

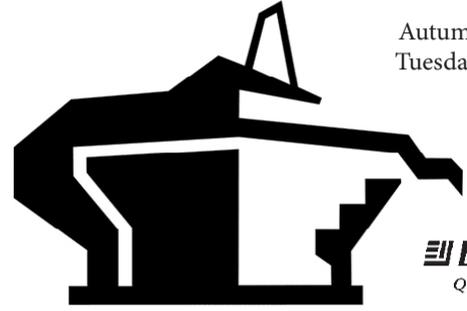
“They would hang me up by my private parts. They would leave me there.”

The York alumnus saved from torture by a fellow student >> M22-23



Runner-up in Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2012

# NOUSE



Autumn Term Week Nine  
Tuesday 4 December 2012  
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Swab and drug survey results inside >> Page 4-5



## University in cocaine denial

### NEWS TEAM

A DRUG investigation carried out by *Nouse* has shown that numerous sites across both the Heslington West and East campuses have tested positive for cocaine. The University has rejected the results.

In 2008, *Nouse* found cocaine across campus in a similar investigation. In response to this report, the University said it would take “urgent action.”

In this instance, the University gave this as their full response: “The University takes drug abuse seriously and will not tolerate drug peddling on the campus. However, past experience suggests that swab tests such as these are very unreliable, and often produce false positive

results due to the chemicals used in various cleaning materials. We would urge you not to draw conclusions from such data.”

However, David Rigg, Founder-Director of Crackdown Drugs Testing, the company used to conduct the investigation, has put the accuracy of the results at 95 per cent, adding, “Virtually every police force in the country uses us. We’ve had positive results from Parliament, courts, police headquarters all over.”

Rigg revealed the University management itself used the same swab company four years ago, “I think they wanted it more, not as an intelligence gathering sort of thing, they were trying to identify areas in the University where drugs were being abused.”

The swab test operates on the principle that when cocaine comes into contact with Cobalt Thiocyanate, a reaction occurs and a blue colour is generated. This indicates that cocaine has been on that surface.

Areas testing positive for cocaine included the basement male and female toilets in Heslington Hall, the toilet in between Your-Space and the offices of the sabbatical officers, and in the male toilets of the new Law and Management School.

Positive results for the drug were also found in the Vanbrugh Stalls female toilet, as well as toilets in the JB Morrell library on two floors, Wentworth male and female toilets, the Sports Centre, the Roger

Kirk Centre, the Physics Department, Derwent JCRC and bar, and B-Henry’s.

Commenting on both the survey and swab results, Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, told *Nouse*, “I think the findings here show that we really shouldn’t be naive about drug usage, of all kinds, all around us. We should look to become much more informed about drugs and their varying effects and risks.”

He added that “We expect the University to do what it can to inform students about the effects of drug use and support those affected

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## News

# University considers college overhaul

JOSH BOSWELL

**Josh Boswell**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

The University is planning to transform the college system at York, with Wentworth ceasing to be a postgraduate-only college.

The proposals aim to incorporate postgraduates into every college, and for Wentworth to begin bringing in undergraduates.

A University spokesperson said, "This would mean that Wentworth would cease to be a postgraduates-only college.

"However, we would like to see a greater number of upper year and postgraduate students in all the colleges".

According to a University Spokesperson, Jane Grenville, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for students, is "actively considering" the changes, and has held discussions with members of YUSU.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President said, "We've been talking closely with Jane Grenville on the matter, the GSA, College Chairs, and Pro-osts, and it feels to me to be a matter of 'when' rather than 'if'. College nine should make this slightly easier too; as the University continues its push to house more 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students, along with post-graduate students."

“We've been talking closely with Jane Grenville on the matter... and it feels to me to be a matter of 'when' rather than 'if'”

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

"As far as I understand, the University agree with us on the benefits that would come with having all types of students spread across all of the colleges. It would further enrich the communities within them and add a little more meaning to the college system as we know it."

Concerns, however have been



Wentworth may no longer be an exclusively postgraduate college, with other colleges increasing their intake

raised by students about the future of Wentworth college as a result of these changes, as well as uncertainty over the precise details of incorporating postgraduates into the current undergraduate colleges.

Taylor said, "Attention will need giving though to how the students will be spread across their colleges; will it be room by room, floor by floor, or block by block?"

He added, "The GSA share our view on the matter; as it would help to ease any feelings of seclusion felt by post grad students who currently are attached to Wentworth in the vast majority. We almost have a mini university within itself."

The University has stated that postgraduates in each college will be "housed in dedicated flats, blocks or corridors", and has assured that "There is no intention to 'scrap' any

college."

Recent increases in the marketing of on campus accommodation to non first-years have focused on the new college spaces on Heslington East, with a strategy to increase latter year campus residents holding the potential to increase revenue for campus Commercial Services.

A University Spokesperson confirmed, "Council recently approved the construction of a 9th college, subject to due diligence by the funders. The opening of a 9th college would allow us to market more rooms to upper year and post-graduate students and to reduce the percentage of first years in college accommodation from 67 per cent to 59 per cent."

Wentworth has remained the only exclusively postgraduate-populated college since its founding in

1972, and currently houses over 560 residents.

“we would like to see a greater number of upper year and postgraduate students in all the colleges”

University Spokesperson

However, postgraduates are also allowed to live in any college on York campus.

The University has not specified the proposed ratio of postgraduates to undergraduates under the new plans for the college, or the planned status of postgraduate accommodation off campus.

## David Hockney for honorary doctorate

David Hockney, popular Yorkshire artist has been announced as one of five people to be awarded honorary doctorates. The ceremony will be held at a major event at York Minster in February, celebrating the University's 50th anniversary, and incorporating performances by the university choir and orchestra, with music composed specially by Dr Richard Shephard, Honorary alumni and Director of the York Minster Fund.

## THE awards York for research support

The University received the Times Higher Education (THE) award for Outstanding Support for Early Career Researchers at a ceremony last Thursday. The award was given on the merit of the new Research Leaders Programme judged as the "team or institution that has developed the most innovative or exemplary scheme to enhance and develop the transferable and careers skills of postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers." Also nominated were David Smith, York Chemistry Professor for Most Innovative Teacher, and the Archaeology department's Heritage & Homeless project for Widening Participation Initiative of the Year.

## Squatted showroom for student flat revamp

A controversial plan to redevelop the site of a former car show room on Lawrence Street into 250-bed student flats was approved by the City Council's Planning Committee November 22. An initial scheme was rejected two years ago after concern about the potential effect of the development upon the listed St. Lawrence's Church. The site was squatted and a number of fires were started in the abandoned showroom last April. The Council agreed with recommendations proposed by YUSU and backed by David Levene, Heslington Councillor.

Reporting by Josh Boswell

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# Officer accuses YUSU of “dirty politics”

Hussein Kesvani  
Laura Hughes

SANCHITA CHAWLA, YUSU Entertainment Officer, has accused YUSU of taking down her second blog entry in “the name of dirty politics”.

The Entertainments Officer posted a blog on Thursday 29th November at 20:49. This broke campaigning rules, as only YUSU Officers and other elected chairs and representatives of YUSU can blog on the website, and campaigning activity must be done through means accessible to all.

After a complaint about the blog, it was felt by the Returning Officer, that rather than removing the Ents Officer's blog and restricting the means by which they could express their views, each side would be allowed to post one blog putting forth their arguments.

The Returning Officer commented: “There was as a campaigning tool that not all can access, however I am happy for each side to have one blog presenting their view, as now that there is a blog in response, what is presented is balanced.”

The post was made in response to YUSU President, Kallum Taylor's, referendum on the proposed overhaul of the position of Entertainment Officer.

Taylor, “came up with the idea to change how YUSU support College ents after talking to the the College Ents teams themselves; they're the ones who put on the events, and

BACK TO BLOGS...

**Reasons to vote NO for the Entertainment Officer Motion**

Posted by Ents Officers, 01/12/2012.

As the YUSU President, Kallum Taylor, (or whoever) took down my previous blog, I feel the need to put it back up :)

Democracy - right to voice and expression... Looks like someone just took that right away from me by deleting my post in the name of dirty politics.

So here I am... once again posting to make my views heard after having been silenced once.

The need for Entertainment Officers role is pertinent because we definitely help societies, so to prioritize colleges over societies is neither fair nor democratic in a representative institution.. Kallum Taylor as President of the Union should expand his mind and not be limiting the new role to benefit colleges only. The role of the Ents officer covers both college and societies on campus and by getting rid of the role through his underhanded methods, this reflects what type of campaign he is running.

After my previous blog post that had close to 90 likes after an hour got taken down on (no doubt) Kallum's request, I feel it pertinent to re post this so the rest of the student body can make an informed decision on the referendum. Remember, colleges are important, but there are hundreds of societies representing students' interests, culture and faith out there that the Ents role supports, and offers guidance and help to those who seek it.

**Chawla's position on the referendum defends the current role of YUSU Entertainment officer on campus**

they're telling me we need to change the system.”

On Saturday, 1st December at 16:35, Kallum Taylor posted the blog putting forth the arguments for the motion.

At 20:09 on Saturday, the Entertainments Officers posted a second blog, restating their arguments against the motion, which YUSU has confirmed “contained a number of personal comments, which is outside the campaigning rules, which specify that campaigning must promote or criticise the motion itself and not those campaigning for or against it.”

This action contravened what had previously been agreed and the blog was removed.

A further blog was posted by the Entertainments Officer at 20:31, before contact could be made outlining the reasons for removal and how to proceed.

Following a discussion between the Deputy Returning Officer and the Entertainments Officer, it was agreed that only one blog could be posted, and that this must not feature personal comments, but rather should focus on arguments intended to persuade people to vote either way on the motion. It was agreed,

that the blog would be amended by the Entertainments Officer, which was done within the hour.

The original post was removed and the second post has been edited. In the re-posted blog Chawla had claimed the removal of her words threatened her democratic right to voice and expression.

In the second post that was edited, Chawla had written: “Looks like someone just took that right away from me by deleting my post in the name of dirty politics. So here I am... once again posting to make my views heard after having been silenced once.”

Chawla told *Nouse* that in deleting her blog post, YUSU had actively undermined its credibility as a democratic union, by “taking away the right of free speech and expression”.

When asked what this indicated about the relationship between part-time officers and sabbs, she suggested that it showed YUSU to be a clique, closed off to most students.

Ankita Chawla, International Officer, told *Nouse*: “When you reported that YUSU was a clique, you were absolutely spot on as they only want to seem as if they are doing something beneficial when in reality, they are only telling the student body what they think the student body wants to hear - they can talk the talk, but they can't walk the walk.”

Chawla's position on the referendum remains on the edited blog: “The need for Entertainment Officers role is pertinent because we definitely help societies, so to prioritize colleges over societies is neither fair nor democratic in a representative institution.

Taylor said, “In the past, YUSU hasn't always been great at keeping up with the changing needs of our members. The role of Ents Officer might once have been important, but now there simply isn't a role there for a student representative.

“It's not the fault of the current Officers that there isn't enough to do, it's the fault of the role, and its time we sorted it out.”

# Lecturer “deeply regrets” offence caused by post

Amy Blumsom  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

PROFESSOR GUY Halsall has apologised for an announcement posted on the VLE which offended second year history students.

In the post, Halsall describes himself as “probably the most significant historian of early medieval Europe under the age of 60 anywhere in the world”.

The faculty member then went on to state; “that's not (just) me being cocky, but a pretty sober assessment of the range and quality of my work”. The History Department assured students that Halsall “sincerely and deeply regrets any offence his comments may have caused.”

The post was uploaded in response to approximately “only 60%” turning up to his lecture enrolled on the ‘End of the Roman World’ module.

Students were told: “Given that, for your money, you get the chance to hear (probably) the most significant historian of early medieval Europe under the age of 60 anywhere in the world\* give 16 lectures on his current research, and given that people pay said lecturer large sums of money and fly him around the world to talk to their students, or to give key-note lectures at conferences.”

The historian then implied students are failing to appreciate an education which “Mummy and Daddy” are



The announcement was posted on the VLE for all of the students studying the module to see, and was soon followed by an apology posted on Sunday

compelled to pay “obscene amounts of money” for.

One second year history student told *Nouse*: “I think Guy's message was both quite offensive and completely undermined the point he was making.

“He had every right to be annoyed about lecture attendance, but to criticise us by saying how he was the world authority on his subject and that we were there by the grace of “mummy and daddy's money” is absurd and appalling. I actually find his seminars to be engaging and interesting, but he has utterly destroyed his reputation in my mind by presenting himself so smugly.”

Halsall responded: “the com-

ments made by the student you quote are entirely fair and justified. S/he is quite right that my comments undermined my general point; I should not have made the comment in the way I did. It was indeed unprofessional and offensive. I unreservedly apologise to my students and to my departmental colleagues, who take their teaching extremely seriously and should by no means be tarred with the same brush as me. I am very sorry to have lost their respect.”

He went on to explain the cause of the outburst, stating it was “born of frustration. I care deeply about my courses and I care deeply that my students learn something im-

portant from them that they can take away from the course into their later life. I also care about the students getting value for their money - as I too clumsily said in my message.

“I think it is obscene that students have to pay fees for higher education and I have published my view on this many times. That was what I meant by ‘obscene sums’; it was not intended as a comment on students' wealth or otherwise.”

An anonymous student commented, “his apology on the VLE posted last night has gone an enormous way to restoring my faith in him.

“I certainly hope he doesn't face any kind of disciplinary action for

what he wrote.”

In a joint statement, History's Head of Department, Stuart Carroll, and Chair of the Board of Studies, Stuart Ditchfield, described the lecturer as “among the most highly rated” lecturers according to student feedback forms.

Carroll and Ditchfield then went on to explain that “In this context, Guy's strength of feeling should be seen perhaps as frustration directed at the unfamiliar predicament he found himself in - as a world-leading scholar and excellent lecturer faced with a noticeable degree of non-attendance - rather than anger directed personally at students.”

News

>> Continued from front

by it.”  
 Nearly half of students at the University said, in a survey carried out by *Nouse*, that they are taking illegal recreational drugs, while 54 per cent said they have taken Class B or higher. Notably, 16 per cent of students surveyed admitted to having taken Class A drugs such as MDMA or cocaine.

The poll was carried out on 283 students. The majority, 86 per cent, of the sample, did not know the full consequences of being caught with

iversity’s Press and Communications offices are located. The Vice-Chancellor, Brian Cantor, has his office in the same building.

The findings do not necessarily mean students have been taking the Class A drug in the toilets, but strongly indicate the drug’s presence in the swabbed areas.

