

Platform

Nottingham Trent Student Union Magazine

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Hey Scenesters!

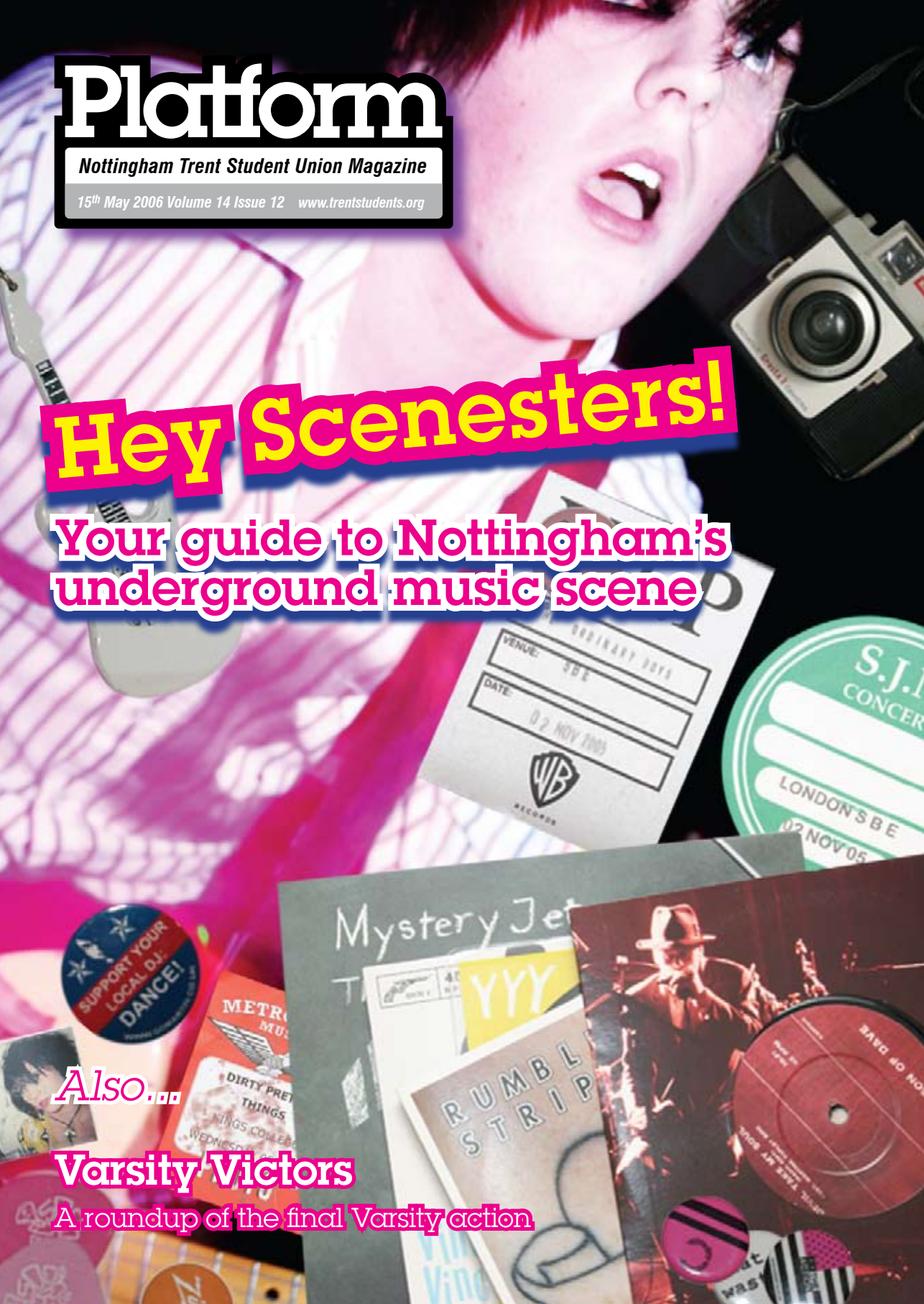
Your guide to Nottingham's underground music scene



Also...

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Cover image: Davinia Rose

Editorial



Hello and welcome to another issue of Platform. The sun has gloriously been out and treated us these past few weeks, so why not pick up a copy, go down to the park, and have a read in the sun while munching on an ice cream!?

In this fortnight's edition, we have a news feature on the UN's World Food Programme, and also on the Thai New Year. The Bubble is full of articles informing you of how you can get involved in union volunteering opportunities, along with a run-down of Junction's AGM, an article on what it's like to be a part of Stride, and a write-up on the RAG London Loot Raid.

Nottingham's up and coming bands are showcased in our Music section, along with our usual album reviews. 'Confetti' and 'When a Stranger Calls' are on review in our Film section, along with an article on the ninth British Silent Film Festival. As Little Britain has been in town this past week, we saw give a mention of it in our Arts section, along with other reviews from the world of theatre and literature.

If you were worried about what to bin and what to keep in your wardrobe for the summer, our Fashion section will help you along by telling you what's hot and what's not. Our Reflections pages offer a write-up on the Uni's Counselling Service's workshops, and in our Health section there is a much-needed article on how to deal with those post-exam hangovers. And finally, in Sport we have a Varsity Ice Hockey write-up, and also a look at one of the strange sports around at the minute.

As you can see, we have another fantastic edition for you this fortnight, and, like always, if you want to get involved then do not hesitate to contact me on 0115 848 6280, or via email at platform@su.ntu.ac.uk. Alternatively, you could just pop into the City site in Byron House, and you will find me situated in the Executive offices on the first floor.

Well, all that's left to say is, happy reading and good luck with your exams.

Karl Kennedy and his band
The Waiting Room - Byron
House @ 9pm - Tickets £6

Open Mic in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- FREE

Junction: Volunteer Celebration
Evening, Nottingham
Cricket Ground.

Campus Pre Bar in Glo Bar
@ 9pm - Free entry

DV8 Pre Bar in Glo Bar @
9pm - FREE (£1 drinks offer)

Flirt! in The Point @ 9pm (£3
ADV / Door)

New Sports and Societies Com-
mittees Training Day

Climax @ 9pm (FREE B4
10pm / £3 B4 11pm / £4 B4
12am / £5 12am - 12.30am)

Kinki Karribbean Pre-Bar in
Glo Bar @ 9pm - Pre Bar
FREE / Club Night £2.50

Open Mic in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- FREE

Junction: AGM, 5.00pm.

Campus Pre Bar in Glo Bar
@ 9pm - Free entry

DV8 Pre Bar in Glo Bar @
9pm - FREE (£1 drinks offer)

Flirt! in The Point @ 9pm (£3
ADV / Door)

Quiz in Glo Bar @ 9pm (£1 per
person / FREE FOOD)

Climax @ 9pm (FREE B4 10pm / £3
B4 11pm / £4 B4 12am / £5 12am
- 12.30am)

Open Mic in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- FREE

Open Mic in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- FREE

Campus Pre Bar in Glo Bar
@ 9pm - Free entry

DV8 Pre Bar in Glo Bar @
9pm - FREE (£1 drinks offer)

Flirt! in The Point @ 9pm (£3
ADV / Door)

Quiz in Glo Bar @ 9pm (£1 per
person / FREE FOOD)

Climax @ 9pm (FREE B4 10pm / £3
B4 11pm / £4 B4 12am / £5 12am
- 12.30am)

Giggle in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- £3 Adv

Open Mic in Glo Bar @ 9pm
- FREE

Campus Pre Bar in Glo Bar
@ 9pm - Free entry

DV8 Pre Bar in Glo Bar @
9pm - FREE (£1 drinks offer)

Flirt! in The Point @ 9pm (£3
ADV / Door)

Quiz in Glo Bar @ 9pm (£1 per
person / FREE FOOD)

Climax @ 9pm (FREE B4 10pm / £3
B4 11pm / £4 B4 12am / £5 12am
- 12.30am)

Assault Rock Night in Glo Bar @
9.30 - £2 B4 11pm / £3 after

Quiz in Glo Bar @ 9pm (£1 per
person / FREE FOOD)



Wish upon a star...

When I was a kid, there were many things unappealing to me on my plate of food. I used to wait 'til everybody left the table and then chuck them in the bin, making sure it was well disguised so that nobody would find out. If my parents ever caught my attempt at escaping from the not-so-tasty arrays of vegetables made for lunch, they would begin the story of how every tiny amount of food I wasted could feed at least a dozen children. Something which I didn't want to hear then, but have to take notice of now, ever since the problem of food being unavailable has led to a million children dying around the world every single day.

