardy's original short story of passion and deception performed by Canterbury Players. Tickets £8

### Saturday 27th

#### RUSH@ Rutherford

Fresh décor, huge sound system and live DJs all night at Rutherford bar, with drinks promos and free entry!

Free Entry

### Saturday 27th

#### Kent's Big Day Out

Go to [visitkent.co.uk/bigdayout](http://visitkent.co.uk/bigdayout) and get free entry vouchers for the Roman museum, the Museum of Canterbury and Westgate Towers as part of Kent's historic 'Big Day Out'.

### Saturday 2nd

#### Nick Grimshaw@ The Venue

Popular radio one DJ Nick Grimshaw is coming to Flirt! at the Venue. Arrive early to avoid disappointment.

£5 Entry

W 00 Cb 9 1st

# Cover bands are okay, originality is far better

Jacob Brant

When one is young one may feel a certain passion for one's generation. This passion can take many forms, but is most strongly felt in the belief that the generation which one is a part of can really make a difference and will be remembered for that difference.

Although the extent to which a youth may feel this passion may more than likely be exaggerated by said youth's hormones, it is in my opinion foolish to dismiss this urge for progress as youthful naivety because it is this urge for progress which leads mankind to actually succeed in their artistic endeavours.

The cover song is a great enemy of progress. And yet the majority of Canterbury's musical showcases and open mic nights are infested with fashionable little twerps wearing winkle-pickers and skinny jeans playing music that was not even written by them.

However, there are a couple of promoters who are not only hosting nights for openly pro-

## Review

gressive forms of music, but are actively trying to create a music scene in Canterbury for the city's youth and students to enjoy. Genuinely exciting musical events have been few and far between in recent years (a far cry from the 'Canterbury Scene' of the 1960s and 70s), and although in 2009 there seemed to an increase in interest for some kind of established music scene in Canterbury, this will only ever be a pipe-dream unless awareness is raised and support is given to those trying to make a difference.

So for God's sake go to these events and support your local music scene! Support those rising artists who are struggling to make a difference and give our generation a sense of identity! And support those who are spending time and effort on giving those artists a platform to leap from!

On Friday 19th of March, future-legends Playdoh Promotions presented Up C Down C,

with support from Delta Sleep (formerly Savlon) and Bardo Thodol, at Casey's. Whether their music is your kind of thing, or you just want to hear some excellent original tracks go to: <http://www.myspace.com/playdoh> <http://www.myspace.com/bitmappromotions>



For more information, full listings or booking please call 01227 769075 or visit [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian).



### Highlights

Monday 29 March 7.45pm: **Zoe Lyons: Miss Machismo:** If Comedy nominee and multi-award winning comedienne Zoe Lyons presents an hour of punchy comedy that explores amongst other things, arming the elderly, human soup, and the Pope's remarks about the blurring of the genders. *Tickets £12*

Tuesday 30 March 7.45pm: **Beady Eye:** Cinefilm, clowning, puppetry and hurdling are used to explore a father's life from doss-house childhood to Olympic hurdling and dancing on graves. *Tickets from £13*

For more information, full listings or booking please call 01227 769075 or visit [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian).



### Highlights

Fri 26- Sun 28 March: **A Single Man.** Set in 1962 Los Angeles at the height of the Cuban missile crisis, a gay British college professor struggles to find meaning to his life after the death of his long-time partner.

Mon 29 March: **The Big Lebowski.** As Jeff Bridges racks up nominations for his role in Crazy Heart, it's an apt time to remember his crowning achievement:

# Killer cocktails and avant garde cabaret comedy

Nicola Standley

## 26th March

This devilishly crude and blasphemous trio are set to hit the Gulbenkian stage on 26th March direct from a sell-out London West-End run and the Edinburgh Festival. Described as a mix of 'cabaret, avant garde and gypsy punk,' I can promise you will never have heard anything like it.

The Tiger Lillies' arrangements are entertaining, professional and clever. They never cease to surprise, shock and entertain with their inimitable musical style, conjuring up the macabre magic of pre-war Berlin and fusing it with the savage edge of punk. Until, of course, they start to sing such lines as 'I love my little hamster up my rectum' from the aptly named song 'Hamster.'