However, according to Rigg, some cleaning fluids can have an effect on the test. He said, “if you’ve got a fine base cleaner, and you’re using it neat, rather than dissolving it in water first, and then swab it straight after, you’ll get a bluey-green colour.” He added that this false-positive result does not occur with diluted cleaner, nor after the fluid has been left for a short period of time.

*Nouse* reporters ensured the tests were carried out with accuracy, and many of the swabs only turned blue when wiped over cracks or areas that cleaning products couldn’t reach but particles of cocaine could. The area around James College seems to be a hotspot with positive tests in YourSpace, the Sports Centre, and the Roger Kirk Centre.

In the *Nouse* poll 43 per cent of students said they would support the legalisation of cannabis. If this policy were to be implemented in government this could potentially lead to the decriminalisation of some drugs.

Old news, new evidence

COMMENT >> Page 13

possession of Class A, B, or C drugs while 11 per cent knew nothing of the consequences.

*Nouse* tested for cocaine at locations across campus, including all colleges, and various departments and buildings. Whilst cocaine was found across campus, it should be noted many samples came up negative.

Swabs tested positive for cocaine in the male and female toilets in Heslington Hall basement. This is the same floor on which the Uni-

Reporting by Neil Johnston, Josh Boswell, Laura Hughes, Anwen Baker, Gary Holland, Harry Gallivan, Sofia Geraghty, Amy Blumsom, James Cameron, Nikki Farthing, Mary O’Connor and Rosie Shields.

The risks students take with drugs

Laura Hughes EDITOR

Cocaine is a Class A drug, which means it’s illegal to have, give away or sell. Our survey shows only a small proportion of students honestly take into consideration both the long and short term impacts associated with illegal drugs. Cocaine can cause both physical and psychological complications and even leave you with a criminal record.

Possession is illegal, whatever you’re using it for, and the penalty is up to five years in jail. Supplying someone else can get you fourteen years and an unlimited fine. Sharing with friends, even if you don’t accept payment, is also considered ‘supplying’ under the law.

Allowing other people to use cannabis in your house or any other premises is illegal and possession can get you up to seven years in jail. If the police were to catch students smoking cannabis in a club, they could prosecute the landlord.

The effects of smoking crack last an estimated 10 minutes, while cocaine lasts up to around 30 minutes when snorted. The long term consequences may outweigh the merits of a drug whose effects are relatively short-lived.

Psychological effects include an intense sense of euphoria, alertness and self-assurance. However, the physical consequences may include an increased heart rate, loss of appetite and raised body temperature. The risk of overdose increases if cocaine is mixed with other drugs or

alcohol. Overuse of cocaine can lead to depression, anxiety and paranoia.

It takes a few hours after drug use for drugs to be detected in the urine and two to three days to clear your system. Generally, the exact length of time in which drugs can be detected is dependent on a number of variables, such as metabolic rate, drug dosage and how it was taken.

Getting caught in possession of a **Class A** drug such as Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack or magic mushrooms may result in up to seven years in prison, a fine or both. If caught dealing this could lead to life in prison or an unlimited fine.

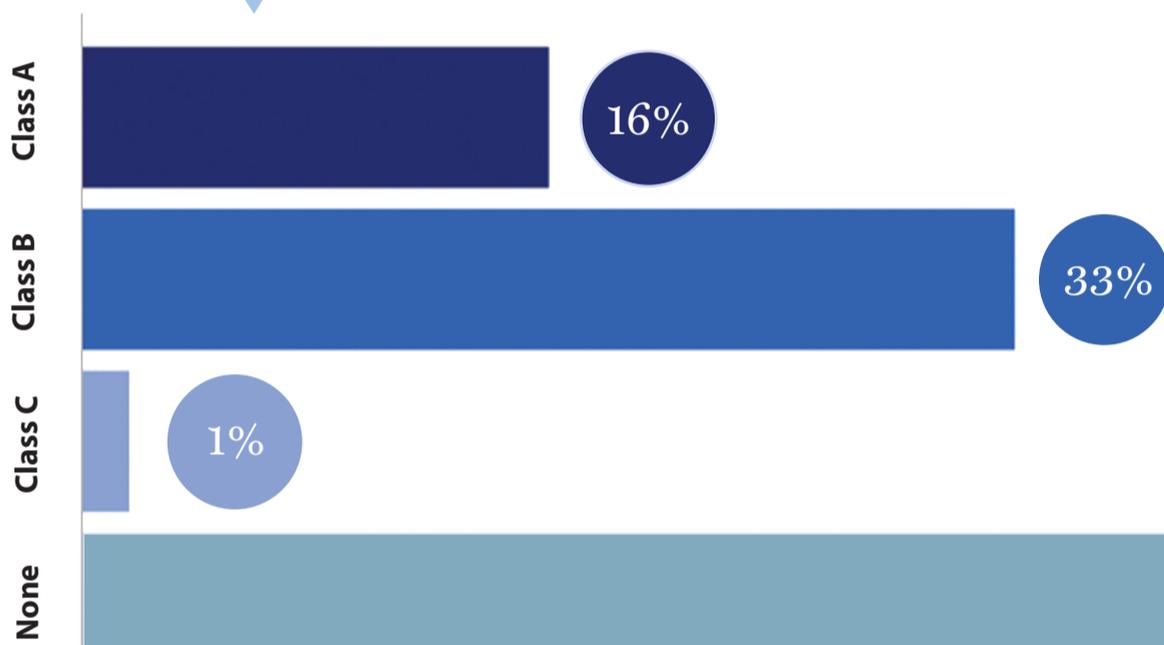
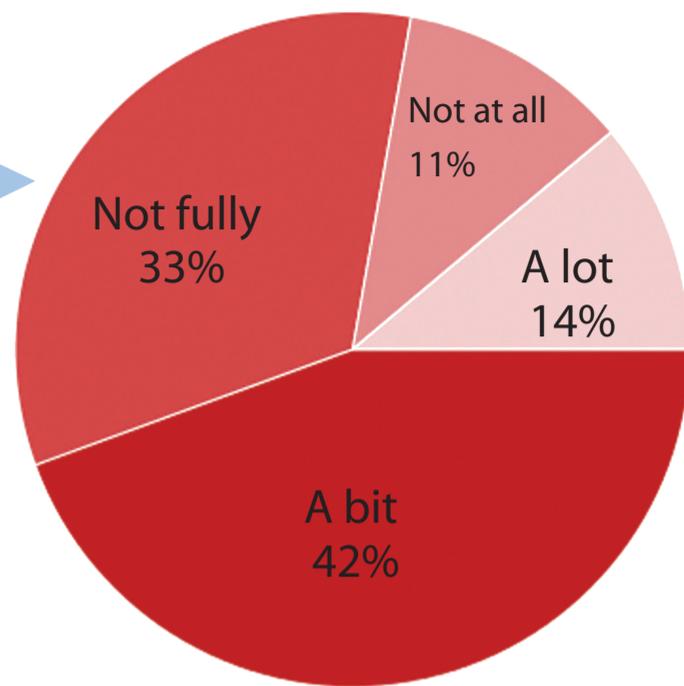
If found in possession of a **Class B** drug including: Amphetamines, Cannabis, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine you could be sentenced to five years in prison or as many as 14 years if you are thought to have dealt the drug.

Possession of **Class C** drugs including tranquilisers, some painkillers, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine would mean up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine for possession and up to 14 years for dealing the substance.

Graphics by Brandon Seager

Do you know the legal consequences of getting caught with small quantities of class A, B, and C drugs?

To the best of your knowledge, what classes of illegal recreational drugs have you taken?



What is your attitude towards illegal recreational drugs?

The University of York Liberal Democrats have proposed the motion which is one of four YUSU referenda to be voted on later this term.

If students vote in favour of the referendum then YUSU will have to call for the government to introduce a panel to review the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and reinvest any resources released into effective education, treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

YUSU would also have to lobby for high-quality, evidence-based medical, psychological and social services for those affected by drugs problems, including widespread availability of heroin maintenance clinics.

Controversially, this type of drugs policy could mean some substances are decriminalised.

Those in favour believe that YUSU should call for government policy on drugs to be decided on the basis of “real scientific evidence and not on public perception.”

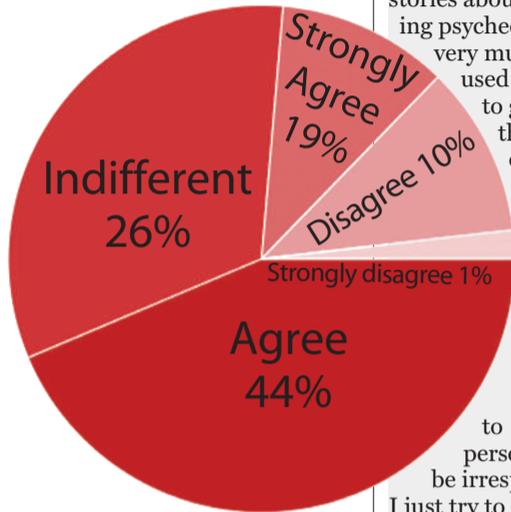
They argue a scientifically grounded appraisal of the “genuine degrees” of harmfulness between narcotics is needed, and serious consideration of the case for decriminalisation of certain substances following this.

Critics argue this idea is flawed and the possibility of legalisation of some drugs is dangerous and too big a risk to take.

# Student drug dealer talks business and morals

Josh Boswell

Do you agree with the University policy on student illegal recreational drug use?



**Do you deal cannabis?**

Yeah I have done.

**Some would say what you're doing is immoral. What do you think?**

I could tell you several horror stories about drugs... But if I'm selling psychedelics it would depend very much also on what they're used to. I would not want to give them something they'd have a bad time on, for example, and so I'd want to make sure I weigh them almost their own personal dose.

**But it's still wrong isn't it?**

I'd definitely want to have a chat with each person. I think it would just be irresponsible not to, really. I just try to give them a few words of advice beforehand, you know, don't make any irrational decisions whilst you're on it.

I wouldn't sell smack, for example, or heroin. That's not my cup of tea at all.

**Hallucinogens?**

A bit, from time to time. Just me and my mates really. It does have a bit of a better of a profit margin, but in some ways I consider it to be just easier. It's more fun, it's better value. I think a lot of people find

dealing quite addictive in a lot of ways actually. It's an adrenaline rush for some people. For others, it is purely economical, and they do just need the money. It's definitely been a mixture of the two at times.

Cannabis in particular is very much built around friendship networks, especially in drug dealing. Well, maybe not friendship groups - they may not like each other per say - but there's people they'd rather do business with than others, so they'll choose their preference.

**Is it different to a normal business relationship, in that buyers come to you?**

Yeah, very much. Yeah, it's completely backwards in some ways...

I wouldn't necessarily want to invest that much of my own cash in it, and have to invest that much of my time.

**How would you be affected by the legalisation of cannabis?**

I definitely think it should be decriminalised at the least, and if it was legalised I'd love to open up a little coffee shop somewhere, sell coffee, and let people chill out and maybe have a couple of joints.

And I'd still say that adrenaline rush would be there, but it wouldn't be about criminality, it would be more about the adrenaline rush of 'Oh my god I'm setting up a business'.

**How do you deal with the money?**

A lot of money can be spent cash in hand, on things people would never check up on. Like, buying a TV, and then with the legitimate savings on the books as well,

maybe paying for a car.

**What kind of volumes have you bought in the past?**

The price cuts down a lot depending on how much you buy. I tended to get in with another mate who's buying a big order at the same time, so I'd be able to get it at the discount prices. So I didn't often invest actually a huge amount of capital to do that. But I have done in the past. I did buy probably about five to nine ounces in a go, then restocking every other day, every three days.

**And in terms of cash flow?**

Maybe if you end up going a bit over, you'll go oh OK, maybe can tick you this month, if you know the person well enough, and like you'll have a conversation with him saying it'll take me this long. And a lot of the time, most people will be quite chilled about it, depending on how well you know the person.

**Isn't that very dangerous?**

The vast majority will not tick unless they know you, and you've bought smalls from them. But a lot of people will tick thousands of pounds worth of MDMA or cocaine, but a lot of people won't because it's very dangerous. I've had friends who have moved around the country to try and avoid the ability to be found by people whilst they try and find the money. You can get into quite serious trouble with some people.

**What affects your price?**

Different cities do vary significantly. The biggest contributor to

price tends to be how much 'competition' there is. If the police are particularly active then it's more common for people just keep it a bit more quiet and to change their dealing style or locations. If there has been a raid it may be dry for a couple of days. If a city is a 'grow city' then it tends to be cheaper. London tends to be more expensive. This could be due to London being more expensive to live in so needing a greater mark up, as a sort of London waiting as it were. But also to a much lesser extent things like accessibility factor in - is there a dock? Is it small enough to stay under the radar?

**Do you use product differentiation?**

I have definitely done that in the past, and known a lot of people to do that in the past, although what I find is that a lot of people can get tired doing that, and one doesn't sell so well, and so they just end up stocking on one, which will end up just being a nicer one. A lot of the time it tends to be more negotiated around who they feel comfortable doing their business with.

**Do you want to move up the food chain?**

Nah, it seems like it would be too much work. And I want to do more with my life than just drugs, to be honest. There's definitely more to life than drugs.

