UNIVERSITY GUIDF

term, long term

BARCHAYS

Richard Brown compares and contrasts rents, campuses and entertainment across the country

Population: 677,000 Av. weekly rent: £35 Availability: ★★★★ Entertainment: ★★★★★ • University of Leeds: Full-time students: 14,453. Compact redbrick campus within a mile of the city centre.

 Leeds Metropolitan University: Full-time undergraduates: 9,283. High-rise campus near city centre. Beckett Park campus three miles away. THERE is something for everyone in Leeds. The northern city, once known as the birthplace and last bastion of monochrome gothdom, now has a dazzling array of clubs, including Vague and Back to Basics, which are rated among

the best in the country. The two universities huddle together in the city centre, and there is much interchange between their student unions: the older university's bar is one of the largest in Europe, with 96 beer-pumps.

Students who live out also tend to live in the same area, making a compact student enclave. Property rental prices are generally low, helped by the fact that the city was one of the few with a surplus of accommodation at the beginning of this academic year.

Students say that the cost of living is generally low, especially considering how friendly and lively Leeds is.

LEICESTER

Population: 272,000 Av. weekly rent: £30 Availability: ★★★★ Entertainment: ★★★

• De Montfort University: Full-time students: 13,248. One campus in city centre. Also new campus in Milton

Leicester University: Full-time students: 7,551. Modern campus about one mile from city centre. WHEN you think of Leicester, if you ever think of Leicester, your conception will probably be of a drab, dull Midlands town. While the small city's architecture is unlikely to dazzle, Leicester is rich in green spaces and rejoices in its designation as Britain's first "environment city".

Students find the city ideally sized: neither dauntingly large nor tediously small. Though social life tends to be concentrated in the two universities' good student unions (which reciprocal arrangements), the city centre is said to be welcoming and friendly.

The city's De Montfort and Granby Halls — the former named, like the new university, after the 12th-century founder of British democracy - provide ideal venues for most touring rock bands.

Life in the city is cheap and the market — reputedly the largest in England — helps student grants to stretch that little bit further. The older university offers employment to students in, for example, halls of residence kitchens.

Population: 510,000 Av. weekly rent: £30 Availability: ★★★★ Entertainment: ★★★★ University of Liverpool: Full-time students: 10,810. Modern campus a few minutes' walk from the city centre.

Liverpool John Moores University: Full-time students: 12,476. Sites all round city centre, most situated between Liverpool's two cathedrals. LIVERPUDLIAN pride is fierce, and can infect the many students who make the city their home. Crime rates may be high and the economy depressed, but students insist that Liverpool is lively and

Scousers generally friendly. Both universities are centrally located, near the two cathedrals which dominate the city's skyline. The compact city centre offers good shopping, and the renovated Albert Docks provide a magnificent home to up-market shopping centres and the renowned

Northern Tate. Clubs and pubs in the city are busy. Students tend to live and socialise around the reasonably central Smithdown Road area, where cheap rents contribute to the generally low cost of living in the city. But for those who need part-time work, Liverpool is not ideal.

Population: 6.7m Av. weekly rent: £50 Availability: ★★★ Entertainment: ★★★★★ • Universities: 12 separate universities, with 142,000 full-

time students. The University of London is a loose affiliation of 40 colleges and other institutions. The other universities, with the exception of City University and Brunel, are all former polytechnics, upgraded in 1992.

WHETHER you are interested in parks or pubs, theatres or cinemas, shopping or sightseeing, museums or art galleries, dancing non-stop through the weekend or eating every cuisine under the sun, London can meet your requirements.

London will also present you with a fairly hefty bill for most of the above. The city can, in fact, offer bargains to the diligent hunter, but the temptation to spend is omnipresent. Whatever bargains can be found elsewhere, accommodation will be a major expense for every student: even if rents away from the smart areas of the city centre are slightly less astronomical, travel to and from college can easily eat away any savings

The capital city's hectic pace can overwhelm as easily as it excites, and loneliness can be a problem in a city where you might be living miles away from your college. Nevertheless, London is justly renowned as one of the most exciting cities in the world and, for those who can strike a balance between making the most of life and spending their way to bankruptcy, it is the ideal place to be a student.