If you are faint hearted or easily offended, this is certainly not the show for you: lyrical topics include death, drugs, whores, murderers, STDs and crucifying Jesus. Amazingly, these crude and unusual choices of subject

seem to work well with the music they produce, and if you don't take it to heart, you can certainly expect a night of fun-filled entertainment. The beats are catchy and the voice...well, often, somewhat like a transvestite singing, but this adds to the charm of these three strange men.

Time Out describes them as "fleshily engorged with the pustule throb of the garishly gaudy and gloriously obscene," which certainly reflects on their gory charm. The band got together in 1989, and have since been touring the world, accumulating fans wherever they go (and making enemies too, no doubt).

Matt Groening, creator of The Simpsons and Futurama is their biggest fan yet, and has added them to the All Tomorrow's Parties line up that he has compiled, that will be kicking off on the 7th May at Butlins in Minehead.

The Tiger Lillies are set to perform along with the likes of Iggy and the Stooges, Deerhunter, Panda Bear and Coco Rosie.

The insensitive and dramatic trio consist of falsetto singer Martyn Jacques on accordion and ukulele; Adrian Stout on contra-bass, guitar, musical saw and theremin and Adrian Huge on percussion and toys. Singer Jacques often adorns creepy clown-inspired make up, which adds to the bizarre performances that the Tiger Lillies produce.

The Gulbenkian are running a "Killer Cocktail" competition to celebrate the dark and deviant performance of the band. The winning cocktail will be on the menu for the whole evening, and the winner will get their own cocktail made for them on the night of the show, free of charge. Guidelines have been set on the website [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian). You can post your concoctions on the Gulbenkian Facebook page or tweet @TheGulbenkian on Twitter.

If you think you can handle this outlandish, comic show full of deliciously twisted comedy and oddly soothing male falsetto,

please contact the Gulbenkian box office on 01227 769075 to book. Tickets cost £15, and the show will begin at 7.45pm.



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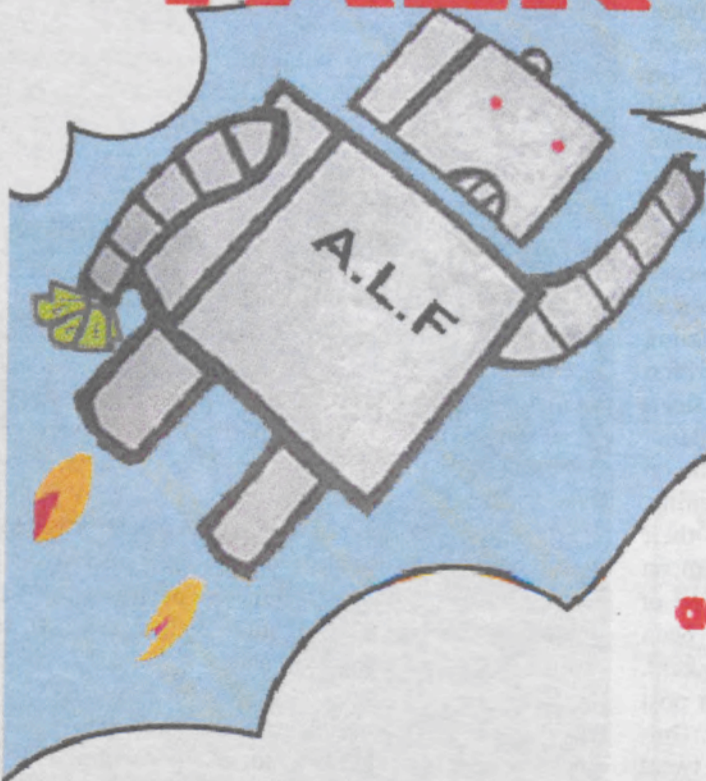
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# Trampoline triumphs in Warwick & Plymouth

## Kent bounce off the walls, bringing home five medals

Chani Walter

Competitors have two-four brief warm ups before completing two routines in front of judges. The first routine is 'Compulsory' or 'Set'. This is exactly the same for all competitors and any changes to the routine result in a cut off of marking at that point.

The second routine is the 'Voluntary'. This routine can be made up by the competitor but it must be within a tariff (skill) limit.