43% Believe cannabis should be legalised

“ Accuracy, I would put at 95 per cent. Virtually every police force in the country uses us. We've had positive results from Parliament, courts, police headquarters all over. ”

Founder-Director  
Crackdown Drugs Testing  
David Rigg

NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE SOLD DRUGS:

12

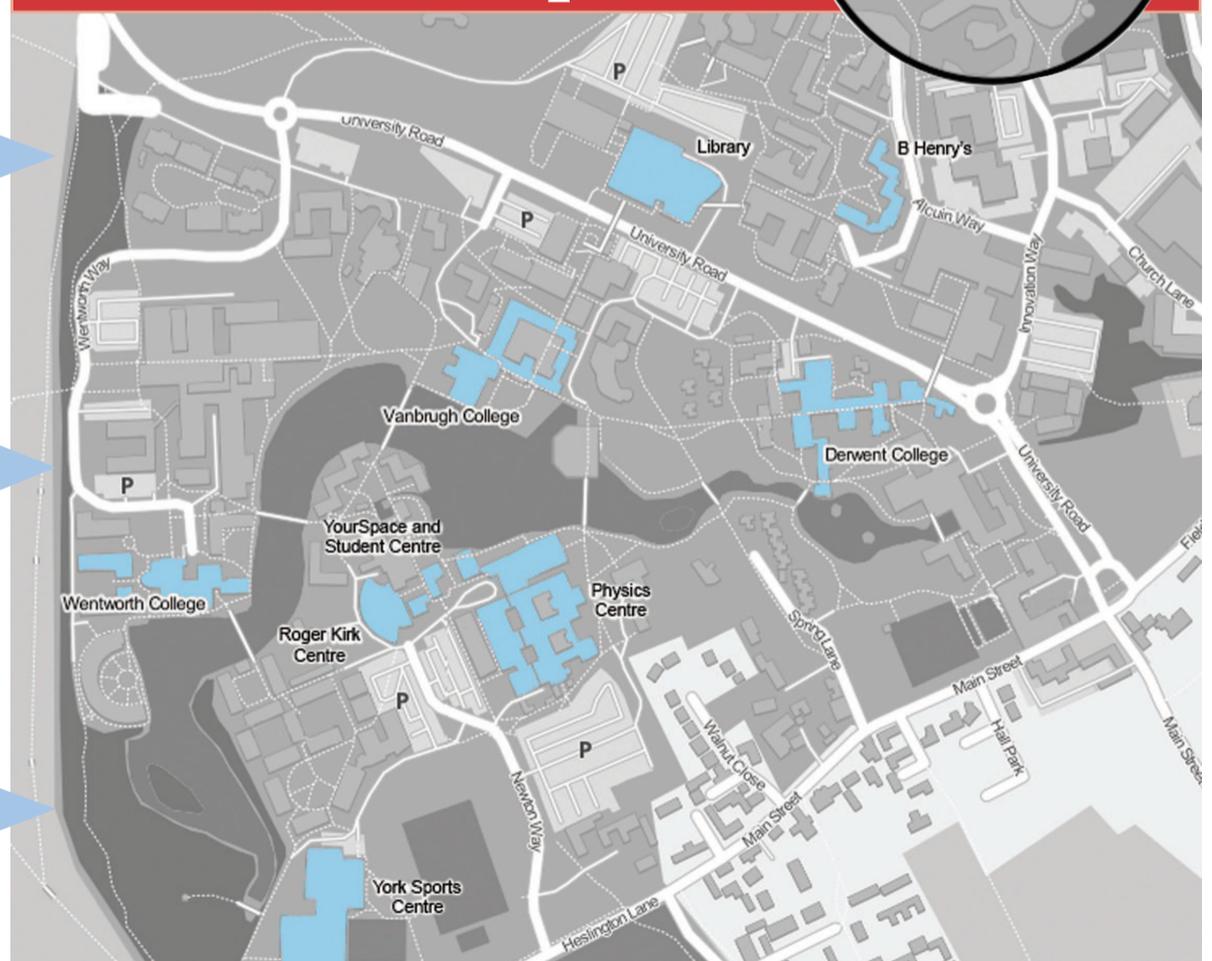
NUMBER OF STUDENTS REPRIMAND-ED BY POLICE OR ANOTHER ORGANISATION:

9

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SURVEYED:

280

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# Welfare officer criticises sexist tweets

• Twitter account that claims to listen to conversations has come under fire

**Gary Holland**  
NEWS REPORTER

BOB HUGHES, YUSU Welfare Officer, posted to his blog on Friday regarding a “general culture of sexism” on campus.

Hughes drew specific attention to the @OverheardYork Twitter account, which posts parts of conversations that are claimed to be overheard around the University of York campus. The account has come under fire recently from many students for making sexist or otherwise derogatory jokes, often at the expense of feminism.

An example was this tweet, “How many feminists does it take to change a lightbulb? None, feminists can’t change anything.”

Hughes made it clear that the blog post wasn’t about censoring @OverheardYork, but rather about the “insidious” comments which have been said around campus and “picked up by them”, quoting two of their tweets about feminists needing sex. However, it is unclear whether the conversations tweeted by the account are genuine, as there has been a lot of speculation that they are made up, as they often tweet to remind their followers that they are simply posting “satire”.

The Overheard account appears to be particularly controversial and



An example of the types of tweets sent by the @OverheardYork account which have offended many students

has been getting in twitter arguments with other users. In one, it said, “you are incredibly stupid. its a fucking satirical account.”

Another tweet said, “overheard is a bit battered&bruised after that attack from the feminists” “Yea who knew kitchen and cleaning utensils could hurt so much”.

The aim of the blog post seems to be to raise awareness of sexism on campus and to make students think

a little more about how what they say may be construed. The post refers to the Everyday Sexism Project, claiming that it shows that sexist remarks are “disproportionately and consistently levelled at women.”

A yet to be published YUSU study into sexual harassment was also cited, which apparently shows that 97.5 per cent of students would not report an incident of harassment.

Students seem to be much more vocal about this topic on Twitter, with one first year tweeting to Bob Hughes’ YUSU Twitter account saying “... tell me that [OverheardYork] do not exhibit sexual harassment” and another tweeting “... @OverheardYork makes me ashamed to be a York student”.

However, another student tweeted to Overheard saying: “If anybody gets upset over satire, go to

costcutter and buy a box of tampax,” showing a split attitude towards sexist “jokes” in the university.

Hughes commented: “Regardless of student opinion, the Welfare Officer is obviously seriously concerned about sexism on campus and explicitly stated that it is something

“ Jokes are jokes, yes, but sexism is sexism, and this is something our Union does not stand for.”

YUSU Welfare Officer  
Bob Hughes

our Union does not stand for. I get that they may be made in jest, but there is something so much more widespread and insidious about comments like these. It’s not just an odd comment here or there.”

He added; “Yes, there are broad and sometimes demeaning generalisations made about men, but if the Everyday Sexism Project shows us anything, it’s that these comments are disproportionately, and consistently, levelled at women.”

“Jokes are jokes, yes, but sexism is sexism, and this is something our Union does not stand for.”

# Hes East maintenance complaints

**Harry Gallivan**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A LETTER will be sent to students informing them of some changes to the way maintenance is being reported.

However the university have not gone as far as Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, would have like them to. Taylor commented on the problems: “After requesting for the University to deliver some form of correspondence to students, I am told that this will be acted on.”

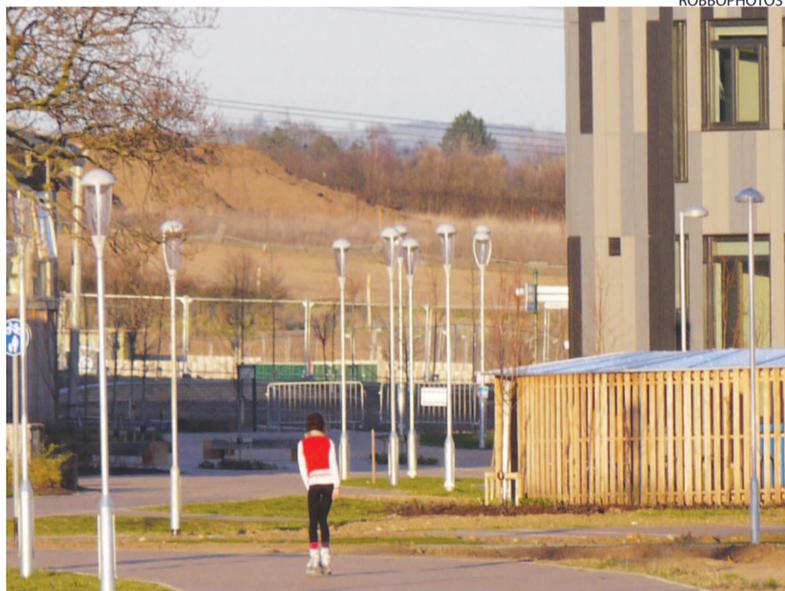
Although Taylor says the University told him they would act, a University spokesperson only confirmed that a limited measure of an out of hours phone line at Goodricke and Langwith receptions to Derwent Facilities Management for maintenance issues.

The University have subcontracted the maintenance of Langwith College to a private company, Derwent Facilities Management.

This company require students to telephone an ‘0843’ number for urgent maintenance issues. Calls are charged at 40p per minute from mobile phones.

Peter Gould, a fourth year student living in Langwith, spent over £40.00 in the last few months reporting the absence of heating or water. On every occasion, they had been “extremely unhelpful and unsympathetic.”

The accommodation on Heslington East has been subject to harsh criticism this term, with concerns over the lack of a cash point or permanent shop.



Taylor has announced a temporary shop will be introduced at the beginning of next term and that students can now get cash back. However, there is a push for a permanent shop and cashpoint.

Last week, the water was turned off in Goodricke and many students have complained about a lack of wi-fi connectivity. Jack Baker, outgoing Langwith Chair, has put forward a motion to referenda calling for YUSU to lobby for 24 hour portering.

Despite a successful lobbying campaign for more services by YUSU, there have been problems with the bus stops at Hes East. The flooding of Heslington Way has caused problems along with repairs to the road itself due to damage to

the surface brick.

Taylor commented: “YUSU can only go back and forth, passing students’ complaints and views onto the University, and then returning their responses, so many times.”

“It reaches a point where the University has to either a) sort out the recurring problems which are getting really annoying now or b) hold their hands up, say they know there are things wrong, explain what is going wrong, and that they’re doing their best to sort it out.”

“Until further attention is given to Hes East outside of having some excellent departmental buildings, and smart-looking accommodation; YUSU won’t be going away, and neither will the complaints; they’ll be getting louder.”

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## News

# Controversial company targets York students

Alexander Watkins  
NEWS REPORTER

AN AMERICAN student intern recruitment agency, Southwestern Advantage, has been found to be potentially misleading and exploiting York students.

The company, as reported by *Nouse*, came under fire last year after attempting to illicitly recruit students in lectures.

Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the company has been banned by four different student unions throughout the UK, including Durham and Edinburgh.

The company offers a summer 'internship' on the premise of providing, "Extraordinary financial opportunity, Personal growth and a career path trajectory," according to the website.

“ employer literature must be clear and their representatives honest ”

University Spokesperson

However, the contract offered by Southwestern Advantage states that any students who sign up are "not an employee of Southwestern Advantage," and that Southwestern is in no way liable for those who act on behalf of the company.

The contract states that as a "lender", the student is a wholesale purchaser of educational books,



COUROSAR

The company which has been banned by four students' unions has been trying to recruit students at York

rather than an employee.

The students are then expected to operate as door-to-door salespersons, with students working up to 80 hours a week, under the guise of an internship, whilst Southwestern Advantage provide no travel costs, insurance or accommodation.

The safety of the interns has been questioned, with one anonymous former intern claiming that a prospective customer "calmly pulled

out a rifle and pointed it at my head."

Another claimed that due to the excessive working hours, it had a substantial impact on their health:

"By the end of summer, I had lost 15 pounds, and my periods stopped completely. It took about three months alone afterwards to fully recover from the impact it had on my body."

A University spokesperson revealed: "Careers is aware of South-

western and the offer they have been making to students for a number of years now.

The university has met their representatives and viewed their contracting procedures.

"We are satisfied that there are safeguards, including a parental consent form, that mean it would be extremely difficult for a student to end up in the USA without having understood what is expected of

them."

The university went on to admit Southwestern's management are the first to admit that their offer is not for everyone and that it represents a challenging, target-based sales experience many students at York might find uncomfortable.

"However, for those students who are motivated by, and fully informed of, the content Southwestern's work the experience can be rewarding and we have met and had positive discussions with York students and alumni who feel the challenge was valuable to them.

"As an institution we would not wish to deny these students access to understanding this opportunity."

The company has been embroiled in controversy relating to its treatment of students, through bullying and intimidation tactics.

An entire website, [www.southwesterncompanytruth.com](http://www.southwesterncompanytruth.com), has been set up, featuring hundreds of testimonials from students who have had experiences with the company to warn those enticed by the program.

However, some York students have already participated in the program, and have gone on to become student managers participating in a second summer of book sales.

The university added: "If a student feels they have been actively misled by any employer we would encourage them to contact Careers as soon as possible so that we could take action to withdraw any services we offer to them."

## Council to review Bus service

Nicole Sørlie  
NEWS REPORTER

IN RESPONSE to York's Quality Bus Partnership's (QBP) continuous display of poor services, the City Council have launched a bus improvement survey.

The council have proposed they take matters in their own hands and run the buses themselves if the situation doesn't improve.

Complaints have been made of the company's delays and lack of time-keeping.

The recent discontinuation of First's Number 4 free Heslington West to Heslington East bus route has caused further disgruntlement amongst students about the bus services in York. The change in services has meant that there are more frequent buses from Heslington West to the city centre, but inconveniences students going to Heslington East.

However after lobbying from YUSU, UniBus have agreed to more frequent services to Heslington East. From the start of next term services during the daytime will increase from every 10 minutes to every seven minutes.

Results from the survey revealed numbers of passengers have been steadily declining over the past five years, despite attempts by the authorities to promote public transport in the city. It has been suggested there should be new agreements



COUROSAR

From the start of next term services during the day will run every seven minutes

set in place between the council and bus firms to improve the standards, which are currently deemed to be unacceptable. They are planning on putting forward a bus strategy "making clear exactly what is expected from bus services across the city."

Tracy Simpson-Laing, the council's deputy leader, also stated: "Only where this is not delivering results will we pursue a Quality Contract Scheme, which would give the council more powers over bus services, including frequency and

routes."

There is "widespread dissatisfaction" over areas such as bus fares and evening and Sunday services, according to Transport Planning Ltd and the TAS partnership; issues which should no longer be overlooked.

If bus fares were to change this could have an effect on students living off campus who do not use the University bus services. Currently students have to pay a higher price on other services compared to the bus routes that run to campus.

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# Significant increase in student rent

**Alex Slingsby**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE COST of renting on campus student accommodation has risen in the last ten years.

A decade ago a standard room at the University would cost £7.64 a night. The cost is now £12.87.

The cost of renting a room with an en-suite has more than doubled with the cost rising from £8.41 per night to £17.70 per night.

A recent survey conducted by the National Union of Students (NUS) into accommodation costs for students living away from home has found that the prices for student accommodation have doubled throughout the UK.

The NUS/Unipol Accommodation Costs Survey has documented accommodation prices from all over the UK for the past thirty years, and is able to provide an intelligible view of the national student accommodation market. For the 2011/2012 survey, the NUS collated data from an estimated 81 per cent of the entire market.

According to the survey, prices for the cheapest student accommodation have, on average, risen by 23 per cent in two years, since 2009/2010. The average cost of a basic room to let for a year is now £3,980.