Among some of the programs set up to help third world countries over their food issue, the United Nations have started the World Food Program Aid, in order to help the large proportion of hungry people in the world, which has currently topped their list of most recurrent and disturbing problems. Images depicting the life of these people have been splashed across TV and newspapers for a long time: mothers who've been unable to breastfeed their babies due to lack of milk, children so painfully thin even a light breeze was capable of breaking their brittle bones, men who age much faster than their original years... heartbreakingly painful and unstoppable. According to the website statistics, these victims must live on less than the required 2,100 calories needed to lead a healthy life. The body accommodates for this lack of energy by slowing down the mental and physical process, therefore leaving the victim too weak to concentrate; children become too fragile and lose their desire to play and study. Hunger not only weighs heavily

on the victims, but also imposes a huge economic burden on the developing world.

I guess the question which is commonly asked here is: where does all the food produce go? Especially now, when we have enough food technically to feed the entire global population of 6.4 billion people. The main players being the ever increasing natural calamities like earthquakes, tsunami, droughts and floods, which increases the danger of less food security in developing countries. Wars also contribute to this problem. From Asia to Africa to Latin America, fighting displaces millions of people from their homes, leading to some of the world's worst hunger emergencies. In wars, food becomes a weapon. Soldiers starve their opponents into obeying them by seizing and destroying food and livestock and systematically wrecking local markets. Fields and water wells are often contaminated, forcing farmers to abandon their land. The poverty stricken people don't have enough money to be able to afford enough food for themselves or their families. This renders them weaker and leads to their ultimate death. While we ponder over the size of our new apartment and the escalating rent these people live like sardines in a tin can, often large families squeezing themselves into a shack as small as your broom cupboard. Many of these homes have members who suffer from unfathomable diseases, HIV/AIDS victims who need more than the usual food intake and babies who invariably becomes so thin you can literally count their bones. An estimated 167 million children under the age of five in the world are underweight. That means

20% of the hunger population comprises of small children.

World Food Program Aid is a lengthy painstaking procedure of dedicated people, who find out the amount of food required by each nation, they raise funds from beneficiaries and normal people like us and then go about shipping almost 50,000 tones or more of grain, cans of cooking oil and tinned food; every day, the agency has 40 ships on the high seas, frequently rerouting vessels to get food fast to crisis zones. In extreme environments, WFP also uses the skies to reach the hungry, airlifting or airdropping food directly into disaster zones. Trucks usually make the final link in WFP's food chain - transporting food aid along the rough roads that lead to the hungry. Where roads are impassable or simply nonexistent, WFP relies on less conventional forms of transport: donkeys in the Andes, speedboats in the Mozambique floods, camels in Sudan, and elephants in Nepal.

There are a lot of ways in which we can help them in achieving their goal in reducing poverty and improving the quantity and quality of food. Donations can be made, and volunteers would be well appreciated. In the end it's the thought that counts, so maybe the next time you throw away a half eaten burger or find that the contents of your fridge contain food well past their expiry date, you might reconsider your options. For those of you who want to make a difference, why not check out their website? It's www.wfp.org/english.

Pooja Menon

Sub-Ed. - Following up last issue's Travellers Tips, I received a first hand account of New Year in Thailand. The Thai calendar begins on April the 13th and instead of an all night party the locals spread their celebrations over a 3 day festival called Songkran. The most obvious feature of this much loved occasion is the throwing of water. People gather in the streets armed with bowls, hoses and water pistols ready to drench anyone and everyone. While the festivities are anything but malicious, things can often get out of hand as Jake Tupman and his friend Martin Walsh found out.

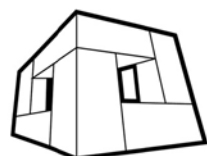
On the 13th, the new year started and the entire country turned into one major water fight. It was crazy! You'd walk out the door at about 10 o'clock and immediately have a bucket of water poured over your head and a shot of whisky poured down your neck. From there you don't look back and the day continues with masses of people having a crazy time. There are bars where you dance, bars where you watch other people dance, and bars where wet, scantily dressed, beautiful women try to rip all your clothes off. It was absolutely brilliant.

Or so the first 2 days were, at any case. The third day was a little stranger. It started off as the first two with bucket and shot of whiskey but then the skies opened and it absolutely poured down. It was cool for a bit but then the whole festival took a sinister turn. I saw Martin running past me so I looked back and saw what appeared to be a young guy trapped under a bus. A load of other guys seemed to be trying to get him into the back of their pick-up and I assumed they were his friends trying to help him. But actually he hadn't been hit by the bus - moments earlier he had been jumped by the guys in the pick-up and they had been stamping on his head. They were trying to get him into the truck to continue the job.

Luckily he didn't seem too badly hurt, and we left him, dazed and confused and needing several stitches. From that moment on, Korat turned into anarchy; in the centre of town there were people chucking bottles and group fights. It was crazy. We escaped and partied at the bar down the road for the remainder of the day.

Although the last day was carnage, I can't let that take the shine off what had been two off the best days of my life. Anyone who has nothing to do next April should definitely, definitely come to Thailand.

Jake Tupman



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JUNCTION VOLUNTEERING AGM 2006!

Interested in having a say in the volunteering activities at your uni? Junction, the current student volunteering sector of Trent, are holding their AGM on Wednesday 24th of May at 5pm in Byron Lecture Theatre. This is your chance to take the first step and become part of next year's committee. This AGM will discuss a change of name for Junction, allocation of committee positions for next year and much more. It's important to organise this in advance so next year we can make volunteering bigger and better at Trent!

This year we have successfully held a Halloween party for young carers; taken the elderly to Lincoln Market; painted and refurbished a supplementary school in the Meadows; farmed and housed a donkey; and are currently planning a sports day for young children! We also attended the National Student Volunteering Conference and came FIRST in the fancy-dress competition! As a committee member this year I have had great fun whilst also putting something back into Nottingham's community.

We would really like your input and there are lots of different positions to be filled. This is a great opportunity to get involved and be part of your uni's achievements as well as adding it to your own C.V. (it looks very impressive!) If this appeals to you don't miss out, come and have your say. **Bring your friends and your new ideas to Junction's AGM 2006!**

Kelly Silk
Committee Member



RAG - London Loot



A good time was had by all at this year's premier RAG raid on London. Representatives from universities throughout the country met at the generator hostel, St Pancras on Tuesday 11th of April, for two days of fundraising in aid of the Meningitis Research Foundation.

There were a few heavy heads present at 6.00am on the first morning to collect permits for the coming day, and after a short underground journey to Waterloo Station the fundraising began. The London commuters were very generous and at the end of the first day the 63 strong collecting team had raised £22,000,

with a personal contribution of £311. A great start with hope that there was still some money left for day two.

With only 90 minutes sleep and another 6.00am start a 5 shot large latte was required at Liverpool Street Station to get day two started. After such a successful day previously, expectations were high and the RAG faithful didn't disappoint. A last minute whip round at the bar was required to reach a milestone figure and when all the notes and coins had been added together, the final total for the two days was announced as a fantastic £41,000, with an individual total reaching £551, not bad for a first raid.

With the collecting over, the restless RAG team could finally celebrate with a well deserved drink at the bar; this carried on 'til the small hours of the morning, with the entertainment supplied in the form of a karaoke.

A drizzly start to Friday morning didn't dampen spirits and all that remained was the traditional Good Friday conga across the Millennium Bridge from South Bank to St Paul's. Following this, there were a lot of goodbyes as the party dispersed their separate ways home with the promise of meeting again soon.