Routines are marked out of ten, and consist of ten landings. Judging works on deducting points for negative form rather than giving points for positive form.

On 14th February, Kent trampolining club travelled down to the south coast to compete in BUCS at Plymouth. For this occasion, organised by University of Plymouth, Kent were able to provide Miriam Baker (Novice), Martin Henderson and Sophie Robinson (both Intermediate) with some competition experience. It was Baker's first competition and she impressed judges, coming a respectable 24th out of 45 candi-

dates competing. Henderson and Robinson both had one great routine each, the latter gaining high sevens and Henderson mid 6s; however, both made crucial mistakes on their second routines.

The marking of routines stopped half way through due to an over-rotated twist for Henderson and a one-footed bounce for Robinson. (The judging is always very strict, and unfortunately not in Kent's favour.) Therefore Robinson finished 32nd out of 50 and Henderson achieved 9th place out of 11 contestants.

The next competition of the month took place on 27th and 28th February at Warwick University. Nine UoK competitors from a range of categories attended, arriving in time to watch the synchronised competition. The group of gymnasts managed a few hours sleep before a bright and early start to the competition. This tournament was the first competition for five members of the group, so there was the distinct presence of nerves; however, everyone performed at their best and supported each other. The timing of the event

reiterated its second purpose as a great preparation for Varsity.

Kent Novice competitors, as a team, came a very impressive third, with Naomi Davis coming second out of 34 and winning a silver medal. In intermediate, Baker came 21st out of 37; Kate Gresham came 13th out of 22 in inter-advanced; and finally Robinson finished 7th out of 14 in the advanced category.

The club's spokesman was left feeling very pleased with the team's efforts after this year's competitions: "Everyone has been doing so well throughout the past year at the club and I'm so proud of them all, competitors and non-competitors.

"We also now have two guys, Martin and Praz going on courses to be coaches for next year, and Martin recently completed his judging course. We are proud of the fact that they will also be volunteering in the local community in local clubs and schools.

"It's been a stressful but fantastic experience and I look forward to seeing who will be continuing the role next year."



UKC Trampolining Club

# Varsity college football matches as they happened

Shan O'Donovan

As Kent and Christ Church played their part in varsity throughout Wednesday, there were highs and lows in the football results for our University sides.

On a high, four of our five college teams finished the day unbeaten against Christ Church opposition, as Keynes FC opened the proceedings with an 8-1 thrashing of CCCU 5's on the 3G pitch.

First half goals from Simon Newton, Ross Holland and Ryan Waterman gave them a comfortable lead at the interval. The impressive Ryan Waterman added his second after the break, before Jason Harmen replied with a mere consolation strike for the visitors.

Further goals from Edan Cummins, Saif Dirani and a double from Luke Wilkinson completed the emphatic rout for Keynes FC. Joseph Ade-

koya (KFC) received Man of the Match for his great use of the ball and always working hard to retain possession for his side.

Parkwood FC and Parkwood United also saw off Christ Church opposition in their afternoon fixtures. Parkwood FC swept Diamond Geezers aside with a 3-1 victory on the 3G.

All the fixture's goals came in the second half with strikes from Ryan Chuck, Yannick Michael Buditu and a well-timed volley from substitute Michael Cornall,

securing the victory. Diamond Geezers had something to smile about when their right winger Chris Miles, notorious for his speed, carefully dispatched his effort past the Parkwood FC keeper.

However, these smiles soon faded when an awkward landing saw Miles leaving the field with a suspected broken ankle and his team failing to recover from the two goal deficit. Matty Mitchell was awarded Man of the Match after causing chaos down the right with his many amazing runs and

integrating himself in everything positive about FC's attacking play.

Parkwood United continued the college's winning run as they beat CCCU 6th's 4-1, all the goals arriving in a frantic first half. United were awarded a fortuitous penalty early on. Richard Brown, confident as ever, stepped up to convert the spot kick and give them a 1-0 lead. Their lead was doubled when Tom Dickerson's swirling cross from the right was met by the head of Anthony Ford and coolly whipped past the powerless goalkeeper.

CCCU 6ths unleashed an attack and managed to pull one back when the ball somehow found its way into the net from a resultant corner. But any chance of a comeback quickly disintegrated when two identical headers from Laurie Newnes and Paul Knox, gave Parkwood United a more than comfortable victory.