CARLOS62

The cost of renting student accommodation has increased in recent years

Private providers have also seen considerable growth in the past ten years, surging from accounting for only 4 per cent of the market in 2003, to 39 per cent in 2011-2012.

The role as the main provider

of first-year accommodation, previously reserved for the universities, is under challenge from the private sector, and good quality accommodation is vital for students. However, with the increase in price affecting

even the lower-cost accommodation, universities are in danger of alienating those who cannot afford the rise.

The survey has established that the overall average weekly rent has risen by 25 per cent in the last three years. In the academic year 2009/2010, the typical rent for a student was just under £100, but this grew to £123.96 in the academic year 2012/2013.

Due to the recent tuition fee rise, implemented by the government, there has been a fall in applications to university, and the purpose-built sector has seen a fall in demand. However, even with a 12 per cent reduction in student admissions for the most recent academic year, there are still 1.7 million students who apply for university-owned accommodation each year.

With the latest modifications to university costs, students are now paying much more for the university experience because the cap on tuition fees has been set by the government at three times higher than previously, and very little seems to have accounted for the increase. Students are paying increasingly more for their accommodation, throughout university, and as the private sector of this market expands, so will its influence over the cost of university-owned accommodation.

## Students launch consultancy firm

**Sofia Geraghty**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

TWO UNIVERSITY of York undergraduates are seeking to improve student employability by creating a student-run consultancy business.

Dominic Falcao and Ross Morrison, both third year PPE students, are currently in the process of setting up 'York Community Consulting' as an antidote to what they describe as the "vicious cycle for management consultancy".

Falcao explains that for students hoping to break into consultancy, "lack of experience makes it difficult to get experience, and think this is the most practical and socially beneficial way to break the chain".

The non-profit organisation will allow students to gain experience in the field, by advising charitable organisations, student start-ups and companies looking to improve their social impact.

To ensure that they are qualified enough to do the job, Falcao aims to recruit an advisory board of professionals from consulting and industry, to provide basic training to the students.

Despite similar organisations existing in LSE, Australia, Germany, China and the US, 'York Community Consulting' remains based on a very new concept and will be the first UK student-run consultancy outside of London.

# Walking in a RAG Winter Wonderland

**Anwen Baker**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

Festive cheer was all around at the RAG Winter Wonderland, held in The Courtyard on Saturday 1st December.

A variety of events were held throughout the day including screenings of Christmas films, a performance of PantSoc's *Hansel and Gretel*, and a Christmas market featuring a wide range of stalls.

The RAG team ran an Advent calendar raffle and there was a stall for festive face painting. The Real Ale Society was on hand, selling Christmas ale and mulled cider. Knit Soc was also in attendance with knitted Christmas decorations, and there was a variety of cakes being sold, all to raise money for RAG.

The University Brass Band kept the crowd entertained with Christmas classics such as Jingle Bells and Away in a Manger. Other University musicians performed throughout the event, including the Samba Society.

The money raised from the Winter Wonderland event will go towards the charities supported by RAG, such as Shelter, Survive and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Becky Mursell, a RAG volunteer and organiser commented 'We're really pleased with the event so far. Attendance is looking good and we're aiming to raise around £1000 - £2000.'

"We're hopeful for the future of the Winter Wonderland event, so next year it'll be even better!"



ANWEN BAKER

## News

# The Politics of Crime

The PCC elections failed to attract interest but they still have a job to do. **Josh Boswell** and **Neil Johnston** caught up with **Julia Mulligan**, North Yorkshire PCC, to find out how she will protect students, and if she really has a mandate.

**You're two weeks in to the job. Are you already bogged down?**

Yeah, well it's a big job. I think the key is to try and focus on what you need to do, and to try not to bite off too much too soon. I've filled up a notebook virtually already!

**Why did you decide to run?**

In my old business – not my new business, my old business – I used to do a lot of work in communities with a lot of crime, so in areas where there was a lot of high economic deprivation and I worked with a whole load of people in public sector organisations, and saw the effect that crime has on people, so you have an interest when you meet people and you hear their stories. I've been doing that sort of work since 2007, so when this came up, I thought 'well that looks really interesting'. I thought I'd have a go.

**Does your party affiliation matter?**

I suppose, I stood as a Conservative and I am a Conservative, but in terms of what I'm doing locally, there's actually been nothing, no... nothing from the Conservatives in central office actually. Nothing. I think the Labour Party, their PCCs all went down to London on the Monday after the election and they all met together as a group, we haven't done that.

It's a new role. I mean my approach is quite different for example to the chap in West Yorkshire. And also it's a local reform, so it is very much driven by what you need in your local communities. We've certainly had no instructions of any shape or form that this is how you should do it. The only thing that is driving what we are doing is the needs in our communities, the force that you have, and the legislation.

The government's very much seeing it as a local reform. I'll meet my fellow PCCs at a meeting tomorrow, but that's all the PCCs from across the UK, so it's not a party-political meeting. But that will be the first time that I've met all the other Conservative PCCs.

That has surprised me. I thought, because I stood for Parliament in 2010, and when you stand as a parliamentary candidate you are there to explain the national manifesto and deliver on that manifesto, whereas this is just completely different. And actually that surprised me, to be frank. All the money that I've raised has been locally raised; I've had no central funding. The deposit was raised locally.

**How is your role relevant for crime involving students - bike theft, street lighting - and how**

**will you tackle crime against students?**

The lighting and housing is council, so the police have to work really closely with City of York Council to make sure that the relevant alleyways, whatever it is, are lit, and that you feel safe in those areas. And the organisation in York that does that is the Safety York partnership. But you've got your local policing teams who deliver, hopefully, what you need here on campus. So you should see your PCSOs on campus, which I think you do?

**No.**

They've just launched student watch, which will involve the PCSOs. But one of the things I'm doing, and this works really well in some areas already, so it's not something the police are not doing, is to make sure officers are going to places regularly where they can meet people, and where they can talk to people.

So your local neighbourhood policing teams should know what's going on, and what students are concerned and worried about. So if that's not happening I can feed that back in. But I can't tell the police officers where to go and what to do.

“if you've got evidence of dealing on campus then that is the thing that you need to feed back to the police”

**How are you going to deal with the problem of drugs on campus?**

I think that is a really difficult thing, because what the police need is intelligence about what is going on, so that they can do something about it, and obviously that requires students coming forward and talking to the police. And so if people are concerned about that, that's the thing to do.

**And if more evidence comes to light, will there be a police response?**

If students are saying to police, look, we think there's a real problem with drugs on campus, can I come and talk to you about it, and you explained what



body because they haven't heard of them. So what you've got to do is demonstrate to people what a difference it will make in their communities. And I would hope that by the end of my term people will see that I've been very focused on what people need and want from their policing force. And actually the police are very up for that.

One of the main reasons behind this whole reform was to release local policing from the direction of the home office. So those shackles of the Home Office have been relieved to a certain extent.

**Are you concerned about releasing those "shackles" when the force has recently come under scrutiny, been criticised by the Inspectorate of the Constabulary, and has been described in Parliament as "that particularly dubious constabulary"?**

I suspect that that might have been a lord. A particular lord. Is it Lord Maginnis? Well, there you go then.

**But there have been problems with the North Yorkshire police. The word 'corruption' has been bandied around.**

There have been problems with North Yorkshire police, particularly with the senior officers. Ninety-nine per cent of the policy officers in North Yorkshire are hardworking, honest individuals full of integrity. But there has been a problem with some of the senior officers, and actually one of the reasons why I wanted

was going on, and the police felt that what you were saying was of real concern to them then they would take you up on it, I'm sure. I've only got the anecdotal evidence of what people have been saying to me, but it would be something that I'd be concerned about.

It's the dealers that the police focus on, and if you've got evidence of dealing on campus then that is the thing that you need to feed back to the police, and they'll take that seriously I'm pretty sure... drug users are some of the highest reoffenders, and it's the PCC's job to try and bring down crime.

**Was the turnout at the elections disappointing for you?**

I think it was disappointing for all Police and Crime Commissioners, I mean of course I would have liked to have seen a higher turnout.

I think part of the problem is that the government was saying they're replacing the policing authorities, and nobody's heard of the police authorities. They're these invisible bodies and they're not accountable. But that doesn't mean anything to any-

to stand was to make sure there was a clean break with the old police authority, which in my view did not fulfil its scrutiny role sufficiently. I think those chief officers got away with some things that are completely unacceptable.

But I think that to tar the police force in North Yorkshire as dubious is really misleading, and that quote, I would not agree with.

**Those are quite major changes you are talking about. In terms of the vote share, you won by 58 per cent, but that is only eight per cent of the population. Do you think you have the mandate for it?**

Well the police authority has had no votes, and that's a step better than where we were before... and as I said before, I think the key thing is to make sure that I fulfil my role, and that we engage with people properly. In North Yorkshire I can tell you there's a strong will to change things and to think differently.

**So you disagree with Ruth Potter who was running against you, when she said "I think from the voting it's obvious that people do not want a Police and Crime Commissioner"?**

Well I would say back to Ruth Potter, why did she stand if she was so against it in the first instance? I think Ruth Potter was put there by the Labour party to stand, her whole campaign was very political, mine was deliberately not political. And I am now acting under oath to act impartially on behalf of everybody, so if Ruth has got a particular policing issue she wants to talk to me about I am more than happy to talk with her.

**What are the key actions you will take on behalf of students?**

I would like to make sure that you have that relationship and contact with the police that you need. If there are any particular key issues that you think need tackling, like the drugs, then I can feed that back into the police locally and see if they can take action on that. But also to make sure that the partnership working around those broader support areas that you talked about so for example the housing and the lighting, is working for you.

And also, if there are any issues or problems that you want to raise, then you can come to me and I can try to feed that back into the police on your behalf. So a voice for students if you like, in the police.



COURTESY OF JULIA MULLIGAN

# SocDrawer

The section by societies, for societies

I WAS first inspired to learn more about refugees when I read the book *Do they hear you when you cry?* by Fauziya Kassindja, a harrowing personal account of one woman who fled from the injustices in her home village only to find herself facing more injustice when she escaped to United States.

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) UK is a national student society with a mission to raise awareness of the issues faced by refugees, and to provide students with the means to make a difference in the lives of refugees in the UK. Getting involved with national campaigns is a big part of this, and the campaign we are focusing on this term is Equal Opportunities: Access to Higher Education. But STAR is also concerned to make an impact at a local level, and in York, we're running English language classes for refugees - which we're always recruiting for.

Our work ties with the national campaign, which fights for the right of refugees to develop skills while they're in the UK, either to contribute in the workplace here or to develop in their country of origin, as we believe no one's potential should be wasted as a result of their ethnic background or refugee status.

For me, STAR is a wonderful way to meet people with similar concerns who are really committed

to making this kind of change happen - change that I think really is important, because, as students we often take for granted how privileged we are.

Despite popular fears and alarming newspaper headlines about refugees, they made up a tiny proportion of net immigration to the UK in 2011 (about three per cent). According to the UNHCR Global Trends 2011, there were an estimated 195,500 refugees in the UK last year - only about 0.26 per cent of the population.

But these are people who have legally and successfully applied for asylum in the UK because they are in danger in their countries of origin. Refugees are one of the most disadvantaged groups living in the UK. Their lives are often full of uncertainty, alongside the worry of deportation.

Alongside this harsh reality, a single adult asylum seeker receives £36.62 a week from the state in comparison with the absolute minimum £67.50 per week provided for single unemployed UK citizens. Asylum seekers do not have permission to work in the UK - they are therefore barred from earning taxable income which would contribute to the UK economy and from taking on work whether they are willing or not.

Good organisations are making



Student Action for Refugees (STAR) UK has a mission to raise awareness of the issues faced by refugees in York

a difference however. Refugee Action York, RAY, works closely with STAR. On Sundays, RAY hosts a drop-in centre for local refugees who are mainly of Turkish descent.

As a result of being a part of the society, I've had the chance to meet fascinating people and learn an incredible amount. After the English teaching lessons for adults, one-to-one support, and children's activities, everybody joins together for a shared meal, easily the best part of the day as it provides a chance to mingle and mix around in a chilled setting.

What's more, it is so satisfying to see that the work RAY does actually makes a genuine difference to the people who attend. Moving to new country where you don't speak the language and have few relatives is extremely difficult, but RAY helps these people hugely by being extremely welcoming and providing the means for the refugees to improve their English skills, and find their feet as a result.

Many displaced people never make it to safety and a large portion of those that do are held in detention while decisions are made about

their fate. There are 11 immigration removal centres across the UK. At the end of 2011, according to the Refugee Council, 2,419 people had been detained and 99 children had entered detention, of which 64 were asylum detainees.

The STAR National Fundraising Week is running from December 1st to the 9th. Here in York, we will kick-start the week with a screening of the film *Dirty Pretty Things*, Monday 3rd December in P/T/005 at 6.30pm.

Charmaine Lartey

## SocietyDiary

### My Term with the University of York Brass Band

2012 has been a great year so far for The UYBB - before term even started, we gathered the old guard for a gig in town with the local charity 'York Against Charity', which garnered crowds of singing locals and dancing children. The band is sounding fantastic, and Armistice Day saw the UYBB's first paid gig of the year. In a convoy of cars and a cramped minibus we travelled to the village of Easingwold to march in their Remembrance Day parade, with Brownies, Air Cadets and Scouts making up the cohort. Stephen Macdonald and Graeme Osborn played the Last Post beautifully. I wonder who it'll be next year...

If you have any questions, or are interested in joining the band - check us out on twitter #TheUYBB, facebook.com/uybrassband, or website: www.uybb.co.uk.

## OddSoc: Viva Voce

This year, Viva Voce has been spotted dancing with a giant ear and a giant pair of lips on sticks, getting people to decorate cupcakes with a blindfold on and wandering around in Viva Voce hoodies - all part of a master marketing plan. Because we don't just need writers for our unique audio magazine - we need people to record, to read aloud, to edit, and to help publicise us! Freshers' Fair was record breaking for us in sign-ups, but anybody who wants to get involved with us is very welcome as we always need more writers and readers - in fact they can find us on Facebook (by searching Viva Voce York), add us on Twitter (VivaVoce2) or email the committee at vivavoce@yusu.org. So far this year, we have also had a lovely natter with York Blind and Partially Sighted Society about how we can work with them to advertise our magazine. They have an amazing centre where they help blind and partially sighted individuals to find equipment and resources to help them in their day to day lives, as well as offering a chat with people who understand. As an audio-magazine, we need to have connections with Blind and Partially Sighted Societies everywhere so we have decided to start local and work upwards.