Dale Wiltshire

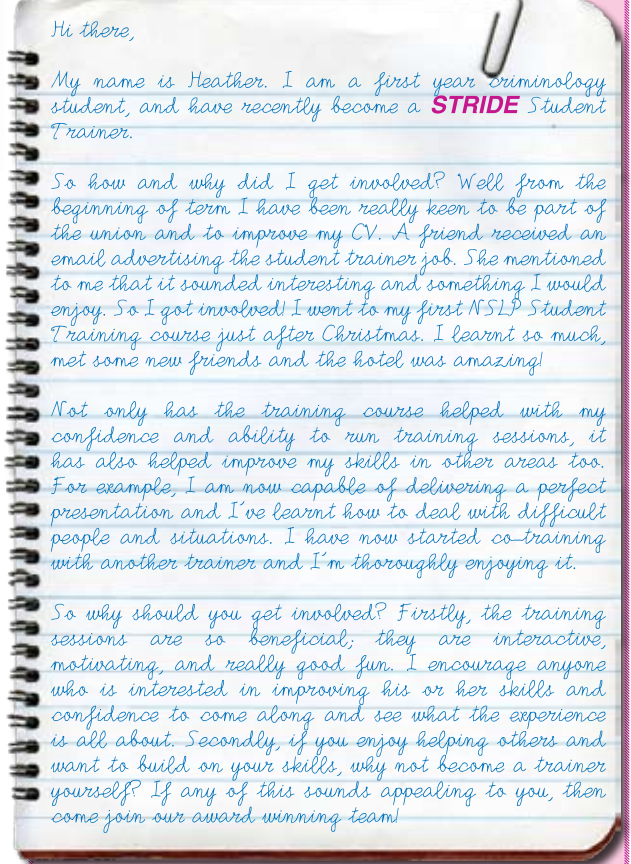


Left to right: Lonia and Heather



Come and join our award winning team!

Stride recently won the National Student Learning Programme 'Team of the Year' award 2006! We are looking for new members to join us for next academic year. So what will it be like? We asked one of our team to explain!



Platform Wants You!

Platform are looking for talented journalists to become Sub Editors next year.

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Hey Scenesters!



It is widely acknowledged that the term 'underground music scene' was invented by local musicians and promoters living in denial. Such was their fear of outsiders (or for that matter, insiders) realising that there was in fact *nothing* going on in their particular town, they boldly declared that in fact *everything* was going on, it was just that we didn't know about it. Hence, it is with great apprehension that I utter those very words... Nottingham has a very healthy underground music scene. Admittedly the term is also doublespeak for "a collective of not very commercially successful bands", but perhaps that is all still to come for Nottingham's current crop.

FOUR BANDS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

Computerman

Amongst a plethora of post-rock bands, Computerman are something of an anomaly. Their rousing blend of indie-synth-pop has seen them taken under the wing of the uber cool Must Destroy record label, which can vouch for releases by The Darkness, Brian Wilson and Robert Pollard. With an everlasting arsenal of anthemic choruses, they are Nottingham's bright hope for chart success, and have second single 'All Runways' waiting in the wings. [www.computermanmusic.com]

(continued overleaf)

(continued from overleaf)

Amusement Parks On Fire

Arguably the jewel in the crown, APOF's self-titled debut album is something of a hidden treasure. It was written and performed in its entirety by sole founding member Mike Feerick in between his 16th and 20th birthdays, but shows song-writing maturity that defies those tender years. My Bloody Valentine's influence on Feerick is apparent on listening to their records, as this is expansive prog with the very same delicate touches. Two years and one record deal with V2 later, the line up has expanded to a four piece, and the follow up – 'Out of the Angeles' – will be released in June. [www.amusementparksonfire.com]

Punish The Atom

Injecting a bit of bite into the scene are Punish The Atom. Lauded by the likes of NME and Kerrang, they boast to have graced the same stage as The Futureheads, Franz Ferdinand, Lady Sovereign and The Rapture. The brutal post-punk feel of their debut album 'Let's Do The Don't Care' (released in 2003) is a barrier to their commercial success, but performances at the highly respected SXSW festival in Texas prove they are well received within the industry. [www.myspace.com/punishtheatom]

From The Shards Of Comets!

Although slightly behind the rest in terms of releases, From The Shards Of Comets! are a hot tip for the future. Their post-rock live set - full of haunting melodies, crescendos, and thunderous climaxes - has captivated audiences throughout the East Midlands, and with a record deal with Collateral Music in the bag, an album is in the pipeline. [www.cometsmusic.co.uk]

Other names to look out for: **We Show Up On Radar, Love Ends Disaster!, You Slut, Clarky Cat, Hellset Orchestra.**

TO FIND OUT MORE

Nottingham's music scene is encapsulated in two very good (and very free) fanzines - **Left Lion** and **Sandman**. The former, named after the common meeting place in the Market Square, is an eclectic guide designed to "celebrate the rich culture of Nottingham". The latter is still in its infancy stage, but has recently merged with its Northern editions to create one super-fanzine. Sandman usually has plenty of in-depth articles on local talent and reviews plenty of gigs and records the mainstream magazines won't touch.

Luke Eldridge

The Streets

@ Rock City - 3/5/06



If you've heard the over-sentimental pop song new single 'Never Went To Church', you might be forgiven for thinking that the dubbed King of Grime Mike Skinner has mellowed out somewhat. His early tours were described as being the most laddish and raucous gigs since The Beastie Boys' first UK tour, but with Skinner approaching 30 it is hard to imagine this tour being like that. He probably has chilled out a lot since his first album, but the wimpy Skinner you see in his new video is not who you see on stage tonight. After the opening song 'Prangin' Out', he goes straight to the front row to clarify which of the girls are single, and carries on chatting them up right through the next song 'Don't Mug Yourself'. Lairy is a pretty good description of his stage performance, ranting and raving during every second that he isn't shouting the words to the songs, and walking/jumping over every single inch of the stage. His backing

singer Leo the Lion covers a version of the recent Pussycat Dolls number 1; changing the words to "Don't you wish your boyfriend licked..." (you can imagine the rest!), which prompts mass screaming amongst the female fans. The rest of the set is heavily dominated with songs from The Streets' brilliant boundary pushing debut album, with a dance version of 'Weak Becomes Heroes' getting Mike Skinner jumping up and down like a kid on a bouncy castle. They finish the set with 'Dry Your Eyes', during which Skinner (hilariously inappropriately to the tone of the song) persuades a girl to flash him and the crowd. Then they come back on and play 'Fit But You Know It', after which Skinner dives into the crowd, eschewing a mad scramble of people (including myself) trying to wrench off his shoes to take home as a souvenir for a night to remember.

Phil Bond

Album Review

**The Futureheads
'News and Tributes'
(679 Records)**

Finally, the long awaited second album from Mackem art rockers The Futureheads has arrived. With the overwhelming success of their self titled debut behind them, one could be forgiven for suggesting that perhaps the band would approach 'News and Tributes' with a similar sense of ferocity, haste and disregard for convention. This isn't quite the case.

Opener 'Yes/No' more than cements the theme of the album. Under produced and much rawer than almost anything The Futureheads have previously recorded, it's only the shared vocal chants of "YES...NO" that remind us of days gone by. As the album progresses however, it's clear that the band we fell in love with are still very much at the heart of this new sound. Their art punk origins and knack for melody are more than prevalent in the pop-propelled 'Skip To The End', but there's a much greater sense of sincerity and depth to their music this time around, lead

singer Barry Hyde proclaiming that "nothing lasts forever and nothing is free, please remember to let me die gently" during the reflective 'Burnt'.



It's perfectly clear that the band have matured musically since the release of their debut, settling down and diversifying their sound over broader horizons. As an album, 'News And Tributes' doesn't pack the same immediate punch of 'The Futureheads', but the eclectic mix of tracks should provide a challenging, more rewarding listen for both hardened and new fans alike.

Adam Pollard

Album Review

**The Raconteurs
'Broken Boy Soldiers'
(XL Recordings)**

Those of you to have been enticed by the forbidden may be able to sympathise with Jack White. His relationship with The White Stripes dates back to 1997, but 2006 was the year he realised perhaps the grass might be greener elsewhere. Shackled by all things red and white, he has strayed from his faithful Meg to sample the life of co-song writing, multi-instruments and collective minds that has for so long lured him.

Together with fellow infidels Brendan Benson, Jack Lawrence and Patrick Keeler, White has realised his true destiny, formed The Raconteurs, and written a glorious ensemble of traditional American rock songs. Their style is so devoid of fashion's common influence on music that 'Broken Boy Soldiers' could be a record from anytime in the last 30 years, and should certainly be branded with the 'classic debut album' iron.

The 90s garage rock of first single 'Steady, As She Goes' (which gives an early indication that White's voice is infinitely stronger with Benson to complement him) is a good clue for the rest of the record. On first listen the influence of Ryan Adams, Donovan and Pink Floyd appear sporadically, but broadly speaking 'Broken Boy Soldiers' is just retro rock done simply and done well.