WANCHESTER

Population: 2.5m Av. weekly rent: £35 Availability: ★★★ Entertainment: ***

University of Manchester: Full-time students: 14,084. Citycentre campus. • UMIST: Full-time

students: 5,529. City-centre

campus. Manchester Metropolitan University: Full-time students: 17,738. City-centre campus. • University of Salford: Full-time students: 5,538. Campus in Salford, about one mile from central Manchester.

THE late Eighties saw "Madchester" fêted as the epicentre of a musical and cultural youthquake. The hype always stayed one step ahead of the reality, however, and the scene's Altamont came when Uzi automatic rifles became the fashion accessories in nightclubs such as the Hacienda.

Now, a few years down the line, the city's club scene has diversified and survived. The re-opened Hacienda is still the place to be seen and searched for weapons, as are clubs like the Duty House and the Paradise Factory. Female students

Manchester feel no more, or less, safe than in any other big cities. Male students, however, are the favoured targets of an increasing number of muggings, both in the city centre and in some of Manchester's less savoury suburbs such as Moss-side. It is largely for safety reasons that students tend to live out in student-dominated enclaves, like Fallowfield. These habits mirror the compact nature of the city-centre university precinct, which holds three of Greater Manchester's four universities.

All that said, Manchester is still a great city for student life, as shown by the fact that 40,000 students choose it as their university city. Three of the universities are close to one of the liveliest city centres in the country and the cost of living is generally low.

Population: 204,000 Av. weekly rent: £30 Availability: ★★★ Entertainment: *** University of Newcastle Upon Tyne: Full-time students: 10,517. Redbrick

TOMORROW

The quality debate: the top universities for biological sciences, business, engineering, humanities, languages, medicine, mathematical and physical sciences, social sciences, and the visual and performing arts. Plus a full list of the first 60 departments where the teaching is officially rated as "excellent".



Nottingham University students get down to some serious recreation in the "best clubbing city in the Midlands"

campus in city centre. University of Northumbria at Newcastle: Full-time students: 10,189. Main campus in city centre; another three miles from city centre; others outside Newcastle, 15 miles away

at Longhirst and 55 miles away in Carlisle. NEWCASTLE'S cultural lega-

cy to the nation may include Sting, Gazza and that infamous student tipple, Newcastle Brown Ale, but you should not allow this to put you off the capital of the North-East. Students at the city's two universities enjoy | living in the centre of a busy city with the best pubs and shopping facilities, and one of the lowest costs of living, in the

Some areas of the city centre are run-down and slightly hostile to students, and burglaries are a problem even in the popular student areas such as Fenham (affectionately known as 'Nam by residents). But Newcastle is not as tough as it may seem to those whose only experience of the city is derived from Jimmy Nail's pugilistic portrayal of Spender.

Pubs in the city centre are cheap and generally welcoming to students, though those around the Big Market tend to become very local-orientated at weekends. Clubs in the city are fairly traditional, though student nights are popular.

Population: 262,000 Av. weekly rent: £35 Availability: ★★★ Entertainment: ★★★★

University of Nottingham: Full-time students: 9,890. Attractive landscaped campus about four miles from city centre. Nottingham Trent

University: Full-time students: 12,264. One city centre campus; two more about four miles from centre.

HOME, ironically, to both Boots the Chemist and John Player the fag-maker, Nottingham is probably still most famous for the legendary Robin Hood, whose redistribution of income policy would no doubt be welcomed by the city's 22,000 students.

The distance between the two universities means that their students tend to move in their own orbits, and even live out in different areas: Lenton is favoured by students at the older university, Forest Fields

by those at Nottingham Trent. What Nottingham lacks in rock venues — Sheffield and Birmingham are too near — it makes up for in clubs. The accolade "best clubbing city in the Midlands" may sound like damnation with faint praise, but Nottingham is very well provided for. The prices at clubs like Venus and Miros may keep students at arm's length, but there are a variety of student nights where one can, allegedly, have a good night out for less than a fiver. The locals are generally

here after graduation.

friendly to students. Indeed,

many students choose to settle

Population: 99,000 Av. weekly rent: £45 Availability: *** Entertainment: ★★★ Oxford University: Fulltime students: 14,471. Colleges throughout city centre. Oxford Brookes

University: Full-time students: 7,787. Two campuses in Headington, about a mile from the city centre; another campus in wheatley, about six miles from

the city centre. THE screaming tyres of joyriders and angry shouts of | tention just because they rioters a few years ago shocked those who fondly but foolishly imagined Oxford to be a city of nothing more than dreaming spires and dilapidated dons. But then Oxford's small-scale riots grabbed at-

seemed so out of character. The city is still hardly "street": the centre is ancient, though congested, and the closure of the city's Rover works will leave its inhabitants ever more dependent on the university-

tourism industry for their livelihood.