Tom Dickerson (PWU)

earned his Man of the Match status with an excellent performance for United, setting up three of their four goals.

The final college game proved to be the closest encounter as Darwin Towers lost on penalties to CCCU 4th's, after drawing 1-1 over the 90 minutes. It was Towers who took the lead after about half an hour, when full back James Budge received the ball from a Stephen Courtney throw and floated a well-placed cross onto the head of Jonathan Klugg, who then tucked it neatly into the net.

However, a second half equaliser from Reject's Martin Thomas left the contest all square and unfortunately for Towers, penalties were unsuccessful as they crashed to a 4-2 defeat.

Man of the Match went to Jonathan Klugg (DT) who always looked to get forward when in possession of the ball and proved difficult for the visitors to contain.



Sally Gower

NANZ CM/K

Health & Fitness

Carbohydrates, it would seem, are my new best friend. Or, to put it in a manner that doesn't conjure images of a lonely student experience, they're a new focus in my dietary planning. Eating sensibly is one of the prerequisites I find not so much a chore or inconvenience as such; but much more a case of looking after myself. There will be that time (not too soon, heaven forbid) when I can't do this properly, therefore I always strive to make the difference now.

At present, the usual day for me, my stomach and I consists of the following: breakfast of "OatSo Simple" (sometimes two bowls if feeling particularly famished on waking up), washed down with a tall glass of orange juice. Lunch is usually something along the lines of a chicken Caesar salad with a slice or two of wholemeal Hovis and plenty of water (or energy drink) to go with it. I'll usually try to have a bottle of water close at hand (more so on hangover days, granted), as I don't enjoy many carbonated drinks.

And as for dinner – best part of the day! I do like my roast dinners... (Doubt that I'm alone in favouring those.) I'll go for anything – chicken, beef, lamb, duck, gammon. As long as it involves all the trimmings and a delicious gravy.

Other meals that go down a treat are anything the Italians are good at. "P & P" does not stand for Pride and Prejudice. It stands for "Plenty of Pasta". The lasagnes, the spaghetti bolognese, the linguine carbonara. Whenever I can, I'll add the extremely healthy stuff in, all the peppers have to go in. Chicken fajitas with a helping of peppers are another on the weekly list. Although, I have to pride myself on staying away from stir-fries.

The recipe I'm best at? Smoothies. I love throwing all sorts of fruit together in a blender and making what is ultimately a little cocktail (but the healthy kind). I'll make anything taste amazing. Plain, natural greek yoghurt and a few fruit. Sorted.

Pete Loomer

# King of the Castle or Dirty Rascal?

Comment: UoK/Christ Church Varsity Banter is no longer "good-humoured"

Amy Clemens

Varsity has been and gone for another year with the usual host of rivalries between UKC and Christchurch and inevitably the banter. Banter can be defined in two ways; either by its original meaning from the eighteenth-century a type of vicious bullying or its preferred use nowadays as good-humoured teasing between friends and team mates. It has become the paradigm of sports clubs' conversation and banter seems to be a way of establishing ones self in a group as up for a laugh and having the thick skin to be able to take it and dish it out.

The group that was set up on Facebook for this year's Varsity, 'UKC Christchurch Varsity Banter' was supposedly created for the two university's to partake in amusing light-hearted banter in support of their sports teams. However, this description is questionable when you look at the majority of the posts on the wall written before any of the events had even taken place. They ranged from racism and sexism to raising the issue of a class-divide between the two university's, marking us as the elite who would go on to employ many of the Christ Church students.

I am not somebody who it can be said appreciates banter, I believe there's a very fine line between something that when done



well can be amusing and bullying; while I agree that most people who take part in it are as willing to receive it as they are to give it out, I have witnessed many occasions where it is questionable whether certain people are given much choice in becoming victims of it.

Ross Lapham, 21, is in his final year of a BA in Politics and International Relations, he is also a rugby player. He has never seen banter turn into a physical fight off the pitch, and points out that it is ostensibly about "good humour and wit; anything with such unlimited boundaries is bound to be taken too far by a select few,

of course when taken too far it turns from banter into abuse".