Jack White was right to stray, as infidelity brings out the best in him.

Luke Eldridge

Album Review



**Hot Chip
'The Warning'
(EMI)**

Computers do not write music.

Computers do not spend days and days in their bedrooms finding a perfect chord progression, brood over lyrics to fit, or suffer the embarrassment of singing their inner most romantic thoughts to fellow band mates for the first time. They manufacture a sound to which they (obviously) have no emotional attachment. If Morrissey were to revisit his 1985 quote, "reggae is vile", he may now be inclined to also include electronica in it.

'The Warning' - the second full-length record from Hot Chip - is a real jumble of sound. Hefty electro bass lines, club beats, synths and samples are blended together in a way that is chaotic at times, yet enigmatically bound by the precision of computers. Luckily, the London five-piece recognise the need for a smidgen of melody, and these electronic elements are gracefully decorated with twinkling bells and strings.

What really saves 'The Warning' from the inescapable pool of lifeless electronica is the soulful voice of lead singer Alexis Taylor. One would have assumed his fragile voice to be incompatible with such music, but at times the contrast is beautiful. Eager not to dwell on such emotions for too long, the playful spirit of Hot Chip is still present. From pleading, "look after me and I'll look after you" in 'Look After Me', the title track that follows it declares "Hot Chip will break your legs, snap off your head". Perhaps he isn't that soulful after all...

Luke Eldridge

Album Review

Howling Bells

'Howling Bells'
(Bella Union)

For a band hailing from one of the sunniest places on the planet, the Howling Bells' self-titled debut album is surprisingly dark. The four-piece deserted their native Australia in favour of the cosmopolitan life in our very own capital city, and perhaps a slice of fame and fortune. Whether these 12 tracks will grant them that is another matter.

Musically, Howling Bells are purveyors of the gothic rock scene that PJ Harvey has claimed as her own. The threads of blues and country are woven into the record, and Juanita Stein's voice convincingly skips from a stony snarl to a delicate whisper in an instant. Her vocal at the beginning of 'The Night Is Young' being

enough to make any gothic rocker well up.

The Duke Spirit tried to follow a similar path with their debut album, and 'Howling Bells' is a cut above their effort, but it still has a tendency to sound flat in places. On one listen it is a growling beast, on another it is a lame duck. They do not fully convince in either... but perhaps that is the point.

Luke Eldridge



Yes folks, even more Album Reviews!



From left: The Spinto Band: The Longcut; Men, Women & Children; Zero 7; PJ Harvey

Spinto Band – 'Nice and Nicely Done' [EMI]

A superb debut album, with American alternative at its melodic, twee, and jaunty best. Cut from the same cloth as Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, expect rave reviews from festivals this summer.

The Longcut – 'A Call and Response' [Deltasonic]

The bridges between dance and indie are far from burnt; The Longcut's debut has the beats and tempo normally found in Stealth, and the air of indie despair found in Rescue Rooms. A cult classic.

Men, Women & Children – 'Men, Women & Children' [Reprise Records]

The poor man's Scissor Sisters. Camp-disco needs to be played with conviction, but Glassjaw guitarist Todd Weinstock's side project lacks the substance for mainstream success.

Zero 7 – 'The Garden' [Atlantic]

A broadening of horizons musically for the band, with Jose Gonzalez on board as guest vocalist this time around. 'The Garden' is screaming out to be someone's film soundtrack.

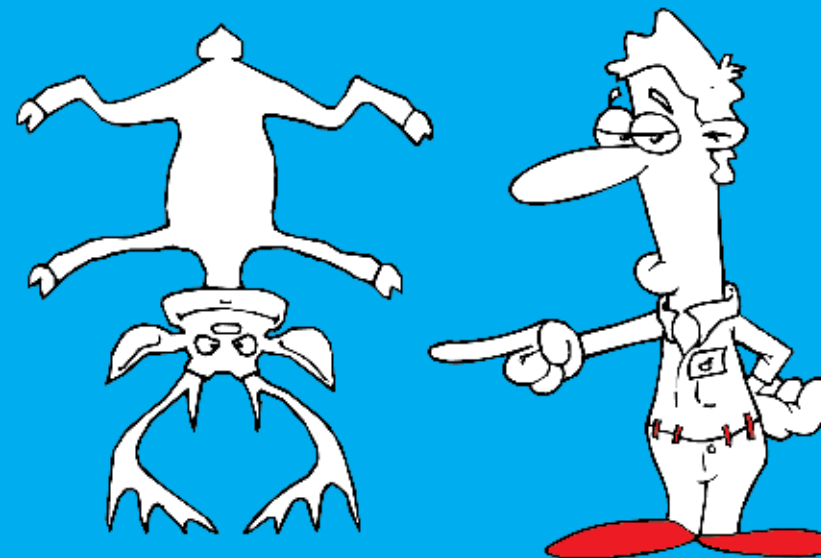
PJ Harvey – 'On Tour: Please Leave Quietly' DVD [Island]

A very personal view of PJ Harvey's 'Uh-Huh-Her' tour, with material spanning her entire career. Perfectly encapsulates the rare, and at times lonesome singer-songwriter, who never receives the credit she deserves.

Luke Eldridge



Our houses aren't that deer...



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Upcoming Releases

Out Now – Mission Impossible III, The Magician, **Three**, Confetti, Black Sun



Out May 12th – Prime, When a Stranger Calls, Brick, **Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price**, Quo Vadis, Baby?



Confetti

Director: Debbie Isitt

Confetti is a British comedy that takes an entertaining look at the run-up to the nuptials of three different couples, all vying to win a rather nice house in a competition which is looking for the most unusual wedding. Sam (Jessica Stevenson) and Matt (Martin Freeman) are easily the most likable couple, who opt for a musical wedding, whereas their competitors go for a naturist and tennis-themed wedding, respectively. Of the other couples, Stephen Mangan (Guy from Green Wing) as well as Justin Webb and Olivia Coleman (Jez and Sophie from Peep Show!!) stand out.



This film was entirely improvised – no script – which just illustrates what great comic actors can do with little material when given the chance; it's hilarious. It is shot in a mockumentary style which could probably have easily become annoying but just feels fresh and interesting. This film is a must-see, especially for fans of Green Wing, Peep Show, Spaced and The Office - very funny.

Katie Davies

When a Stranger Calls

Director: Simon West



My misspent youth was largely devoted to consuming a wide range of horror movies, from the classic - I'm particularly fond of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* - to the terrible - the *Elm Street* and *Friday the 13th* sequels come to mind - so I was looking forward to seeing this film. The genre of horror movies that *When a Stranger Calls* belongs to is that based on the urban legend (or suburban, in this case). Teenager Jill's (Camilla

Belle) parents punish her for spending too much time talking on her mobile by forcing her to baby-sit (when she, like, totally wanted to go to a party) at an incredibly creepy house in the middle of nowhere with a persistent prank caller, that quickly develops into a 'the call is coming from inside the house!!!' type of situation for poor Jill.

When a Stranger Calls is a remake of a 1979 film that starred Carol Kane. It's also a serious contender for the worst film I've seen in my life! Most of the cast are unknowns and really cannot act. I would argue that Camilla Belle does show some promise, especially going by her earlier work in films like *The Ballad of Jack and Rose*, although she doesn't excel here. This could be attributed to the awful direction by Simon West, who previously brought us *Tomb Raider* and *Con Air*. Thanks, Simon! The film as a whole is dull, clichéd, and predictable. You would have to be seriously easily startled to get anything like a scare from this.