The city is a beautiful, but expensive, one for student life: though prices are nearly as high as those in London, Oxford students do not receive the same weighted grant as their metropolitan counterparts. High costs are probably one reason why student social life tends to be concentrated in college bars and the former polytechnic's student union. The city centre is, however, blessed with plenty of pubs in which students can experience for themselves the Inspector

Morse lifestyle.

Contact between students from the two universities is probably greatest in the cosmopolitan Cowley Road area of the city, where many students, especially from the new university, find overpriced slum property in which to live. This area is also rich in cheap shops, restaurants and pubs which are slightly less oppressively Brideshead than those in the city centre. The city's clubs range from the dire to the indifferent: the sweaty inferno of the Oxford Venue plays host to the best of these and, together with the Jericho Tavern, to the few leading bands who make a stop in the

SHEEFIELD

Post to: Barclays Student Offer, FREEPOST (BS4335),

The college I plan to attend this year is:

Please send me details of Barclays 1994 Student Offer, with-

out any obligation. (Complete below in BLOCK CAPITALS.)

Bristol BS1 3YX.

Address

Postcode

Population: 503,000 Av. weekly rent: £30 Availability: ★★★ Entertainment: ★★★★ • University of Sheffield: Full-time students: 11,875. Redbrick buildings, most about 4 mile west of city

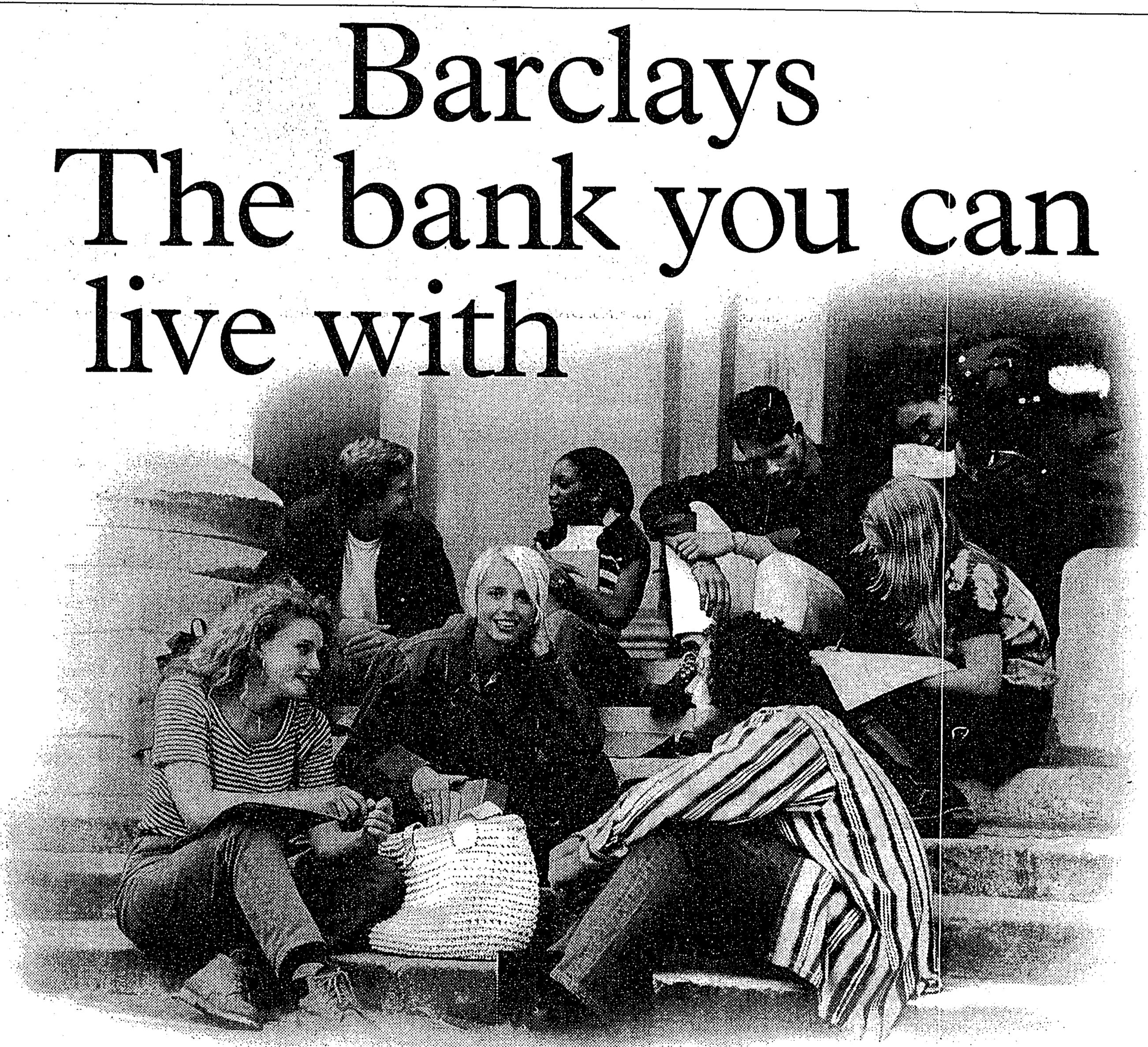
• Sheffield Hallam University: Full-time students: 13,423. Five sites: one in