## What'sOn

### ANNA KARENINA

York Student Cinema

7/12/12 19.30 P/X/001

£3 entry

### GREENLAND

A play by Howard Brenton

6/12/12 19.30  
8/12/12 14.30

Black Box Studio, TFTV, Hes East

Tickets: YorkTheatreRoyal.com

### DANCE SOC CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

8/12/12 19.00

Roger Kirk Centre

Tickets £5 at www.yusu.org

### DEBATE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT VS BRITISH BILL OF RIGHTS

14/12/12

17.30

York St John  
Fountains Lecture Theatre  
Fountains Learning Centre

### SKA/JAZZ JAMNESTY

New Roots / Dandy and De Lions / Montego Bay

In support of Amnesty International

The Graduate 5/12/12 21.00

### ALL-ABILITIES TRAINING SESSION

UoY Men's Cricket Club  
Campus Sports Hall, James

4/12/12 15.30 - 17.30  
7/12/12 14.30 - 16.30

cricket@yusu.org

### DANCESPORT Ballroom & Latin Lessons

D/N/028

4/12/12 18.30 Beginner  
19.30 Intermediate  
20.30 Advanced

£3 for first hour  
£1 for each further hour

### THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES AUDITIONS

4/12/12 19.00 - 21.00 AEW/011  
5/12/12 19.00 - 21.00 ATB/037a  
6/12/12 19.00 - 21.00 W/035d

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Performance Week 7 Drama Barn

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A lecture by Prof. Ed Corrigan

Followed by drinks on campus

5/12/12 19.30 - 20.30 P/T/005

contact maths@yusu.org

### TECHNOLOGY MEETUP

6/12/12 18.30 Ron Cooke Hub

Informal meet for those with a passion for technology in York

foundationsyork.eventbrite.co.uk

# Comment



comment@nouse.co.uk  
www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Neil  
Johnston



## Minimum price will have a minimum impact

The Government will need to consider alternatives to minimum pricing for alcohol if they want to effectively tackle Britain's binge drinking culture

As a student at York your list of priorities might go something like this: getting absolutely prawn crackered, sleeping, eating and then maybe the odd attempt at your degree. But that first priority, indulging in the precious commodity, alcohol, is now under threat courtesy of Theresa May, Home Secretary.

This year my housemates and I have moved even closer to Aldi. Where else would you find frozen food, baby shoes, fruit, an axe, and a guitar in the same aisle? Aside from the strange layout there is one fantastic feature of this shop; the hideously cheap alcohol prices. A personal favourite is their £8 bottle of vodka with no labeling other than the Russian word itself, although there is the legend of four bottles of wine for £4.

Liberated from the irony of Costcutter this has provided a new-found boost to a second year's bank account. However wherever you get your alcohol I'm sure that if like me you live up to the binge drinking stereotype you will be outraged by the minimum pricing plans.

Allow me put this into perspective. My beloved, albeit questionable, Aldi vodka would rise to £11.79. Forget £9,000 tuition fees, this unjustified alcohol increase is the real bombshell.

But look at the arguments for minimum pricing, apparently aimed to tackle Britain's binge drinking culture and booze problem. Fair enough, we have a big problem. The amount of alcohol this nation drinks is affecting people's health. But what is not fair is

to try to implement a policy that is hardly legal, and where the evidence is based on a few studies.

Firstly it is perhaps often forgotten that older generations actually binge drink as well. If a few 40-year-olds have a night in on the port and gin or a husband and wife get carried away and have a few bottles of wine this is still classed as being on the binge. Is minimum pricing really going to affect them? This seems all too unlikely.

Now let's stagger back to campus and look at students' drinking habits. Everyone has had to manage a budget in some way. We have all spent enough money to bail out a failing European state, yet we still manage to go out. How we make the savings no one really knows, but we do. If minimum pricing came in we would continue this.

The price of inebriation might

be more but we would just spend a couple of pounds less on food. It wouldn't matter anyway as we would recover our daily subsistence in free prawn crackers at The Willow. Oh, and there's another flaw; the minimum pricing doesn't cover bars or clubs or even Chinese restaurants. Clubs will still put on drinks deals and the nightclubs will continue to outdo them.

I'm not saying the Government shouldn't be doing anything, just that this is the wrong approach. There is a problem and it needs to be dealt with, but a price increase just won't work. Drinking is now part of our culture, and just as it is part of student life, it is part of many of the older generations' lives.

For the binge drinking problem to be solved we need a more imaginative policy. It is about changing people's perception of booze, in-

stead of just charging them more.

Ignoring the huge concerns with the plan, even if Theresa May and her cronies get this passed through Parliament they have another challenge. The drinks industry will take them on.

Take your bets. The proud stature of Jonnie Walker and friends against an incompetent Cabinet Minister, in desperate need of a Malcolm Tucker to whip her into shape; I know who I fancy to win. What's more that little organisation called the European Union will also have something to say about it, as they did north of the Border.

And while we may occasionally get thrown out of a club for consuming too much sambuca it is more likely that this poorly-thought out conception will be thrown out by the courts or even by Theresa May's Right Honourable friends.



THEA BURDEN

Nicole  
Sørli



## Losing faith in schools

The Government should concentrate on improving secular schools, enabling parents to make a choice that isn't influenced by a religion they don't believe in

With the ever rising number of faith schools in Britain, Richard Dawkins calls on society to reconsider the consequences of faith in schools.

Dawkins states that in about 7,000 publicly funded schools, one out of three is affiliated with religion, and the coalition is only planning for more faith-based education in the future. His recent concerns lie primarily with the idea that children are being shoe-horned into religion all for the sake of getting a good education.

There are several factors which have not been taken into account in Dawkins' argument. It's simply illogical to make a sweeping generalisation about faith schools and presume that they're indoctrinating irrational belief into the minds of school children. Whereas in re-

ality, the irrational decision lies in the hands of the parents who know perfectly well what they're signing their children up for. In some cases, parents may even think there's a lot more 'indoctrinating' that goes on than what plays out in reality.

Pulling apart all the ties this country still has with Christianity seems to have become a default reaction, because it doesn't reflect the values or beliefs of many people in Britain today. It's deemed to be offensive and restricting and forces children to conform to a belief which they do not hold as their own.

Parents often choose to send their children to faith schools because they provide a better level of teaching and pastoral care. However, it would be naive to suggest they are unaware of the Christian ethos and sense of traditionalism that

generally comes with them.

Another thing to consider would be the varying degree of religion in faith schools. There are some schools which require families to go to church and attain a signature from a vicar to confirm their attendance. This then is a ridiculous notion if parents feel they have to act in pretence in order for their children to receive the level of education they are entitled to.

However, many faith schools are open about their beliefs and welcome students from all faith backgrounds to be freely integrated within the school, without believing in the institution's religion. This further demonstrates that the choice is down to parents and it shouldn't be assumed that children are mindless sponges who can't think for themselves. All schools should encourage

children to assess what they believe and why, and provide a safe environment to do so.

Dawkins argues that faith schools do not respect a child's right to freedom of belief. Nonetheless, advocating the removal of faith schools, arguably, does not allow for children to have the right to freedom of belief either. So where is the middle ground?

Instead of the coalition implementing a greater number of faith schools, they should focus on raising the level of teaching in all schools across the country. That way parents will have ground to make a more informed choice, in terms of the best education and schooling for the children, and won't feel they have to send them to a faith school if its nature conflicts with their personal belief.



BRANDON SEAGER

## Cultured LAD

Joshua Allen



Slut Dropping, CEOs and Corporate Hoes. All manifestations of what the NUS, Vagenda, vice chancellors and Vice Magazine are currently animatedly discussing: Lad Culture.

As a man who is proud to say he likes fines art, fine ale and Feminism, I must admit I don't see the attraction.

However, this article is an attempt to explore it. To try and understand why so many young men, capable of going to university, cling to this worst of '90s revivals in search of an identity.

The last few years have not been kind to traditional conceptions of "masculinity". First it was the USA; since 2008, more women than men have been in work; Not necessarily earning more, but holding down jobs and supporting families, increasingly without a male presence.

Since 1997 more women than men have qualified as doctors in the UK every year. In 2009, for the first time, the ratio exceeded 60:40, reversing the statistics in the news 25 years ago. Similar trends were observed in law and accounting.

Essentially the high profile, high level jobs of today involve the ability to network, multi-task and, crucially, sit still. Sheer strength now counts for relatively little. So why then do so many young men try and act in a way, pandering to a certain view of stereotypical male behaviour, infantile?

I would say that it is because they are lost. They have absorbed an utterly unrealistic male stereotype, that of the aggressive, tribal, domineering alpha male. Even a quick scan of history shows that most men have never acted like this. So it needs to be asked why, when we are seeing a world being forged where feminine characteristics are increasingly valued, do we continue to drip-feed our nation this utterly warped and now unattainable view of what it is to be a man, be it through video games or pornography?

It may be that the lads themselves realise this. Seeing university, rather than as a place of learning and self-discovery, as being one last hurrah of boyishness (a lad, by definition, is not a man) before a life of either mediocre drudgery or a perpetual, escapist adolescence, lodged in their childhood bedroom, where Michael Bay films and X-Box games dominate.

This is awful, and really sad. However, they must not spoil the university experience for the rest of us. To this end it can only be concluded that a society which continues to expound, for profit, out of habit, or for both reasons, very rigid ideas about gender roles should cease and desist. A society which consciously or unconsciously causes harm by perpetuating unrealistic images, should back off. It should let all of us find our own places in life, in the world as it is, not as it was, or how some are still being misled to believe it is.

Alex Slingsby

Comment Editor



## Old news, new evidence

The University should concentrate on its support systems for drug users on campus, and stop running away from such a national issue

The recent *Nouse* investigation into drugs use at the University suggests that cocaine is being used on campus. The Class A drug is most commonly taken by people between the ages of 18 and 25 years, and it seems that York is no exception to the rule.

After the last *Nouse* investigation that found cocaine on campus four years ago, the university promised to make sure that this issue was dealt with.

Fast-forward a few years, the drug problem is still here, and it seems that the university has done very little about it, even attempting to discredit the claims. But the swabs are 95 per cent accurate. Indicators of cocaine were even found in Yospace, a recent addition on campus. It's old news, but new evidence.

I'm not suggesting that the University is a hotspot for drugs, because there'll be plenty of universities with bigger problems. The very point of this survey was not to rediscover drugs on campus, but to kick-start the university back into action. More needs to be done to prevent this from becoming a bigger problem, but the university will need to use more initiative and tackle this from an altogether different angle – welfare – if they ever want to make a difference.

It's a fact of life that some students take drugs. They always have done, and they always will. Every other online student-related news article is about drugs, alcohol, or the combination. Most of us will know someone who has tried drugs at some point, whether it's public knowledge or not.

The point is that the use of drugs on campus shouldn't be a taboo subject. Otherwise, how will the university ever be able to offer sufficient support?

If students feel threatened by university policies, policies that haven't been upheld in recent years anyway, then how can we ever expect anyone to come forward and acknowledge the problem? Most people with a drug problem are going through an extremely difficult time; do we really need to add ignorance to the pile?

“ the use of drugs on campus shouldn't be a taboo subject ”

The underlying issue here is that drugs will always be prevalent, especially in such an enclosed space, where everyone lives within minutes of one another, and peer pressure can dominate. But if the University had implemented any kind of change, as promised, we might not be dealing with the reoccurrence on such a large scale.

University life isn't exactly a walk in the park, and if there aren't any problem-specific welfare systems in place, campus can become a very isolating place. Students could very well be leaving university with a criminal record instead of a degree, simply because they were lost in the system.

The University needs to tackle this problem head-on, through support networks, open groups, and

dedicated staff.

Still, we can hardly expect the Sabb officers, fresh out of a degree themselves, to strut around campus telling the rest of the University what they can and can't smoke, nor do I expect first-years to take it upon themselves to monitor D Bar's toilets. This is a university-wide problem, and should be dealt with by the institution.

Whether or not the university chooses to shrug off these allegations, what is clear to anyone with half a brain is that ignoring the problem in order to preserve an image or toe a management line, then it's only going to escalate.

It would be unrealistic to assume that this can be turned around in the next year, and that by the time I have left university, York will be a drugs-free environment. We have to be realistic if we want to address such an important issue. But rather than bury its head in the sand, the university needs to stand up to the facts that its own student newspaper is producing.

A capable management team of paid professionals are running the shop, courtesy of our tuition loans, and as such, they should know how to manage situations like this. I'm not talking sniffer dogs and bouncers on the toilets, but it's about time something changed. Otherwise, they might as well have handed out a colouring book to first-years during freshers week, and told them to go and play in the drug den for a couple of years.

We have done the work. Now it's time for the university to step up to the mark and accept the challenge set.

Follow the debate:  
Comment online at  
[nouse.co.uk/comment](http://nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Comment

# NOUSE

Est. 1964



## A duty to deal with drugs

It is not surprising to hear that students have used cocaine while at the University. This is not because York has a reputation, but because it is a well-known fact that students at all universities use drugs. What the *Nouse* investigation has shown is that the University of York seems to have done nothing to tackle the problem, despite the fact that traces of cocaine were found across campus four years ago.

In response to the discovery, the University claimed that the swabs used in the investigation were unreliable and produced false positives. However, Dave Rigg, founder of Crackdown Drug Testing (the company that supplied the cocaine swabs used in both *Nouse* investigations), has told *Nouse* that the University had also ordered swabs from his company four years ago. Crackdown also supplies drug testing equipment to 38 British police forces and the Prison Service.

It is time for the University to follow through with its promise from four years ago. Not the time for petty and unfounded comments about the accuracy of drugs tests, but the time to act upon their findings. It's unlikely that illegal drugs will ever be completely wiped off the campus, but not only does the University have a duty of care towards its students to make sure the risks and consequences of drug abuse are known, it also has an obligation to make good on its promises.

## YUSU Sabbs marginalised

The recent furore over Sanchita Chawla, YUSU Entertainment Officer's recently deleted blog posts has served to highlight some of the problems that YUSU currently faces. Is this simply petty infighting or is this symptomatic of underlying tensions within YUSU between the sabbs and the part time officers?

Coming shortly after the resignation of Josh Allen, Union Chair, 'blog-gate' reinforces the notion of YUSU as a clique, closed off to the majority of students. As much as Kallum Taylor likes to espouse the idea that YUSU is run 'by students, for students', their attempts at censorship seem to undercut this claim.