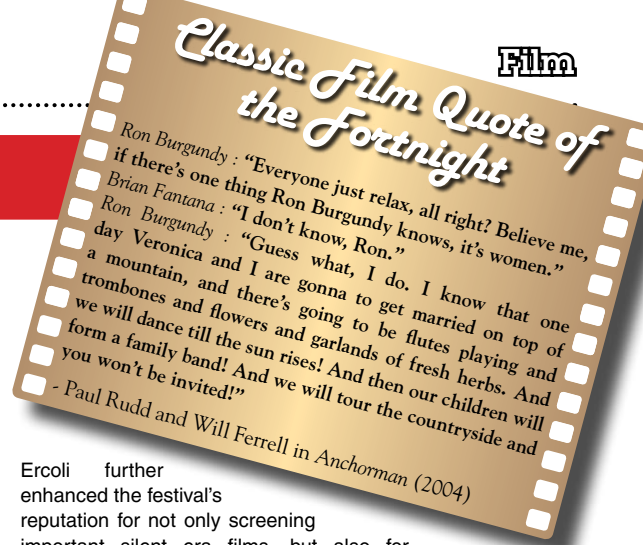
Kerry Edwards

Review: 9th British Silent Film Festival @ Broadway Cinema

The Broadway Cinema, in the heart of Nottingham's city centre, has long been recognised as the place to go to for diverse and international screenings. With a monthly programme that covers film classics and rarities, boundary pushing experimental productions, and the best of world cinema, patrons of the Broadway have come to expect something special from their local cinema. The film festival (6th – 9th April) provided cinephiles with a four day celebration of a period of cinema that has long been derided, forgotten and discarded. Now in its ninth year, the British Silent Film Festival has become one of the highlights on the Broadway's calendar, attracting fans of the silent era, film academics and archivists alike. In partnership with the bfi and EM Media (the regional screen agency for the East Midlands), the Broadway has developed the festival into a pilgrimage for the devotees of silent cinema, those who appreciate film as it was in its formative years.

As one of several silent film festivals that take place across Europe, the British Silent Film Festival tends to theme itself on a general subject area that represents the festival as a whole. This year's four day event was entitled 'Channel Crossings: Anglo-European Film Relations Before 1930' and had a wide array of screenings that had a distinct trans-European flavour. There seemed to be a real sense of community amongst those who attended the festival. Most of those I spoke to had attended the festival for many years and had travelled to other similar themed events in Italy and France. A number of guest speakers had been invited to introduce films or present a paper on a specific area of

silent film that they felt deserved recognition or re-evaluation. Some of the highlights included Bryony Dixon's presentation of the Abbe Joye collection which is housed at the NFTVA, a selection of short actualities from Iceland, Germany and the UK amongst others. Footage of snail farming, sea fishing and a canal funeral from the early 1900's offered a fascinating insight into a world that is unfamiliar and alien to us today. William Fowler's talk on primitive and savage cinema from the silent era and beyond offered an alternative insight into what the cinematic forefathers were interested in beyond actualities. Friday's panel session with respected film studies academic Ian Christie, Jonathan Burrows and Pierluigi



Ercoli further enhanced the festival's reputation for not only screening important silent era films, but also for stimulating debate with the film studies community on the often overlooked British contribution to cinema's beginnings.

Screenings of rarities tend to mark the British Silent Film Festival with a sense of significance, and this year was no different. A special screening of Alfred Hitchcock's *Downhill* (1927) proved to be popular as did Adrian Brunel's version of *The Constant Nymph* (1928), starring the legendary Ivor Novello. The last remaining print of *Flames of Passion* (1922) found its way to Nottingham for a screening, as did *Daughter of the Regiment* (1928), a newly discovered Betty Balfour film from Germany. Festival attendees were treated to a plethora of silent film classics and rarities over the four days, all accompanied with insightful presentations and wonderful musical accompaniment from a live pianist and violin player. It seems the organisers went all out to gather together a host of experts and enthusiasts to provide a sense of cultural importance to the, quite frankly, vast amount of screenings over the event's four days.

The highlight of this year's festival was the preview screening of a documentary that is due to be screened on the BBC in late April or early May. 'Silent Britain', directed by David Thompson, attempts to offer an alternative analysis of the importance of British silent film in response to the derogatory comments the films have suffered from at the hands of critics for many years. The director was present at the Broadway to introduce the documentary, which was superbly written, and humorously presented by Matthew Sweet. I recommend that you all keep your eyes on the TV schedule for this one; if you enjoyed the Mitchell and Kenyon revival that has blitzed our screens recently then you'll be sure to revel in Sweet's profound and comical look into the origins of British cinema, its directors, stars, and films of significance.

After successfully ending its ninth festival, it is hoped that the Broadway will continue to receive the funding necessary to keep this individual and culturally specific film festival going for many years to come. The opportunity to enjoy these films with traditional musical accompaniment has become a rarity itself. With the audience figures and interest increasing as each year goes by, the continued support and success of this event must be a priority for the relevant organising and funding bodies.

Daniel Laverick

Book Review

'Beautiful Stranger - A Memoir of an Obsession with Perfection'

by Hope Donahue

The blurb reads: "Hope Donahue seemed to have it all: beauty, wealth and social status. A 5'8 LA blonde, she attended the best private schools and debutante balls". It sounds like the kind of lifestyle one can only dream of, one that couldn't possibly bring any form of unhappiness. But as we all know, when a setting suggests such perfection, it's only a matter of time before the cracks begin to show, revealing the truth.

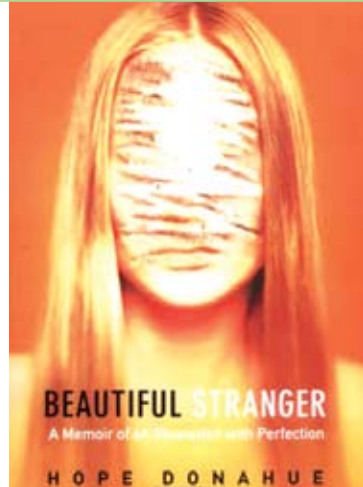
I approached *Beautiful Stranger* as someone not opposed to cosmetic surgery, but obviously aware of its risks, complications and undesirable results that can occur (Jackie Stallone, anyone?) It's safe to assume that at some point most of us have toyed with the idea of what it would be like to alter our appearance. For Hope Donahue, who has been told her whole life that she is beautiful, plastic surgery has become an out-of-control obsession. And it's this bizarre irony that keeps you interested for 28 chapters.

From her very first procedure to the last, the reader follows Hope on her quest for physical perfection. A bump on her lower lip is the first thing that she is desperate

to fix once and for all; however, we soon learn that the surgeon that carries out this procedure plays an integral part in Hope's addiction to plastic surgery. Yes, Hope is addicted and obsessed with plastic surgery, but her honest admissions of her feelings towards Dr. S suggest that some of the obsession may be based on an infatuation with him. For Hope, there is no such concept as 'once and for all,' and so it's her continued dissatisfaction that causes a path of self-destruction and depreciation in the years that follow.

Hope chronicles the cycle of events that lead her to each and every appointment with a plastic surgeon. Procedures including a 'mini-lift' to change the shape of the eyes, allowing them to appear more exotic; cheek implants, breast implants and lip fillers. The reader learns so much about the emotional problems in her life and where they originated. Problems that, in turn, caused a crippling level of social anxiety in her teens and throughout her twenties, and also the inability to form meaningful friendships and relationships.

Beautiful Stranger has all the makings of

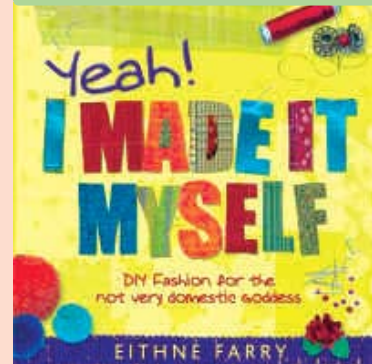


a fascinating story; it isn't a self-indulgent account of plastic surgery, nor is it meant to make you feel sorry for the person. It's more about mental and psychological illnesses like body dysmorphic disorders and obsessive compulsive behaviour that prevent people from leading normal lives.

Like all good books, this one does have a moral. The moral is that trying to reach physical perfection from plastic surgery is a dangerous and unrealistic dream.

Shari Knowles

Book Review



'Yeah! I Made it Myself: DIY Fashion for the not very domestic goddess'

by Eithne Farry

It's amazing what you can do with a bit of time and effort; so if you have ever fancied making your own clothes, then have I got the book for you!

Eithne Farry, a one time backing singer and tambourinist, has found a new vocation in life...creating an individual look on a budget.

Reading the press release for this book, I was a little unsure just how this book would turn out. In my mind it could have gone one of two ways. It could be a really bizarre account of step-by-step guides to creating specific items that you just don't want, or it could take on the whole sixties patchouli wearing hippy approach. I was completely wrong.