This famously happens outside of the confines of university sports events, take for example football hooliganism; while the majority of people go to a match to enjoy the thrill of watching the game, an unhinged minority go with the sole purpose of starting a fight.

David Beckham shocked fans by giving the crowd the finger after their anger turned into personal offence aimed at him and his family when England lost to Portugal during Euro 2000. The media took Beckham's side, condemning the fans for their delib-

erately personal, mindless abuse, which had clearly proven to be more than just harmless fun.

A natural sense of team rivalry and pressure to perform from the fans is undeniably a good thing and adds to the drive the players have to defeat their rivals.

While Ross disputes the idea that the rivalry promoted between the two universities carries on past varsity, it has to be said that the highly unimaginative songs both universities are guilty of creating can be heard being sung loudly and obscenely on nights out in Canterbury throughout the year. True, this is usually from a select few who aim to aggravate rivalries between us and with two prominent universities situated in such close proximity to each other some degree of rivalry is inevitable. It just becomes a problem when the banter becomes puerile, racist and about a class divide.

Banter is inevitable, but I don't agree that the entire student body should be tainted by the insult of antiquated prejudices about a supposed divide in wealth that this group provokes.

It is easily denied that it affects the universities' relationship as whole, it is less easily proven that this is actually the case and on reading the 'UKC Christchurch Varsity Banter' Facebook page it is a vicious division that is the prominent reasoning behind the rivalry; not light-hearted banter.

**continued from back page**  
the end of the game with a superb run dodging several tackles before running in for the score, before Luke Richmond converted.

A match, that at times became ill tempered from players and fans alike, was a perfect example of the hard fought rivalry that

Varsity embraces, the ever aggressive captain of the Falcons Will Goodes, bossing things up front, to the annoyance of the opposition. The Falcons continued their unbeaten run against their local rivals, as well as keeping Kent's integrity alive, securing Varsity for another year.



## Varsity Results Corner

**Women's Rugby**  
Kent 104 : 0 CCCU  
**Men's Rugby**  
Kent 1's 13 : 7 CCCU 1's  
**Swimming**  
Kent 48 : 52 CCCU  
**Cricket**  
Kent win by 5 W  
**Pool**  
Kent A 8 : 2 CCCU A  
Kent B 8 : 2 CCCU B  
**Netball**  
Kent 1's 47 : 29 CCCU 1's  
Kent 2's 57 : 11 CCCU 2's  
Kent 3's 38 : 18 CCCU 3's  
**Men's Volleyball**  
Kent 3 : 0 CCCU [sets]  
**Men's Hockey**  
Kent 1's 2 : 3 CCCU 1's  
**Women's Hockey**  
Kent 1's 2 : 3 CCCU 1's  
Kent 2's 5 : 0 CCCU 2's  
**Men's Tennis**  
Kent 1's 4 - 6 CCCU 1's

**Women's Tennis**  
Kent 1's 7 : 3 CCCU 1's  
**Men's Football**  
Kent 1's 2 : 2 CCCU 1's [CCCU win on p]  
Kent 2's 1 : 2 CCCU 2's  
Kent 3's 2 : 2 CCCU 3's [CCCU win on p]  
Keynes F.C 8 : 1 CCCU Intermural 4's  
Darwin Towers 1 : 1 Intermural 2's [CCCU win on p]  
Parkwood F.C 3 : 1 Intermural 3's  
Parkwood UTD 4 : 1 Intermural 1's  
Eliot Academicals 1 : 3 CCCU 4's  
**Women's Football**  
Kent 4 : 4 CCCU [CCCU win on p]  
**Men's Rugby**  
Kent 2's 7 : 13 CCCU 2's  
**Men's Basketball**  
Kent 55 : 75 CCCU  
**Women's Basketball**  
Kent 74 : 38 CCCU  
**Men's Badminton**  
Kent 4 : 4 CCCU [CCCU win on BUCS rules]  
**Men's Lacrosse**  
Kent 8 : 10 CCCU  
**Women's Lacrosse**  
Kent 19 : 2 CCCU  
**American Football**  
Kent Falcons 30 : 8 CCCU Chargers

# Rowers rewarded at Maidstone

## Successful season continues with multiple victories

Christian Wren

It has been an excellent few weeks for Kent Rowing as three races have yielded a number of victories to add to the success seen last term. Training had stepped up in the last two months in preparation for the three Spring races which have taken place in the last few weeks.