Infighting such as this can only lead to havoc, and is certainly harmful to YUSU's image. We, as students, should expect our Union to present a united front. YUSU must do this if they have any hope of defending the interests of the student body and 'dirty politics' and infighting will only undermine their cause.

## Wentworth worth more

Postgraduate students make up 25 per cent of the University of York's student body. That's 3646 people. People who both want and deserve to feel like part of a community. Anyone who's been an undergraduate at the University knows that the collegiate system can lend itself to an atmosphere of community and a feeling of belonging, but current postgraduate students clearly aren't getting what they deserve. Kallum Taylor, the YUSU president, is to be applauded for his attempts at fixing this problem. This issue is symptomatic of the University spending a disproportionate amount of its resources, financial or otherwise, on undergraduates. The undergraduates may outnumber postgraduates three-to-one, but they are not three times more important.

While nobody should be in any doubt as to whether something ought to be done, there is justifiable debate over whether the plan to integrate postgraduate students into all eight or nine colleges is a good one. There are all sorts of questions about whether the communities in our other seven colleges would, as Taylor has hypothesised, be "further enriched" by the presence of postgraduates, whether they're even the right sort of communities for the postgraduates, and of course whether this integration is what the postgraduates themselves want.

# NOUSE

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## University challenged

Kate Mitchell



The announcement that the Government plans to make around a dozen institutions into universities is a controversial one. In a time when attracting students is becoming increasingly tough, it will serve to pull in higher achieving students who may have had prejudices that pushed them away. Telling granny about university is much more alluring than university college.

For institutions such as Newman University College in Birmingham, who were not classed as universities simply because their student numbers sat below the previously required 4,000, this seems like a fair proposal. Their quality is undisputed. It seems ironic that the elitists who complain about mass higher education are likely to also be the ones most opposed to these institutions gaining university status – despite present exclusion being based upon the small size of their student bodies.

But whilst supporting the underdog might seem like the right thing to do, there is another side to the argument when considering the other universities. The drastic increase in fees led to a nine per cent average fall in applications in 2012, meaning that even universities such as Liverpool, a member of the Russell Group, acquired significantly fewer freshers than desired. Caps on places for students below AAB standard at top universities have intensified the problem as these universities are unable to lower their entry standards simply to fill places.

The Visa row surrounding London Metropolitan University is an-

other ongoing issue surrounding further education. The extent of the impact on the university itself has been catastrophic, but the impacts stretch far beyond LMU's walls. The reputation of British higher education as a whole has been thoroughly pounded on a world-wide stage.

It is barmy to think the Government is not focused on dealing with present problems before shaking the system up even more. The transformation of many polytechnics to universities in 1992, whilst being widely regarded within the field as a success, received much criticism and created widespread debate. Surely, opening the system up to further negativity from those who are already tearing it apart is exactly what the Government needs to not do.

A further issue with the granting of university status focuses on only one of the institutions involved, but perhaps holds the most gravitas.

The College of Law in Liverpool, a for-profit private institution, is amongst those to become a university, and the idea of public money for student loans going into private hands is something that is extremely hard to justify. Although perhaps one relatively small for-profit institution could slip through the net, the granting of university status being imminent for another suggests this is not just an anomaly, and the issue could become increasingly prevalent in the -future.

I do not contest that granting university status would benefit the universities themselves – and Bath only serves to highlight this. However I would testify supporting already existing universities should be the main priority of the Government for now. Spreading their resources and time too far will be of little benefit to anyone and thus only when the current system is more stable should further changes be looked at.



BRANDON SEAGER

## Working towards the future

Anwen Baker



In four years' time I will graduate. I, and many others, will step out of the cosy bubble of university and into 'the real world'. A world in which, somehow, I am going to have to find a job. I can't be the only one who's absolutely terrified, can I?

A Futuretrack survey has shown that today's graduates are facing an increasingly dismal job market. 'Significant' periods of unemployment were reported by ten per cent of graduates, with another forty per cent saying they remained in non-graduate posts for up to two years after graduation. With youth unemployment approaching one million and apprenticeships becoming increasingly difficult to find, things aren't exactly looking good.

Many of the long-term unemployed have turned to the government for help in finding sustainable employment, in particular to their flagship scheme, Welfare to Work. Private contractors are paid commission to successfully get people into work. Despite having spent £435 million on the scheme so far, Government figures have shown that in the 13 months leading up to

July 2012, none of the 18 Work Programme contractors have reached the target set: to get 5.5 per cent of unemployed people into a job lasting for six months or more.

According to data released by the Department for Work and Pensions, a measly average of 3.5 per cent of the long-term unemployed referred to the program are still in work six months later.

These figures raise huge questions about the government's ability to get people off benefits and into work. Mark Hoban, Employment minister and Work Programme providers such as A4e blame these failings on a weak economy, but the fact of the matter is that compulsory unpaid work for those on welfare does not lead to sustained employment. It simply replaces paid jobs by providing employers with unpaid staff.

Stores such as Argos and Tesco have used Workfare, essentially just state subsidised labour, to reduce the hours of paid employees and keep costs down. The Workfare programme exploits those who need help most and erodes welfare rights.

The programme was part of

what ministers deemed a revolution in welfare. As far as I can see, no such revolution has occurred.

As Mark Hoban has stated, 56 per cent of those who joined the scheme are no longer receiving benefits, but no longer being on benefits is not the same as being in work.

Many have dropped out of the system entirely or have gone back into training. Thousands have been sanctioned and stripped of their Jobseeker's Allowance for failing to comply with the scheme and undertake unpaid work. The Welfare to Work scheme does not work simply because the required number of jobs are just not there.

The government must start prioritising job creation over deficit reduction if they have any hope of getting the long term unemployed into sustainable jobs. I can only hope that come 2016, when I am saddled with the student loan debt, and flung out into the big, scary world of employment, that I will not be faced with such an abysmal economy and a government incapable of encouraging growth to provide the jobs needed.



Andrew Knowles

## Flattening out the playing fields

Plans put into place to reform Britain's school system won't necessarily help the long-term situation.

A frequent argument between my friends who attended private schools and I (I'm 'state-educated', as I love to remind them) is the highly contentious state versus private school debate.

How much difference does going to independent schools make? Should anything be done to sort out the divide? I'm very much on the side of the reformers; the current state of affairs is unfair and exacerbates Britain's extremely 'classist society'.

Understandably, the privately educated detest the generic allegations about fairness thrown upon the private school system; their schooling was primarily down to their parents' choices. However, it is definitely time for Britain's school system to be reformed.

A recent report commissioned by the Sutton Trust and the Department of Business Innovation and Skills showed that privately-educated students are more likely to apply to the top universities compared to their state school counterparts, leading to calls for increased and better directed outreach programmes. But these changes would have little effect on the underlying issues.

The suggestion that some well-angled outreach programmes will

solve the current discrepancy is laughable. Even if this absurdity results in more of the top state school students applying for the more prestigious institutions, it doesn't do enough to address the statistics - the proportion of privately-educated students applying to the top universities is far higher than the national proportion, as around 16 per cent go to private sixth form colleges.

“ it is definitely time for Britain's school system to be reformed ”

The fact that many state school students are disillusioned about their further education prospects, exemplifies the vast amount of work that needs to be put into flattening out the playing fields for future generations. In Britain fate smiles very kindly on those lucky enough to have parents financially able to send their children to independent schools. The challenge of competing with students better trained for applying to university is almost too heavy a price to pay.

The number of private schools, or indeed the existence of private

schools at all, is all too often overlooked. They're a widely accepted part of society, but only really because this has been the status quo for decades. These are schools that provide a higher standard of education, from better sports facilities to help in university interviews, and the main discriminating factor is financial; children from privileged backgrounds sent to these schools will receive a better education than those who can't afford it.

The main counter-argument to my complaints is that private schools are a part of a free society; it would be unfair to prevent parents from spending their money on a good education for their children.

But I believe that when it comes to education, fairness should always trump concerns about choice and personal freedoms. Surely, the freedom gained in social mobility, from private schools resources of good teachers and facilities being spread over the whole population would make more of a difference. The practicalities of completely banning private schools would be incredibly challenging and wouldn't happen overnight, or 'over-decade' for that matter. But this change does need to happen; at the moment we're very much living up the stereotype of our classist society.

## Sober up



Amy Blumsom

The infamous 'Fresher's Fun' is a social event not to be missed. Many are told it's an integral part of being accepted into a sporting society, a chance to 'prove yourself' to your team members. I'll be the first to admit that when this event came around, a large part of me was filled with dread. This wasn't eased by the horror stories of so-called 'initiations' at other universities. But, I'm glad I went and what's more, went hard. My fellow freshers and I have developed a sense of solidarity, a bond that can only be formed through parading around York in a swimming costume and snorkel, completing absurd challenges and consuming even more absurd types and amounts of alcohol. I would be the last person to say that Wednesday night sports team socials are a reserved or sober affair.

Admittedly, on most socials there have been a handful of street wise students who, although not completely sober, are watching out for the biggest liabilities. After all, there's a difference between smashed and not sober; can't everyone find a happy medium? Even at 'Fresher's Fun', glasses of water were frequently thrust into our faces. So, what difference would a Sober Rep make?

It's a not a bad idea. In every society, there are those who don't drink and it would be nice if they were represented. It may even demonstrate to the rest of the society that you don't need alcohol to have a good time when out with your team. My flatmate is tee-total and still knows how to have fun on a night out, even braving Willow. What's more, this hero will dutifully trek through the rain in the quest to find that mobile phone you may or may not have drunkenly left in some club toilet.

At the end of the day however, one Sober Rep can't serve as a babysitter to an entire club. It's unfair to expect so much of someone amidst the chaos of a night out. Moreover, it may encourage the rest of the club to drink even more, under the false pretence that they can palm off their responsibility.

According to Emma Hersey, YUSU disability officer, the whole idea of a Sober Rep is to "broaden access to the social side of sport". But there is more to a sport club's social life than Ziggy's. There are lunches at the Courtyard, Christmas meals, matches, and endless training sessions over which to bond as a team. At 'Fresher's Fun' we were subjected to choruses of "down it fresher!" But other than that, I have never felt pressured to drink alcohol, and rightly so. Moreover, "down it fresher!" is something we've been hearing since fresher's week from the supposedly responsible STYCs.

Is it really fair for YUSU to target sports clubs explicitly? Personally, if the idea of a Sober Rep is to be taken seriously, then it should be extended throughout the University and not simply applied to sport clubs. It's unfair for one branch of the many societies here to be tarred with the same drunk and disorderly brush.

Fiona Parker



## The Naked Truth

In Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Adam and Eve walk around naked due to the fact that there was "not guilty shame of nature's works". In other words, until the biblical fall occurs, their nudity was not an offence and it was therefore shameless and innocent. I do believe that if there ever was a time when nudity could be pure and free of sexual connotations, that time has long since passed.

As of 19th November, it is an offence to be publicly nude in San Francisco, the city once renowned for its liberal attitudes towards public nudity. The ban, passed by six votes to five by the board of supervisors, has marked the end of social nudity's reign across the city.

Following the announcement, two women stripped off at a city hall where the result was broadcasted. Yes, it has been highlighted many times before that we live in an overtly sexualised society.

Why ban this innocent form of nudity, a supposed public weapon against the sexualisation of the human form? Who can look at the monochromatic images of bare breasted festival goers of the early seventies and not feel a touch of reminiscence? I believe that to assume the naked body maintains purity, at such a point in our social history, is a form of denial.

The legal system should reflect the particular social mood of the society it serves. This idea

is reflected by the numerous pop quizzes and board games which mock obscure laws that are no longer observed. The law stating that camel hunting is legal in Arizona, is obscure at first; yet when it is observed that, between 1856 and 1857, camels were imported to that region in order to haul supplies across the desert for the army, it makes contextual sense. Likewise, in this case, we have entered an era where nudity is so sexualised, that it can no longer be detached from sexual connotations. Bare breasts are no longer an artistic celebration of the human form. Such nudity, for our generation, is found within illicit magazines, sexually charged music videos, and pornography.

We must accept, nudity is now offensive to the majority and that it should not be practised in public, often imposed on those who do not request to be exposed to it.

Since the late sixties, San Francisco has been seen as America's focal point for social nudity. Three clothing optional beaches lie within the city's borders and nudity within the context of the late sixties and early seventies is arguably fitting for the spirit of the times. What jarred with its decade was the gathering of nudists in a Plaza in the Castro district, shortly after its opening in 2010, when those who walked nude in the Plaza were accused of having

no standards. The times when nudity could be explained away with the three-word cliché of 'freedom of expression' were left in the sixties.

The nudists received their first blow from the California Alcohol Beverage Commission (ABC) in 1972. Only five years after the Summer of Love, ABC issued a ruling which banned nudity in establishments which sold alcohol, in response to venues such as the Condor Club, which featured topless go-go dancers who soon progressed to full nudity.

The ABC put two and two together and concluded that any establish-

ment serving alcohol to nude clients was no different from a brothel. If this wasn't alright in the early seventies, the whole concept of social nudity in the street is embarrassingly out of date now.

But not all is lost for the naturists of San Francisco. The ban will not restrict nudity during parades, meaning that several clothing optional events, such as the Gay Pride weekend, will be unaffected by the recent changes. Yet, we have not entered the social era in which costume merchants can expect to see an improvement in sales at this time of the year.

KATE MITCHELL



Comment



**Gary Holland**  
Deputy  
Comment  
Editor

# You can't manufacture community spirit

The University should focus on improving Wentworth's community spirit rather than sending postgraduates to other colleges.

If there's one thing that every children's TV show has taught us, it's that community spirit is a good thing. *The Smurfs* all live happily together in one little village whereas Gargamel lives alone with his cat, and is angry all the time. *Top Cat* and his gang live together in their alley and seem to be having a whale of a time, but Officer Dibble is always alone and seems kind of down.

So maybe this is what Kallum Taylor and the University were thinking about when deciding that

“ The University and YUSU should both be committed to helping the postgrad students feel like they are part of this community ”

spreading postgraduates across all the colleges, making them part of their respective communities, might be the way to go. YUSU's line on this was that it would “help to ease any feelings of seclusion felt by postgrad students who currently are attached to Wentworth”.

The aim here is definitely a good one: if postgraduates feel as though they are currently lacking a community, then anything that can be done to remedy that should be considered. The University and YUSU should both be committed to helping the postgraduates feel like they are part of this community and they're making a real effort to act upon that obligation. So, bravo Kallum Taylor, bravo University of York, and bravo Smurfs. And Top Cat. Bravo Top Cat.