city centre; three between one and three miles from city centre; one seven miles from city centre. SHEFFIELD, now equipped with a modern "Supertram" system, has long been one of the most popular cities with students, a significant proportion of whom choose to settle there after their graduation.

The city is situated on the edge of the Peak District, whose hills spill into Sheffield, adding to its charm, but also to pollution in the city centre With the exception of the Broomhill district, Sheffield lacks the student enclaves which can make students in some other cities feel part of a

tight-knit, and perhaps even isolated, student community. In Sheffield, students live in many parts of the city and integrate very well into the local community.

Though the former capital of Britain's cutlery manufacturing industry does bear some of the hallmarks of industrial decay, Sheffield has regained a lively atmosphere, and has a good range of reasonably priced pubs and clubs. The 1991 World Student Games left the city with some of the best sports facilities in the country. Long-term unemployment makes part-time work hard to find.



If you're planning to go to college this year, check out how much Barclays has to offer students. (There's no need to wait till you get your grant cheque.) Why Barclays? Because you'll find it's the bank you can live with while you're a student and long after graduation.

Don't worry if you're not going to get rich for a while. We'll take a chance if you will.

As well as a cheque book you could have...

An interest-free* overdraft at any time during your course of up to £400, and up to £700 in your final year.

A free Barclays Connect card, which doubles as a cheque guarantee and cash dispenser card.

Free financial guidance from one of our 170 Student Business Officers who work only on students' accounts.

Interest on your current account when you're in credit. And, as a little extra, £15 in cash to start you off.†

So now what do you do?...

The next step's up to you. For full details, phone our Information Line free, on 0800 400 100 quoting reference ST/T2. Or post the coupon.

We're sure you'll want to join the bank you can live with.

This term, next term, long term



*(Equivalent Annual rate 0%.) Please remember that overdrafts are repayable on demand. You must be 18 or over to apply for an overdraft (20 or over in Jersey). Subject to status. A written quotation is available from the Student Account Service, PO Box 63, Coventry CV4 8JU. Barclays 1994 Student Offer is available to full-time higher education students; that is those taking a full-time degree course, BTEC Higher Award, Project 2000 nursing course or HND in the UK during 1994. †Closing date for the Barclays Student Bank Account offer is 31st May 1995. Barclays Bank PLC. Registered in London, England. Reg. No. 1026167. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

"Britain's top 20 student cities." Times, 25 May 1994, pp. 20+. The Times Digital Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IF0502041465/TTDA?u=ull_ttda&sid=bookmark-TTDA. Accessed 28 Aug. 2024.