Yeah! I Made it Myself is actually a

practical and useful guide for those of us who are not acquainted with the good old needle and thread. Take your pick from skirts, dresses, accessories, or the traditional knitted scarves... yes, you too can knit!

The best example I can give you is the dress that only cost £2.50! Now, I like a bargain myself, but I don't have the time or ability to do this. However, the information is all at the tips of your fingers in this book. I'll let you into a little secret: it was made from a pair of caravan curtains in Margate!

So, I expect to see a lot of 'individual looks' floating around uni from now on. Who needs Topshop?!

Laura Johnstone

Theatre Review

Little Britain

@ Nottingham Arena

This is a subject close to my heart as an avid fan of Little Britain. After trying but failing many times to get my hands on tickets for the live show, I thought I'd missed out. However, just like E4 on a Sunday, there is a second chance!

The Nottingham Arena has got some amazing acts lined up over the next few months and Little Britain is one of them. All of your favourite characters, from Lou and Andy to Vicki Pollard, will be there - and, of course, my particular favourites, Sebastian and the Prime Minister.

So, check out the website and try your luck again. I am sure that this is the first of many return visits to Nottingham for the talented duo, so don't get too upset if you don't manage to get there this time. Just keep on checking the line-up.



Can I also take this opportunity to say that if you are one of the people who bought tickets last time in bulk and then sold them on Ebay for £120... I'm annoyed!!! It's not big, it's not clever, and I'm not laughing!

Laura Johnstone

Theatre Review

Arms and the Cow

by Kurt Weill

@ Theatre Royal

Arms and the Cow, an operetta written in 1934 by Kurt Weill, is the third in a string of operas performed by Opera North in their current tour of the country. Originally an anti-war, anti-capitalist satire penned under a Nazi Germany, *Arms and the Cow* has been translated into English and brought elegantly into the 21st century. Indeed, when asked to review a show which is been played up against both *The Marriage of Figaro* and *La rondine*, initially I couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. Indeed, both the former and the latter are not only full blown operas, but also carry a certain degree of pedigree. Who hasn't been or at least heard of *La rondine*, or spontaneously burst out into "Figaro!"? However, not for the first time my often cynical suspicions were ill-formed, as *Arms and the Cow* (whilst a rather arse-numbing two hours and forty minutes) was, on the whole, good bang for your buck.

The show, consisting of two intertwining plot threads - one revolving around the corrupt dealings of the Santa Maria government and the other about a young man's quest to marry - while at times falls from operatic perfection due to a couple of bland musical numbers, definitely entertains. The political nuances of both arms dealing and corruption are vividly painted and provide the bulk of the comedy; the musical numbers that don't fall into operatic obscurity are well delivered by the ensemble cast, and the updating of the script is well managed... WMD anyone? Further, I found the serious overarching message the show delivered, that of the pointlessness of war, to be interjected into the plot at well chosen and often



moving moments.

On Opera North's website *Arms and the Cow* is described as a 'satirical operetta' that embodies 'raunchy humour' with 'Caribbean-feel' musical numbers; the show delivers this and does so with a large dose of topical political satire. If you are new to the whole opera scene, go see this... just make sure you're in it for the long haul, as the content is not always as bright as its weather.

Rob Jones

Event Review

Lilyo Fashion Show

@ Rare Bar, Barker Gate
27th April 2006

By the time we arrived at Rare Bar, a bustling crowd had already gathered. They were happily feasting on free wine and canapés, and there seemed to be a mysterious cluster of people in the middle of the room - where I later learned the huge chocolate fountain was sat, pleading for its life!

While we waited for the show to start, we wandered over to the stall that had on display the star of the show, the Lilyo jewellery. There was a beautiful array, which the people with the most common sense among us were already snapping up.

Former Trent student Lily Castle, who designs and creates the fresh-water pearl jewellery, started the label Lilyo. What makes it so special is that each piece is individually made and unique from the rest, with any one piece never being seen again. Perhaps the most amazing thing though is the price tags. Where you would normally expect to shell out a lot of money for something of this high quality, these prices rival the high street.

Alongside the jewellery, a selection of brand name clothes such as Boxfresh and Reiss were to make appearances in the show and all were available for purchase afterwards.



The show consisted of a mixture of casual and eveningwear, and each model wore a piece of Lilyo jewellery that perfectly complimented their outfits. There were also two scouts from Storm model management present, on the lookout for potential new talent. After the show I managed to catch a word with Lily who was busy selling at her stall: "This evening went really well, the fashion show flowed nicely, the models looked great, and there was a good turn out. It's hard to tell what my best sellers are because all my items are one off pieces but there have been a lot of white and turquoise pearls sold tonight. This was my first fashion show, I normally just do an evening with Lilyo jewellery but I will hopefully be doing this again."

To check out the full range of Lilyo jewellery available for yourself visit the website at www.lilyo.com.

Words: Sally Torode
Photos: Holly Wade

Listen Up!

www.source-collective.co.uk is an up-and-coming fashion store that plays host to a range of fashion, accessories and gifts created by new designers. The website is dedicated to promoting the work of new designers in various fields and showcases unique pieces available at high-street prices.

The owners, mother and daughter combo Claire and Jan Drescher, are currently looking for new local talent; two ex-fashion/textiles Trent students, Gemma Shiel whose label is 'Lazy Oaf' and Jo Lackenby whose label is 'Jolaby', have already jumped on the bandwagon and are now contributors.

If you are interested, go to the website where you can submit your designs online and also have a nosey at what's already available.

Sally Torode

Top 6 Men's clothing shops in Nottingham

1. **Topman...** Not unlike Topshop, what used to be high fashion at low prices is now high fashion at high prices, but for wardrobe staples and essentials you just can't beat Topman. Don't forget you also get 10% off with NUS.
2. **River Island...** River Island's specialties are distressed jeans and casual shirts.
3. **H&M...** Nottingham's H&M has just expanded its men's section upstairs.
4. **Envy...** There's a whole store dedicated to menswear in the Victoria centre. There's a really good range of low-end designer pieces and they're not as expensive as you might think, take my advice and have a look.
5. **USC...** A favourite with all trendsetters.
6. **Republic...** Reminiscent of River Island prices and styles too, and student discount is available.

Sally Torode



Bin it... or keep it?

Spring is now in full swing (hooray!) and as the warmer weather approaches you'll be dusting off last year's summer wardrobe in the hope that you'll be able to salvage a few pieces. Here are some tips on what to keep, throw out, and invest in.

Gypsy skirts... *bin it*

You couldn't turn a corner last year without seeing a crowd of girls all trussed up in their gypsy skirts. Now, they couldn't be more last year.

Ma-ha-ssive sunglasses... *bin it*

Still hot in celebrité, but let's face it: on us mere mortals they just make us look downright silly. Designers are moving towards a more sensible size again, with Aviator and Ski style being forefronted in such collections as Chanel and Marc Jacobs.

City shorts... *keep it*

Shorts are still *the* things to be seen in continuing into the autumn.

Print dresses... *keep it*

Keep ones with smaller prints, which will be really hot for this summer.

Fake tan... *bin it*

Don't look orange and streaky all the bloomin' time, instead use *Johnson's Holiday Skin Body Lotion*. It gives a slow growing natural looking tan, and moisturises your skin at the same time.

Frills... *keep it*

Frills will still be incorporated in the summer trends, but will take more of a backseat this year. Use accessories to move with the times.

Rock chick T-shirts... *keep it*

Kitsch is always cool, and T-shirts are so easy to wear with almost anything.

Ballet pumps... *keep it*

Flat peep toes will be everywhere, but ballet pumps are a wardrobe staple.

Invest in...

Polo shirts

Polo shirts are hot-to-trot. A boyish trend that just looks so sexy. And they come in every colour and style you can think of.

Shirt dresses

Shirtdresses are fab for during the day or night. Team with jeans or just with flats for the casual look or glam it up with some accessories and heels to look totally trendy.