Except, postgraduates are already in a community. Wentworth College is a community of postgraduates. That, as far as I'm aware, is kind of the point of having a postgraduate college: just as I currently live in a block of Derwent freshers, who are almost all my own age and therefore live a similar lifestyle to me, postgraduates get the same kind of deal in Wentworth. Admittedly, they vary in age much more than freshers, so they don't have so close a connection there, but I'd wager they're closer to each other in lifestyles than they are to 18-year-old freshers.

By the third week of university, freshers are practically nocturnal. With no feeling of urgency about their lectures or studies in general, they see no reason to be awake before late afternoon. And this inevitably leads to them being awake until about 4am every night. A 26-year-old postgraduate is not going to be

living this lifestyle. So the noise late at night might be a bit of an issue if they were living with freshers. And being 26, our postgraduate is probably no longer living exclusively off pot noodles, Efe's pizza, and free

“ By the third week of university, freshers are practically nocturnal ”

prawn crackers, they'd want to use the kitchen in their accommodation quite a lot. So they might also take issue when, like all freshers' kitchens, it looks and smells like a pig sty.

Presumably, to solve these problems before they arise, the University has said that postgraduates would be “housed in dedicated flats, blocks or corridors”. Having a block to themselves would definitely solve the problems I have mentioned. Excellent.

But then, why are they not just housed in a postgraduate college? Taylor says it would “further enrich” college communities if postgrads were spread among them, but what does that actually mean?

If there was a block of postgrads

in Derwent, I doubt I'd ever end up in there to meet them, so I don't think either of us would benefit from being members of the same college.

What I can't deny is that this move would mean postgraduates were attached to a community which is more vibrant and active than Wentworth's, but what I'm cautious about concluding is that this is necessarily a good thing. Just as I can't see Gargamel ever enjoying using the word “Smurf” as a verb, I can't see 26-year-olds enjoying Slag and Drag, or even an evening in a college bar, when it's full of freshers drinking a ridiculous number of Jägerbombs before heading out into town.

Currently, our college events don't feel at all grown-up. And that's fine for the vast majority of us freshers. But I just can't see it being the same for our hypothetical 26-year-old. And if new, grown-up events were created as they were integrated, postgraduates would probably be the only ones to attend, because 18-year-olds are perfectly happy not being grown-up. So the postgraduates would in effect just be in a smaller Wentworth.

So maybe a real drive from YUSU to support the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in the creation of events that will both be enjoyed by postgraduates and also make Wentworth a closer community is what Papa Smurf would really want.

# Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



**@PeteDomican** 28 Nov  
Pete Domican  
All alcoholics saved by minimum pricing tax. Hurrah for market forces!

26 Nov **@S8MB**  
Sam Bowman, Adam Smith Institute  
I hope Min Alcohol Pricing becomes known as Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) so we can call its supporters MUPpets. #killerwit

29 Nov **@Phil\_Baty**  
Phil Baty, Editor @ Times Higher Education  
UUK on net migration fall: “legitimate uni sponsored student numbers are now being affected”. UCAS applications -0.8% vs +12% last year

20 Nov **@yusuprez**  
Kallum Taylor  
Smooth so far en route for #Demo2012 Gd mood in the air. Hope our lot can catch some sleep. Think our bus driver DJs at Reflex. @YorkUniSU



**Josh Boswell**

# All or nothing in the JCRCs

May the best candidate win. A mantra for those plucky individuals who have decided in the past few weeks to step up, don their shiniest shoes, put on their sunniest smiles, and run the gauntlet of the JCRC elections. And for the most part, it is the best that wins.

The student electorate is stereotyped as naïve and impressionable, but I maintain that we are one of the most fickle, cynically jaded, and downright piss-spitting social groups any politician could have the misfortune of representing. We can spot a charlatan from a mile off. We can smell fear.

JCRC elections are an iconic example, less local than tribal. They are continually criticised as a popularity contests, with candidates making fanciful promises and engaging in thinly-veiled bribery, often descending into unbridled democracy. To bastardise the immortal words of a national hero, “never have so few, owed so much, to so many”.

But there is a danger of not appreciating the candidates. One and all go through this ordeal, substitute their degree for their campaign, and canvass their cotton socks off. Many have very clever and sophisticated platforms, and more still propose excellent ideas with enthusiasm and a resumé to match. Regardless of the

actual impact you believe they will have once in office, these grafters should be taken seriously.

Yet as the results come rolling in, a flood of teary jubilation mixed with the saline taste of defeat, it is crystal clear that the electoral system is letting the candidates down.

In a contest, there will always be losers. And the JCRC contest has its fair share of losers. The fierce competition over most college Chair positions is a healthy process that gets candidates wracking their brains for the best policies, and engages the voters to rise out of their allegedly apathetic student stupor to watch the electoral bloodbath. Proactivity, originality – all would be lost to the JCRC without the competitive incentive.

This motivates all the candidates, but of course they cannot all win.

What happens to the rest? There is no option to run for another position. Typical of the elections' cut-throat nature, the contest for college chair is an all-or-nothing affair. The winners invariably thrive and prosper for the year. The losers fade into bitter obscurity, no matter the strength of their campaign.

Imagine what the JCRC could achieve by bringing these ungracious number twos into the fold. Instead of banishing them into the cold, they

could instead turn their hand to a role a little lower down on the committee. If a student can run even a reasonably successful campaign, they can provide a helping hand to a JCRC.

Without exception, each candidate loftily espouses the merits of working together, professing the burning desire that penetrates to the

“ The losers fade into bitter obscurity, no matter the strength of their campaign ”

very core of their being to make the college the best it can be. So why do we deny this dedication and enthusiasm?

I would like to see a similar system to that of societies – a more fluid system of candidacy, where students can go for chair, but if they miss out on that golden nugget of prestige, they can run again for a lower position. Otherwise they'll be boxing up that bitterness and rejection, letting it fester for a couple of months, and then spewing it out on a pathetic part-time officer candidacy in the YUSU elections. Spare us.

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# OF MIRRORS AND SPLINTERS

The Muse Fashion Shoot celebrates Christmas with an adaptation of Andersen's fairy tale, *The Snow Queen*.

# MUSE.

04.12.2012

## M10.

Ms Marmite is more gastro fawn than gastro porn.

## M14.

Jonny Steinberg talks about HIV/AIDS in literature

## Food and Drink.

Come Dine with Me, York. Five friends. Winner takes all.

## M22.

Solomon Wekwete: 5 Years of Torture. Saved by a fellow York alumnus.

## Film.

2012. A year in Film.

## Arts.

Nasser Azam pushes the boundaries of geography and technique. He tells us how.





**M12.** The Muse Fashion Shoot celebrates Christmas with an adaptation of Andersen's fairy tale, *The Snow Queen*.



**M22.** Christina Scott talks to a **ZANU Rebel** from Zimbabwe, who went through 5 years of torture before taking a place at York.



**M14.** **Ms Marmite** isn't your usual celeb chef. She tells Laura Hughes about London's Underground Food Scene.

## Arts.

**M4.** Laura Hughes meets **Nasser Azam**, a truly international artist, who isn't afraid to take technique to the extreme.

## Fashion.

**M8.** Francesca Butcher meets a senior buyer from shoe chain, **Schuh**. We also suggest some great trends for this year's Christmas parties.

## Music.

**M16.** **Kurt Elling** never had formal musical education and yet is now at the forefront of contemporary jazz. He discusses philosophy, jazz and liberation.

**M17.** We take a look at the newest club night to hit York, **Bangers and Mash**, and review the top tracks from the night.

## Film.

**M18.** We take a look back at the highs and lows of a year in film, and find that we actually quite like *Twilight*.

## Food & Drink.

**M20** Five friends. One winner. Students battle it out for the first **Come Dine with Me** title. Join the frolicing and buffoonery.

**M21.** Fe Morizet is **The Naked Baker**. She explains the history and the recipe of a Thanksgiving's pumpkin pie.

## Image Credits.

Cover: Lily Grant

M3: Courtesy of Ben Fogle

Cartoons (M2 & M24) : Brandon Seager, Graphics Director

## Muzzy's Musings...

Two IDs

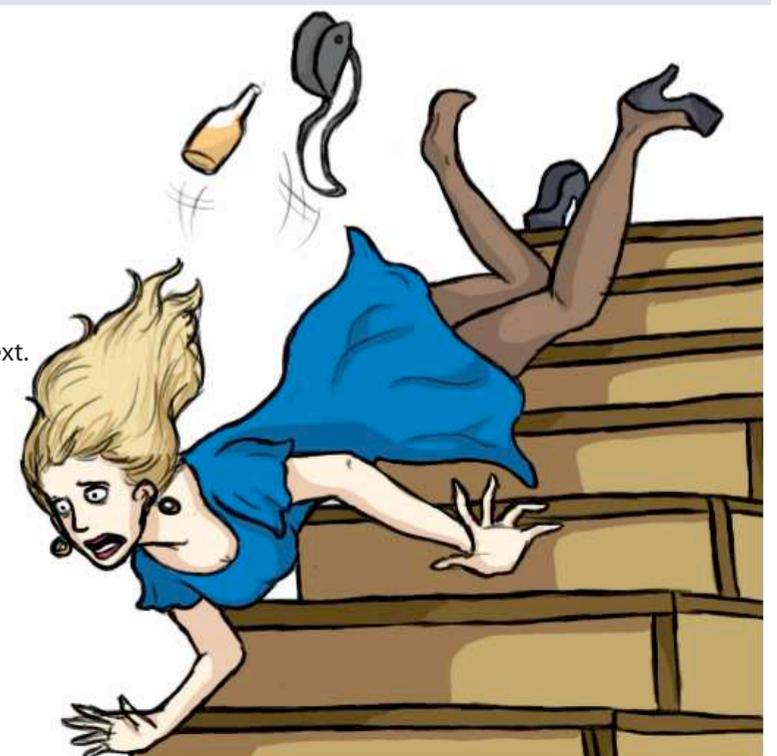
A wry smile is slyly twisting itself into existence,  
Uncoiling across the thin wispy lips of Tommy Willow,  
Drawn forth, by the fallen fresher whose pressure  
On sharp heels, led her to a part-keel and darting cartwheel  
Face forwards to the floor with force on all fours sprawled.

"It's not G-Star Raw" calls a small lad, appalled –  
Hauled and mauled to the door by Konrad's shovel-hands,  
"None ugly brands" expressed the tight vested pec-decked chest,  
Connected direct to the head, unchecked by a neck – a flex,  
Then a hurl to the street, cursing the weak, he turns and retreats for the next.

Dawn stackers of prawn crackers, snatch warped snacks  
From warm vats of the unknown.  
"Just don't touch the roof" - the one truth for the youth from the DJ booth  
While "Don't Stop Believing" is lethally repeated gleefully  
A single bead of sweat crawls exhausted down a corner wall.

Now, these days, be wariar. Meet friends here on weekends?  
Four pounds entry amount, 'thieves operate in this area'.

Yet – when I dream of heaven, I see scenes that are so like these...  
My St Peter is Bulgarian  
And he'll ask for both IDs.



## Ben Fogle.

Adventurer. Presenter. Writer.



**A**dventuring is my passion, television presenting is my day job but writing is what I'm most proud of.

**I am inspired by so many people.** I find inspiration all over. I am particularly inspired by people who have overcome adversity to achieve great things. Mark Pollock and Karen Darke are two examples. I also like people who challenge stereotypes, Dwayne Fields exemplifies that. Shackleton and Scott too, of course.

**I am scared of heights, crocodiles and failure.** I have confronted all of those face on, including swimming with wild Nile and salt water crocodiles. I believe you should face your fears.

**Rowing the Atlantic was a pretty huge challenge.** It was my first big expedition and I was still finding my feet. It pushed me

physically and mentally to my limits.

**The *Castaway* experiment was unique.** It was a moment in time. A TV social experiment to see if 36 urbanites could successfully create a society on an uninhabited island. It was an amazing year. One of the best in my life. I still miss the simplicity of life there. The Outer Hebrides is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been.

**I hope my children enjoy the world** and its people as much as I have. It would be fun to go on adventures together one day.

**I have lots of things I'd still like to do:** the North Pole, Great Wall of China. My next plan is to swim across the Atlantic, that should tide me over for a while. Pardon the pun.

*Interview by Femke Gow*

## The Lonely Smoker

Rose Troup Buchanan

**B**eing a smoker is pretty great. Aside from the whole health-related 'issues' entailed with polluting your lungs with nicotine, it offers a myriad of fantastic benefits. Principal among these is the ability to absent yourself from any bum-numbingly dull conversation, citing your love of nicotine.

Recently my vague addiction has come in special use, as it has allowed me to stumble (mentally screaming) from any conversation concerning 'The Future'. TF Anxiety may relate to all activities looming on the horrific horizon of graduation, and/or discussion of plans pertaining to last longer than the Mayan calendar.

Unfortunately, as it appears the Mayans were rather misguided on the whole end of the world front, Christmas this year is being approached by most in a decidedly un-festive manner. Instead of unwrapping commercially vapid tinsel chocolates every morning, most third-years are marking the calendar down with the dates left to apply to whatever graduate scheme might employ them.

As I am yet to apply for any kind of future employment/life scheme, I've started to treat these conversations as less terrifying and more with a detached anthropological fascination towards researching TF Anxiety.

I've realised there seems to be two courses of action available to the third-year student. The first, and most obvious, is my approach wherein you flail screaming from any mention or allusion to the imminent monstrosity. This reaction tends to also encompass partaking in hugely inappropriate activities, such as yoga, daytime drinking, or flirtation with those significantly younger than you.

The second course of action is to treat the entire operation with the stealth usually credited only to the intelligence services. Listening to some of my friends talk, anyone would think that MI5 were receiving more applications than the Queen gets Christmas cards.

It's like a rather dubious *Fight Club*. The only rule about Grad Schemes is that you don't talk about Grad Schemes.

As a result of my friends dodging my questions with the skill and verbal elegance usually seen only in the terminally unfaithful or your average politician, I presently have absolutely no idea where or what the majority of them are applying for.

This attitude may result from a misplaced fear I might steal their place. The fact that most of these schemes have

thousands of applicants, and are advertised as plain as day via the Careers Service, doesn't appear to have percolated through most peoples' grey matter. Neither does the consideration that I am more incompetent at retaining information than a goldfish on LSD.

It's a bit like the fat people you see in McDonalds: after ordering a Big Mac, with cheese, and chips, and some kind of sugar-saturated pink doughnut, they finally order a Diet Coke. Some say blind rejection of reality, others say they prefer the taste.

