

# Editorial

## Editor's comment

### Corporate soul snatching

Several of the team, including myself, were fortunate enough to attend the Student Group Awards last Thursday evening, sponsored by Procter and Gamble.

I use the term 'sponsored' in its loosest possible sense; dominated would be closer to the truth. Or conquered. For out of the 1 1/2 hours we were there, five minutes at the end of the bizarre spectacle was dedicated to the Student Groups themselves, while the glossy corporate power-point display occupied an astonishing 65 minutes, punctuated by touching stories of the climb up the ladder of P&G success and generous dispersal of free product samples, should the lucky beneficiary feed the presenter a juicy fact about P&G's already fully gorged multinational empire.

All student groups that made it to the second stage were required to give a presentation to a panel of P&G judges - everything was nicely set up for a ceremony that would reward the talent of extremely hard-working students. The winners, once they were eventually announced, were deserving of the award - congratulations to Pussycats, the winners, followed by Wayfarers and Carnival.

The bone of contention is purely and simply with Procter and Gamble. The whole affair began to take on a painful 'Office Series One' vibe after the first half hour of corporate drivel, with much too much business-speak, buzzwords and glossy branding for our liking.

Hats off to P&G at least for avoiding duplicity and revealing exactly what its involvement in the Student Group Awards entailed: an unashamed milking of the University's talent, while drugging them with free merchandise and honeyed words. The animal rights protesters outside the door, mixing flyer images of tortured animals into the melting pot of corporate buerocracy, polished off the surreal occasion admirably.

## Letters

### Cloning conspiracy

Dear Editor,

I've just put down a copy of Issue 1225 and felt compelled to respond to Verity Baker's comments on Cloning.

She has raised some poignant and valid arguments against human cloning. She has done well in mentioning them all in such a brief article. I agree with her when she says there are dangers associated with this practise and yes, there are imperative ethical views that need to be

addressed. But does she really believe that cloning can be stopped? Does she not realise that work has been going on in unknown laboratories around the world for years?

Cults such as the Raelians mentioned in her article, and companies such as Clonaid only work toward giving the public a false sense of security! The publicity given to them and the doubt placed on their ability gives the average Joe or Jill a sense of control in a situation where they

have none at all!

What Ms Baker should be concerned about are the Government funded laboratories that don't officially exist. Cloning and more significantly human cloning is here, and has been for some time, (but we aren't supposed to know that).

So although Verity raises some issues on the subject, they are issues that are somewhat irrelevant, and I would I would conclude her views to be a little naive.

Manee

### Letter of the week

Dear Redbrick,

I was intending to write this letter on Friday afternoon, after 3 hours of queuing in the freezing cold, but thought better of it. However, events on the Monday evening have led me to reconsider. My complaint concerns the 'legendary' Carnage pub crawl 'organised' by Carnival.

Firstly the system set up for people intending to queue was at best inadequate. If people are going to queue from 8:30 am, then the Guild security and barriers should also have been there at 8:30. Instead, people who joined a relatively short queue at 9:00, suddenly found themselves hundreds of people back as those in front allowed mates to jump in.

Why were the numbered raffle tickets not handed out as people arrived? or would that have taken too much thinking? As if

this wasn't bad enough the Carnival committee saw it fit to end the evening at Tiger Tiger, a mediocre club with a very small dance floor. Small that is, if you actually made it in to the club. People queued for up to an hour to gain entrance and it puzzles me why?

There was no need to i.d. anyone as we were all students wearing white T-shirts and entrance was free!

At one stage people got so fed up with queuing at the back they moved to the front to see what the problem was. This only made the bouncers lock the doors and a mass of fed up students were forcefully pushed back by the bouncers, leading to several people falling into the road and almost being hit by cars.

People actually got that fed up they decided to go to Risa - the club not included on the Carnage route. Here the door-

men are experienced in large crowd control and also customer service and as a result opened up a seperate door for Carnage participants and entry was free. Once inside, drinks prices were actually cheaper than those offered in Tiger Tiger!

I realise that Carnival is a voluntary organisation and that people give up limited time to organise these events, but surely if a job is worth doing it is worth doing right and not at half effort.

It seems that while the actual Carnival organisers and Guild Executive Committee don't have to queue for T-shirts and have VIP areas in the clubs, then this problem will only happen again in the summer.

Yours sincerely,

D.L. Moreton.

Come and collect your ten tickets to RISA!

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## More on proofing errors

**Re: Any excuse for a rant, Letters (Issue 1225)**

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform you that David Brown is by no means the only person to notice the "minor textual mistakes" that are quite frequent in Redbrick. I don't mean to have a go at you for no reason, but seeing as you decided to ridicule him in your response I thought I would offer some defence. Obviously you have a right to edit articles any way you see fit, and I don't think people mind about little errors that are either debatable anyway or do not have any real impact, but all too often

there are glaring mistakes. If you need proof-readers then why not advertise for some? I wrote an article for Redbrick a while ago and proof-read it myself before sending it in. When it appeared in the paper, all the apostrophes had been replaced by commas so that, for example, "can't" became "can, ". I just don't understand how that could happen, let alone how a proof-reader (or spell-checker!) failed to spot it. I think Redbrick is a pretty interesting read so I tend to read most of the articles, and unfortunately several of them contain mistakes such as nonsense-sentences or, in the case of David Brown's letter, random full-stops in the middle of sentences. I know you work hard and I congratulate you

on some pretty good content. If you can't afford the time or resources to proof-read then that's a shame, but just say so rather than being rude. I know that a number of friends and I notice the mistakes and it is not unreasonable for a reader to point them out.

Gareth Williams.

Firstly I'd like to thank you, Gareth, for writing a civil and reasonable letter that deserves a like response. The two letters we recieved last week, from David and 'a concerned reader' - excerpts of which were printed in my reply - were not so and sparked some much stronger reactions than mine in the office. In the middle of stressful software and hardware problems that resulted in the issue's late publication, my reply reflected my attitude at the time

to what I considered a comparatively minor issue.

The points you raise are of course perfectly valid, and we're all aware of the typographical errors that haunt Redbrick's reputation. The problem of converting apostrophes to commas that you draw attention to is a Mac - PC conversion problem that regularly occurs, and it can be easier than you think to skip over it if proof-reading needs to be done quickly by editors. The previous two weeks we have had three volunteers to proof read for us while we work on the issue, which is greatly appreciated.

We are permanently recruiting to all sections of the paper, and several people expressed interest in proof-reading at the recent re-freshers fair. Perhaps all this publicity will draw further attention to the problem, which can't be bad.

### Ring winners!

The correct answer to last week's Ring competition was 'b) Japan'. The three lucky winners get themselves a pair of tickets each to see horror flick, The Ring. The winners were:

**Anne-Catherine Dudenhoefter**  
**Claire McCallum**  
**Simon Lavender**

Congratulations to all of you, come down to the Redbrick office in the basement of the Guild to collect your tickets.

### Lover's Guide

Due to space limitations we can't publish all your at times amusing, at other times deeply distressing responses: the winners will be notified by e-mail and their responses printed next week.