A big bag

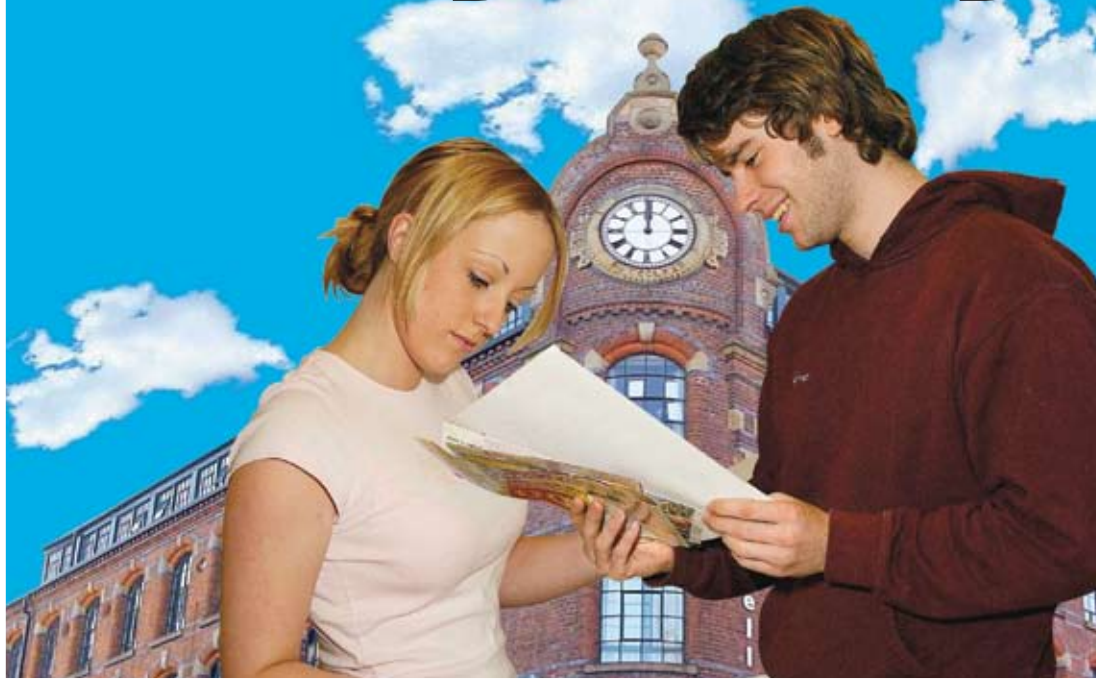
They're everywhere at the moment and still will be for a while to come. (*Tip:* Instead of matching the colour of your bag with your shoes, why not match it with your belt or sunglasses to look super chic?)

A summer trench

There are big differences between a summer trench and a winter trench, so make sure you don't wear your winter coat in the heat! Summer trenches are made of cotton and are light and floaty. This is the ideal spring/summer cover-up, and a definite staple.

Sally Torode

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Bundle of Nerves or Puddle of Lethargy? Come to a Counselling Service Workshop!

The most common problems that students come along with to the counselling service are anxiety and depression. Obviously these can be caused by all sorts of factors in people's lives, but sometimes the symptoms of anxiety (such as panic attacks) or depression (such as sleeping all the time) have become a problem in their own right. So the counselling service now runs 3 types of workshop to help students deal with them. Often participation in the workshops means that one to one counselling is not necessary, thus saving students time, and enabling them to benefit from the experience and input of their peers as well as from the counsellor who runs the workshops.

• Calm Yourself! – Dealing with Anxiety and Panic

This is a four week course of sessions lasting almost 2 hours each. The course focuses on teaching students physical relaxation techniques, strategies for overcoming anxiety-provoking patterns of thinking, and ways of minimising behaviours which exacerbate anxiety. We also look at coping with panic attacks. Any student experiencing a high level of general anxiety as well as anxiety connected to particular situations, such as social anxiety, is welcome to sign up.

• Building Up Confidence for Presentations

This is a one off workshop lasting 3 hours. It is not for people who simply want to polish their presentation skills – it is for those of you who are so nervous about presenting that you can't sleep the night before, you get the runs, you have intense panic and/or you try to get the tutor to

let you off! On the workshop you learn relaxation techniques and do exercises to build your knowledge of presentation skills and give you a chance to practise a short presentation in a safe, encouraging environment. Everybody goes away with a written page of feedback so they know their strengths and points to work on. Max number of people per workshop: 12.

• How to Beat Depression

This is a five week course of sessions lasting almost 2 hours each. It is for people who are experiencing a mild to moderate level of depression, which is not part of Post Traumatic Stress, or the natural response to a life event such as bereavement or relationship breakup. Symptoms can include: loss of motivation and concentration for academic work; sleep disturbance, low mood and tearfulness, loss of appetite, sense of hopelessness, and suicidal thoughts. The course takes a holistic approach to addressing your individual experience of depression, focusing on overcoming negative patterns of thinking, dealing with stress, making behavioural changes, self-care, diet and exercise, and the role of underlying emotions.

These workshops run at City Site and (in the case of Presentations) Clifton. ALL NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE to make sure that they are appropriate for your needs and because there is a maximum number of participants in each workshop. They are on a rolling programme so are not all available at any one time. If you are interested in attending any of the workshops, please email eve.parsons@ntu.ac.uk from your student email account (to preserve your confidentiality in the case of group emails) stating which workshop interests you and to find out when the next one is on, and where.

Eve Parsons
Student Counsellor



Health

Hi everyone,
 Hope you all had a good Easter and overindulged on chocolate... and probably a few hangovers too - which is what I have decided to cover this week. I would love to hear from anyone that feels that a certain topic should be covered - I am open to suggestions! Drop me an email at N0024589@ntu.ac.uk.
 Happy reading!
 Gemma :o)

Hangovers!

So you've been out on the tiles with all the Uni crew, and what might have seemed like a good idea at the time doesn't appear to be that great in the morning! I think most of us have stumbled home in the early hours, wearily making it into an all-welcoming bed. Even the thought of getting up in the morning and sitting through a lecture is bad enough, and having a hangover does not make it any better.

Why do we feel so bad in the morning after an eventful night out? Well, of course the root of all hangovers is the increased consumption of alcohol. Getting a hangover literally means that you have ingested more alcohol than your body can metabolize efficiently. Toxins in the alcohol build up in your body and make you feel sick; a key offender is a chemical called acetaldehyde (bit of a tongue twister). This is an alcohol side-effect that causes the worst of your hangover.

Not only does your body have to contend with this, but also dehydration, which is a cause and symptom of hangovers. Alcohol is a diuretic, which means it increases urination. The more alcohol you drink, the more water your body loses. Your liver and kidneys need water to process the alcohol, so losing water means that your body struggles to get rid of toxins. Try and remember this next time you feel the flood gates opening!

Why not try a tasty cure to your hangover? Even if it doesn't work, at least it will have got your taste buds going:

You will need:

- 1 banana
- 1 pint of milk
- Small jar of runny honey

- 1) Cut up the banana and put it in a blender with the milk and a spoonful or two of honey.
- 2) Mix it up until it is in a milkshake solution and drink away. Viola!

Wondering how it works?

The milk will help settle your stomach, the honey will provide an instant lift due to the sugar content, and the banana will release sugars at a continued rate to keep you going after the honey effect has weakened.

Although my housemates and I recommend a yummy veggie finger sandwich with a pint of water!



- Stick to light coloured drinks (vodka, gin) as they will hurt less in the morning, and they have less calories.
- Drink water while you drink alcohol.
- Do not go out on an empty stomach - food slows down the absorption of alcohol.
- Have a large glass of water before you go to bed - you may not feel like it but your body will.

Last, but not least, when you are drinking be safe, be responsible, and be happy!

Gemma Stevens

Useful Contacts:

- **Drinkline**

If you're worried about your own or someone else's drinking, you can call this free helpline in complete confidence. They can put you in touch with your local alcohol advice centre for help and advice. Call 0800 917 8282 (open 24 hours)

- **Down Your Drink**

A six week online programme to help users reduce drinking and develop safer drinking habits. Free and confidential. (www.downyourdrink.org.uk)

- www.alcoholandyou.org



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SPORTS

Hello everyone...

It has been a fairly disastrous week for England's World Cup chances as we continue our countdown to Germany. It looks like a certain Mr. Rooney will not be 100% fit, and the nation never wants to hear about metatarsals again... I swear four years ago it was just a "broken foot!"

Well, to distract you from the agony, this issue we have a witty exchange from Varsity Ice Hockey, plus a report on Trent's Varsity Cricket result. Also... the phenomenon of, erm... Extreme Ironing. Enjoy!

Paul Usher



Strange Sport No.2

EXTREME IRONING

What the hell is it?