In February, the club travelled to rowing mecca Henley-on-Thames to take part in the Henley Fours and Eights Head, a race which takes place on one of the most famous stretches of river in the rowing world. The 3km stretch on the River Thames hosts the world famous Henley Royal Regatta in July, a race which our club aspires to race at this year.

Despite extremely choppy conditions, the three Kent crews coped well. The Men's Second crew of Ash Roberts, Tom Davies, Mark Humphreys and Josh Blackedge, with cox Jen Fisher finished a fantastic second out of ten crews in the Novice Coxed Four category in 13:00.

The Men's First crew of Miles Halahan, Nick Paterson, Christian Wren and Sam Webb, with cox Chloe Marshall came a respectable seventh out of thirteen in the Intermediate 3 Coxed Four category in a strong time of 12:40. Women's First took third from five despite rowing with a broken rudder, finishing with a time of 14:22.

The following day the club travelled up to Bedford to compete at the Bedford Fours and Eights Head, and despite racing the previous day, the club was delighted to bring home two victories from the 2km course. Men's Second sealed victory in the Novice Coxed Four category in a blistering 7:06, close to breaking the elusive seven-minute barrier. Women's First

destroyed their competition with a stunning 7:56, a time which is testament to the hard work they having been putting in recent weeks. Men's First had a solid row in their IM3 Coxed Four division, finishing with a time of 7:05. Unfortunately they were disqualified due to an unforeseen technicality at the finish line, but that didn't mar what was an excellent weekend for the club.

Two weeks later the club made the short trip up the M2 for the Maidstone Spring Head. Yet again it was the Men's Second and Women's First who dominated, each winning their Novice Coxed Four categories comfortably. The girls even managed to go one better, with victory in the IM3 Coxed Four race making it two wins in one day for the crew! It has been a hugely successful year for these two crews, with no fewer than eight race victories achieved between them.

Also getting in on the medal

action was Dave Stevens who picked up victory in the IM3 Single Scull category with an excellent race on the 2.5km course. Elsewhere Men's First finished third in their IM3 Coxed Four race, and the Sarah Harvey and Kate Tatchell put in a strong row, but unfortunately had no competition in their IM2 Double race.

As well as the five senior crews, the club sent three first-year Development crews for their first taste of racing action. As they were competing in the same categories as their victorious Seniors, there was little chance of any victories, but all competed exceptionally.

The club is now preparing for the upcoming Easter Training Camp, three grueling weeks of training in Kent and in Peterborough, culminating in the BUCS Regatta in Nottingham. The regatta is the highlight of the University rowing calendar and attended by thousands of students and supporters each year.



## UoK grasp last minute victory

Sally Gower

**Kent 1st** 3

**Brunt Ash Bexley** 2

The last home fixture for many from men's hockey saw the Kent First Division team clinch fifth position in the Kent league through a kaleidoscope of a match. The points went to Kent in a 3-2 victory, having come back from a 2-0 deficit against Brunt Ash (Bexley) Men's 1s at half time. Bexley's first goal arrived in the first five minutes of the game, the second coming in the final five minutes of the half, in what was otherwise an uneventful opening 35 minutes. The second slice of the action, however; began in promising fashion for the home team. An abundance of possession that witnessed Bexley struggling to keep pace with the energetic Kent players such as Carl Patten and Captain, Alex Richardson - the comeback that occurred was inevitable. The home side soon began to pull out all the stops to unleash several determined attacks upon the Bexley goalmouth. The away side were increasingly becoming rather sloppy at the back as they were soon unravelled by the Kent attackers for the home side to notch up their first goal. Jack Meaning did the honours, after collecting an aerial pass inside the 'D' and slotting it past the keeper into the back of the goal. With momentum now with the home side, Kent's equaliser ma-

terialised from a short-corner, fluent ball passing and organisation providing Meaning with the means to slot home once again for his second of the match. Almost instantly after the goal celebrations, Kent could have made it three. The result of good, solid midfield work from Graham Abrey and Jonty Hadfield was only for the ball to curl inches wide of the left goalpost.