The name explains itself. Extreme Ironing is a sport that combines the danger and excitement of an extreme sport and the mundane 'motherly' pursuit of ironing. It began in Leicester in 1997 by two guys simply known as 'Steam' and 'Spray.' Presumably this was to protect their identities.

How does it work?

Well, these weirdos take their ironing boards, steam irons, and crumpled shirts up mountain-tops, on ice-falls and even more freakishly, underwater (is there not an electrocution risk there?)

So what is the aim?

It seems the aim is to take photos of yourself with an ironing board in the most surreal place possible. The originators have been on a world tour and are thinking up a World Championship belonging to their association, the EIB (Extreme Ironing Bureau). So, if you got good you could be a World Champion. Of sorts.

Why should you play it?

Erm...if your clothes are sticking to the wall it may be worth considering. Or you could just do your ironing in the Utility room whilst watching Emmerdale. Your choice.

For more info on Extreme Ironing, visit the website: www.extremeironing.com

Paul Usher

Oops...Did I say that! (Sports quote of the issue)

"In many ways having a dead leg is worse than a broken leg."

And in what ways are those, **Dr. Kevin Keegan?**



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VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

Varsity games. The very phrase is littered with intrigue. Namely, what the hell does 'varsity' mean? Sadly, as any of my lecturers will tell you, I'm not a big fan of research or extra reading, so if you want to know you'll have to find out yourselves. And if you do please email in and tell me what you found out, and then I can tell my mate he's an idiot (he says it means they play a vast array of games around the city - very insightful, eh).

Anyways, I was down the pub not so long ago and someone suggested that we go to the Varsity ice-hockey match. 'Brilliant' I thought (I'd been in the pub a while), and off we went to secure our tickets. Well, the following afternoon rolled around and what did I find in my wallet but my genius purchase from the night before. My first thought was - 'I really must stop making decisions in the pub'. But then I thought 'damn it, I've spent three pounds on this ticket so I'm gonna see if I can't eek out a pint's worth of pleasure from the experience...'

Before I get started, who are all you ice-hockey players? Honestly, our team had, like, about twenty people on it (there's the research kickin' in again). We're talking about people that can ice skate and play hockey, and they do this with bodies the size of small cars. Bravo. That alone deserved a cheer.

Secondly, I was under the impression that ice-hockey lasted about an hour. It doesn't. It lasts about two days. Three periods of twenty minutes spread thinly over 23 hours of fancy lighting, exciting music and a man who rides around the ice on a huge buggy thing making the ice shiny. You spend a serious amount of time staring at this man, who you come to refer to as 'not that jerk on the buggy thing again'.

But it wasn't all doom and gloom. There is relief. Trent's cheerleaders are so much better than those from 'the other side' that it would be embarrassing if it wasn't so funny. And then there are the songs. They're like most football chants, only with slightly less wit and sung by seven people instead of 20,000.

However, those of us that survived 'til the final twenty minutes were rewarded with possibly the most gripping piece of sports viewing since naked volleyball was taken out of the Olympics. 5-2 down at the start of the last period, Trent came back to 5-5 and then won 3-0 on penalties. Well, I damn near wet myself, and celebrated like I'd just found out about another lecturer's strike. £3.00? Worth every single penny! So next year I'm going to the whole darn lot, but most of all the ice hockey. That's the big one, that's the jewel. Mighty Ducks shmightly shmucks.

All together now, 'Oh I'd rather be at poly than a...'

Seth Dye

VARSITY CRICKET @ TRENT BRIDGE



Trent: 186 for 5, rain stopped play.

The English weather was the winner as Trent and Nottingham locked horns for the final event in the varsity series, the cricket at the world famous Trent Bridge. Trent started strongly and looked like posting a healthy total before the first of what proved to be many stoppages for rain brought proceedings to a soggy halt. The players took advantage of every break in the weather to add to the total, but midway through the afternoon session the rain set in for the day and play was abandoned with Trent on 186 for 5 and Nottingham not even having struck a ball in anger. The match may have ended in a draw but it was Trent who were celebrating as the result secured victory in the Varsity Series by 8 matches to 4.



RETURN TICKET TO GERMANY... ANY CHANCE OF A REFUND?

The score is 2-3. The pony-tailed genius saunters towards the penalty area where 94,194 fans are shedding fingernails in anticipation of his next move. For one half at least he is a hero, the talisman of his team who has held them aloft for the past two weeks. Who better to take on the immense responsibility that awaits?

Sadly football is a fickle business. Thirty seconds later, Roberto Baggio blasted the decisive penalty kick of the 1994 World Cup Final over the crossbar and with it went Italy's chance of being crowned world champions.

Such dramatic scenes are what make the game of football such a delight, and despite his disastrous penalty, I'm sure Roberto Baggio will tell you it was better being a losing finalist than never being a finalist at all. Yet at every major international tournament there are always a handful of extremely talented players who are deprived of representing their country on the biggest stage. Luke Eldridge assesses the injury worries ahead of kick off in June...

England always seems to offer at least one world-class player to this list, remember David Beckham in 2002 and Steven Gerrard in 2004? When Wayne Rooney's foot was broken in Man Utd's 0-3 by Chelsea in April, football fans around the world will have been disconsolate at hearing he may miss the World Cup. Sven will also be worrying about the fitness of Michael Owen.

Hosts **Germany** will once again be without Sebastien Deisler, who missed out in 2002. Seen as the only truly creative player to pair with Chelsea-bound Michael Ballack, he will be on the treatment table for the next six months.

The **Italians** have a similar dilemma. What Roberto Baggio was to the class of '94, Francesco Totti is to the class of '06. In February he broke his ankle and although he has made brief appearances for Roma since, the captain's preparations have been severely restricted. Veteran Christian Vieri is also an injury doubt, although he is behind Gilardino, Toni and Del Piero in the pecking order.

For the **Spanish**, Deportivo playmaker Juan Carlos Valerón's torn knee ligament means he won't add to his 41 caps, and Barcelona's midfield dynamo Xavi is still touch-and-go. Their injuries may mean more game time for Xabi Alonso and Cesc Fabregas.

Their neighbours **Portugal** have been panicking of late. The hugely talented centre back Jorge Andrade has torn tendons in his knee and will definitely miss out, and their key playmaker Simao Sabrosa has strained knee ligaments and is doubtful.

Whilst Man Utd fans will appreciate Gabriel Heinze's lack of fitness, Chelsea fans will remember Barcelona's wonder kid Lionel Messi tearing a thigh muscle in their Champions League encounter. **Argentina** may have to do without him, but don't feel too sorry for them, they do still have Riquelme and Aimer to choose from.

And what of the one team that could probably cope with a few injuries, **Brazil**? All fit as a fiddle.

Luke Eldridge

Preliminary England Squad for World Cup 2006

Sven selected his squad on May 8th. Surprise inclusions were Theo Walcott, Aaron Lennon and most bizarre of all, Owen Hargreaves! Jermain Defoe and Shaun Wright-Phillips must be gutted at being left out. E-mail your Sports Sub-editor with your opinions on his choice: pauloushero@hotmail.com.

Goalkeepers

Paul Robinson (Tottenham)
David James (Man City)
Robert Green (Norwich)

Defenders

John Terry (Chelsea)
Jamie Carragher (Liverpool)
Rio Ferdinand (Man Utd)
Ashley Cole (Arsenal)
Gary Neville (Man Utd)
Sol Campbell (Arsenal)
Wayne Bridge (Chelsea)

Midfielders

David Beckham (Real Madrid)
Steven Gerrard (Liverpool)
Frank Lampard (Chelsea)
Joe Cole (Chelsea)
Owen Hargreaves (Bayern Munich)
Michael Carrick (Tottenham)
Jermaine Jenas (Tottenham)
Aaron Lennon (Tottenham)
Stewart Downing (Middlesboro)

Strikers

Wayne Rooney (Man Utd)
Michael Owen (Newcastle)
Peter Crouch (Liverpool)
Theo Walcott (Arsenal)

Standby: Scott Carson (Liverpool), Luke Young (Charlton), Nigel Reo-Coker (West Ham), Jermain Defoe (Tottenham), Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace)



Theo Walcott: What me Sven? But I'm only 3!



Aaron Lennon: The little man is included.



Wayne Rooney: England's genius is injury doubt



Owen Hargreaves: ?

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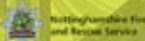
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