The game at a tie and not long on the clock, Bexley had a short corner that was dealt with by a calm and collected Kent defence, Ivar Billfalk-Kelly brushing aside any attacks Bexley were offering up. The ball was quickly hit out of danger's way and the two-goal comeback brought with it the confidence and drive for a winner.

Interceptions were now timed accurately by a resilient Kent as Abrey won back the ball and passed it upfield for James Honeywill to smash home in front of goal with only minutes remaining. The lethal strike proved enough to gift Kent with all three points as their season ended on a high. With fifth position secured in the Kent league and third in the BUCS South East Conference 1A, the Kent 1st's can look forward to a well deserved break from competitive hockey for the 09-10 season.

## Six Nations Rugby results

**Wales** 33  
**Italy** 10

**Ireland** 20  
**Scotland** 23

**France** 12  
**England** 10

**France** 46  
**Italy** 20

**Scotland** 15  
**England** 15

Two tries from Hook, one from Williams, with all penalties and conversions delivered by Jones, Wales conquered a sorry Italy.

A surprising result for a confident Ireland saw the Scots victorious despite failure to convert Beattie's try at Croke Park.

A disappointing result for England as Jonny Wilkinson's penalty, Foden's try and Flood's conversion failed to see off France.

Previously, ferocious France bullied intermittent Italy with this doing nothing to help a particularly poor Italian campaign.

The previous weekend's fixture was a frustrating display to see as England went ahead just once in this very tight match.

# Falcons settle Varsity finale

Joe Walker

**Kent Falcons** 30

**CCCU Chargers** 8

The Kent Falcons capped off this year's Varsity with a 30-8 Victory over Christ Church Chargers, not only securing their second victory against the Chargers this season, but securing another Kent Varsity victory.

A larger than usual crowd attended the match between the two bitter rivals. With Varsity poised and Kent with only a slender one point lead, spectators were keen to watch the finale of this year's competition.

The Kent Falcons were eager to replicate the form that led them to a 50-14 victory earlier in the season, however the game started slowly as the defence allowed Christ Church to attack from the off. The Falcons defence let Christ Church gain several yards on their first drive before eventually turning the ball over to allow the offence to attempt to gain an early lead.

The Falcons found early success through the air, moving the ball down the field well. Quarterback, Ryan Maxwell, playing his farewell game with the Falcons, obviously wanted to go out with a performance to remember. A constant threat through the air and on the ground, allowed him to orchestrate the Falcons offence and outwit the Christ Church defence. The first Falcons possession ended with the first of Russell Jordan's three touchdowns. Maxwell expertly found Jordan in the end zone, to start the first half onslaught.

The offence's quick start was a wakeup call for the Falcons defence, who knew they had to step up with the expectant support watching on. For the remainder of the first half, they completely shut down Christ Church's one dimensional offence, Brenden Spangler notably making some huge tackles, frustrating the opposition. Nicky Tallintire took an amazing interception at the sideline, somehow managing

to keep his feet in bounds. Only the Christ Church quarterback's legs offered any threat, the defence giving the offence both lots of possession and good field position, Josh Pickett notably stomping out the running attack.

The Falcons offence seemed unstoppable in the early exchanges, seeming content to move the ball consistently with good running from Zach Toogood, keeping the defence guessing. Jordan making a number of catches. Whatever the defence called, or whoever tried to mark him, he seemed constantly open. Maxwell was taking full advantage of the lax marking finding him several times and shortly after he added a second touchdown, a lofted pass taken off the fingertips of the defensive back. The offence continued to fire, and it wasn't long before Jordan added his third touchdown of the first half. He added a single two point conversion on top of this taking his tally for the game to 20 points.

Many of the spectators were expecting a similar destruction in the second half; however, Christ Church had not turned up to be embarrassed. The Falcons seemed to take the foot off the pedal and got slightly complacent in the second half. A slip in concentration allowed Christ Church to cap off a successful drive with a touchdown which was converted. Although the Falcons had allowed Christ Church some possession, they still dominated proceedings, Stuart Halling playing well on both sides of the ball, getting both his first catch and first interception of the season in his final game for the Falcons.

The Falcons had become flat; however a safety from the defence lifted spirits, before A-Jay Crabbe finished off the scoring toward

**continued on page 22**