The real problem with TF Anxiety is that it is now invading me from every single angle. Sucking down nicotine outside the library, my smoke-infused enjoyment was interrupted by the arrival of people.

In a manner similar to the the behaviour when you met a newborn child (currently bearing a closer resemblance to Shrek and with similar hygiene/mucous related issues) I am now forced to sycophantically coo over various friends' recent employment. That a friend might have previously expressed desires for arty gallery ownership, and is instead now on the Aldi graduate scheme is, apparently, not the point.

Maybe it's best we don't know all about our friends applications. Sometimes too much information is just too much information. As a friend observed in the swimming pool changing room, the profoundly naked lady drying herself with a hair-dryer in front of the mirror was really all just a little too much.

Don't be that naked lady. Keep quiet, apply away, and for Christ's sake let me smoke in peace.



# Art and Internationalism

**Nasser Azam's** work as a banker and artist have taken him all over the world, from Pakistan and Antarctica, to 5 miles above the Earth. Laura Hughes is charmed by this most vivacious of characters.

Former Chief Operating Officer at Merrill Lynch, Nasser Azam, doesn't correlate producing paintings with being an artist. "I am always thinking about what relevance art has to the way we live now."

Nasser was artist-in-residence at London's County Hall for over two years. Here he unveiled exhibitions including multiple series of paintings and the large bronze sculpture *The Dance*, unveiled on the South Bank on 21 February 2008. His exhibition 'Anatomic' received critical acclaim. In 2012 Azam unveiled *Athena*, the tallest bronze sculpture in the UK, and in 2008 one of his pieces outsold a Banksy in New York.

Critics have labelled his work as performance painting and figurative art. Nasser regards himself as a contemporary artist, who is both relevant and allegorical. Nasser Azam is deliciously eccentric, charismatic, and utterly charming. His various printing techniques create a saturated, high-impact field of colour which echo the artists own vivacious vibrancy.

How did Nasser believe his work had progressed? "I see myself as an allegorical artist, and representational, figurative painting has always been central to me - especially in my earlier work. I think I had a given gift as a draughtsman, so very early on I was doing figurative and representational painting using my family members - but there has always been an emotional angle, so even though my work has become more abstract, it still stems from my early figurative past.

"It's about development as an artist - and actually, I think abstract painting is much tougher than representational art - you have to be a good draughtsman to be able to do abstract painting, as form and composition is much tougher to gauge."

The former COO became serious about art as a profession during his teenage years, and had various exhibitions in Birmingham and the West Midlands whilst he studied Commerce at Birmingham University. "Initially I chose not to go to Art School as I didn't think that I would gain anything from doing so. Once I completed my business degree (during which I was actually quite prolific in producing paintings) I decided that I needed a wider experience of the world - to me art is a maturing experience; it ages as the artist does."

Pre-2007, Merrill Lynch took him to Japan for 11 years and provided the opportunity to travel. "As art was never a hobby for me, I put down my brushes for over 20 years - however, even though I wasn't painting, I was still an artist."

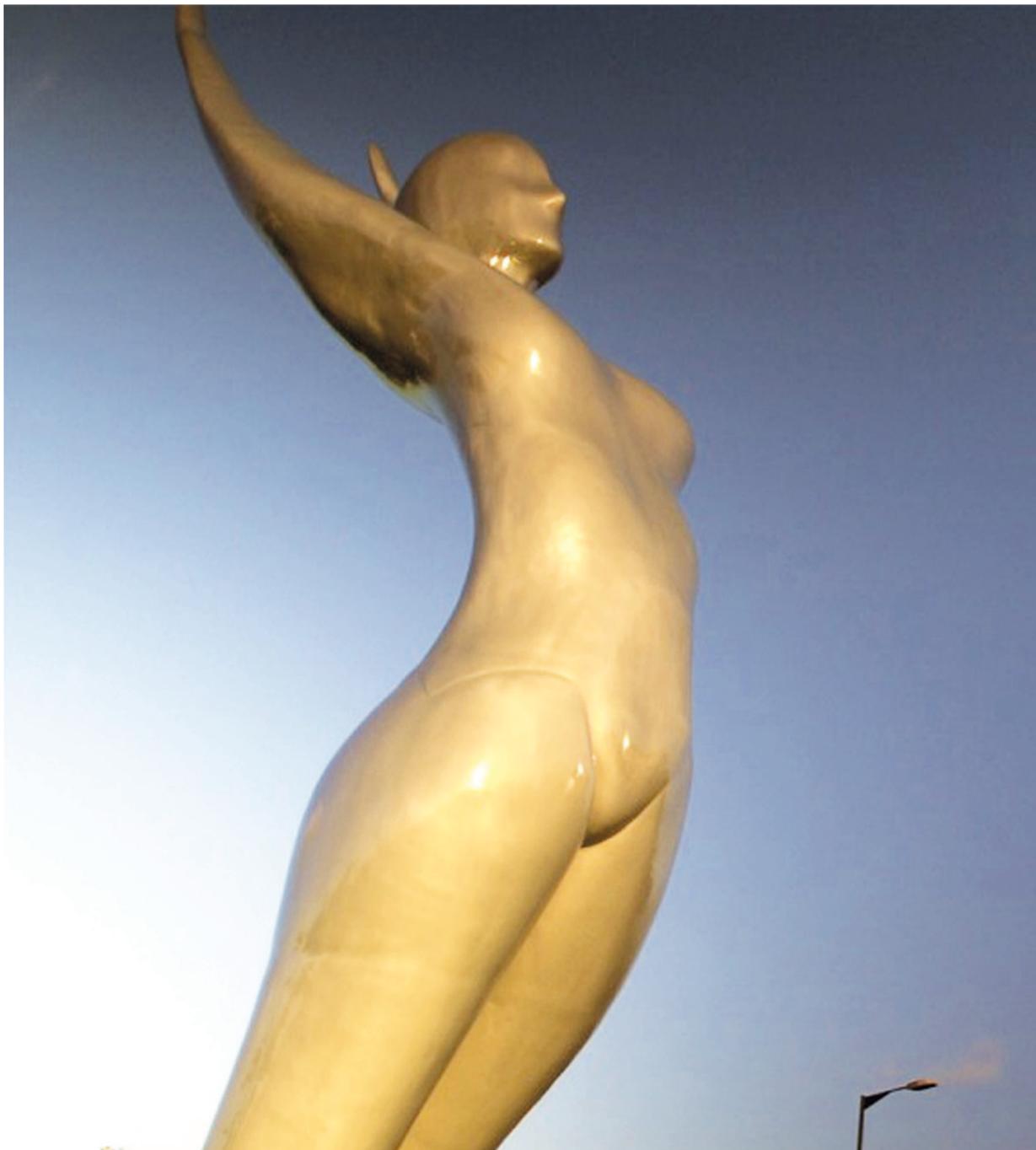
Born in Pakistan, travel and culture have had the most influence on Nasser's work. "The aesthetics of the Japanese culture were very evident in my earlier work when I returned to painting."

In 2008, he decided to make art his full time occupation and left the corporate world. "There was a period of about nine months when I was still at the bank and painting - it was tough as I was painting through the night and going to work in the morning. One aspect of that overlap is now I only paint at night."

Nasser's work is grouped into series such as Blue Turmoil, Entanglement and Emotional Decay. I wanted to know if art was a form of therapy for Nasser, or perhaps a religious experience. "Neither - creativity to me is quite a destructive process. There are many sacrifices you have to make to create art - my early work was grouped as I was experimenting more in personal elements in my life."



Keshmir, 2010



Athena, London, July 2012

Nasser Azam has created two sets of artwork in zero gravity. As the London City Hall artist in residence, Nasser and a team of painters including Lyn Hagan, Stelarc, Luke Jeram and Nin Brudermann, ascended 23,000ft in a specially modified zero gravity plane to carry out his 'Performance Painting' Project. The purpose of the endeavour was to find the most extreme conditions in which an artist can efficaciously create. The project explored the limits of creativity in extreme and unfamiliar physical conditions.

"I themed both the Zero Gravity and the Antarctica projects as 'performance paintings' - an effort to let the extreme environments dictate what I was painting. Both space and Antarctica are two harsh environments that humans don't live in. Faced with those challenges we think of survival, but I wanted to review what the impact would be on creativity given those conditions."

During this 'Life in Space' assignment, Nasser completed two new triptychs, *Homage to Francis Bacon: Triptych I* and *Homage to Francis Bacon: Triptych II*. Both were completed whilst experiencing exhausting weightlessness. In February 2010, Nasser's artistic expedition took him to Antarctica. He created a series of oil paintings in response to his experience of these foreign frozen landscapes.

In 2010 Nasser acquired the Morris Singer Art Foundry, the oldest bronze foundry in the UK, and went on to launch it as the Zahra Modern Art Foundry.

The historic foundry has produced some of the world's most famous monumental

**"There was a period of about nine months when I was still at the bank and painting. I've left the bank, but now I only paint at night."**

sculptures, including the bronze lions in Trafalgar Square, and the Boudicca outside the Houses of Parliament. It has produced work by all the major British sculptors over the past 170 years, including Henry Moore.

Nasser's sculpture and their semi-natural, perforated style have led to comparisons of his art with the work of 20th-century sculptors such as Archipenko and Henry Moore. His sculpture *Athena* stands as a symbol of the on-going regeneration of East London. It weighs eleven tonnes and is 12 metres in height. "I think Athena is a good start to the regeneration of Newham that is taking place and as it is permanent - will

that Athena becomes a positive symbol for Newham, the Borough where I grew up, and where my parents still live."

The sculpture was created as an expression of the excitement and ambition of London, in the run up to the Olympics and a reflection on the history of the Games. "I have a dedicated team of designers and craftsmen who were able to realise my sculpture in three dimensions, and on a scale that even I at first thought was impossible. It has been a real honour to have worked with so many wonderful and talented people, without whom this really extraordinary undertaking would not have been possible."

hopefully continue to add to that."

"In 2006 I had the idea for a large public sculpture in London. The image of Athena came almost immediately - it just seemed to me the simplest form that could express the aspirations of a community at a time of great optimism and change. Above all, I hope

that Athena becomes a positive symbol for Newham, the Borough where I grew up, and where my parents still live."

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Nasser has collaborated in his life with a number of artists in the fields of fashion, film and music. As a philanthropic promoter and mentor to younger artists, in 2009 'The Azam Collection' was launched, as an investment fund for contemporary creations.

We talked about censorship in art. Nasser's response was insightful and I thought it defined him as an artist: "To me what matters is integrity, whatever form the art takes - as long as it is genuine then the artist has the right to make it and everyone has the right to assimilate and evaluate it." M



Azam and his team painting at zero gravity, at 23,000 ft

PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH AZAM

## Hockney: Failing to see the Bigger Picture?

Poppy Bullard

This spring saw David Hockney's magnum opus, the exhibition *A Bigger Picture*, fling him to the forefront of popular modern art. The exhibition, predominantly featuring landscapes from the Yorkshire dales, proved to be one of the most critically acclaimed and widely attended exhibitions ever featured at the Royal Academy. Its sheer accessibility and popular appeal shed some of the stigma of "obscurity" that haunts modern art, and proved a huge success, with both self-confessed "art-freaks" and the rest of us revelling in his colourful creations.

The covergirl - as it were - of the exhibition was *Winter Timber*. The focal point of this jaw-droppingly overwhelming piece is a 12ft tree stump which Hockney lovingly refers to as the *totem*. Last month, however, the *totem* was subjected to a violent attack with an axe, spray-paint, and possibly a chainsaw.

This apparent act of spite has triggered media interest akin to the death of a minor celebrity, with interviews and obituaries in regional, as well as national, newspapers. Hockney himself has spoken with Guardian displaying his feelings of loss, and proclaiming the wildly childish sentiment that the world is full of "mean" and "spiteful" people. Wherever you turn, there is a flurry of media attention, but in every piece, there lacks a focus: there is no relevant argument, nothing connected to its effects within the art world, and nothing to suggest its cultural relevance. In fact, it's just a report of a tree being chopped down.

And my question is why? Why would national newspapers assume that because this stump was once featured in a popular painting, it demands news coverage? If the entirety of the Yorkshire countryside perished at the hands of a possibly mal-directioned, and ultimately completely ineffectual, terrorist nuclear attack, the press focus wouldn't reflect the tragic loss of Hockney's beloved inspiration, but on the disastrous consequences for the Yorkshire population (and future generations of triple headed Welsh sheep). The stump has been given a false status by its inclusion in a piece of art, and to revere it as a martyr to the art world would be wrong.

The reasons why the *totem's* untimely death should be only be seen as a random act of vandalism, and not the destruction of a sacred shrine, stem back to principles of aesthetics and beauty. The act of displaying a tangible object within a piece of art is not enough to make the object itself art. Van Gogh's *A Wind-Beaten Tree* may have been beaten by the wind until it toppled over, and Manet's *Dejeuner sur l'Herbe* is probably somewhere underneath a concrete car-park, much like the bones of Richard III.

No one knows. In fact, no one cares.

And nor should they because the objet d'art is not changed physically, but the way in which it's perceived is irreversibly altered by its inclusion in a piece of art. Hockney has augmented the perceived beauty of the stump to the extent that it has become synonymous with Hockney and his art. If someone stole, doused in petrol, and set fire to *Winter Timber* that would be a tragedy. It would also become a political statement about the art world, culturally relevant, and probably of sentimental value to Hockney. But this isn't. This random, unaccounted for, act of vandalism bears no significance on, well, anything. It is undeniably sad, but not newsworthy.

## Arts in York: What's On

"Transformation", an art exhibition in York's The New School House Gallery featuring Helen Chadwick's *Piss Flowers* alongside various artworks and poetry by Costa book award winner Jo Shapcott.

The Tate Britain, London, presents the famous annual Turner Prize, featuring a selection of wonderful current artists: Spartacus Chetwynd, Luke Fowler, Paul Noble and Elizabeth Price.

Our very own Drama Barn presents *Birdsong* nightly on the weekend beginning the 7th December. Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff from Faulks' famous novel, *Birdsong* Narrates the story of Lieutenant Stephen Wraysford's service in the first world war.

York Minster is hosting *The Orb* exhibition in. Displays include a variety of beautiful stain glass with interesting and intimate lighting. It's been described as "England's equivalent to the Sistine Chapel". Also, the very popular seven lesson carol service takes place on Thursday

at the Minster.

York's department of Theatre, Film and Television presents Howard Brenton's *Greenland*, a play exploring the possibility of societal utopia. Showing on the 6th and 8th December in the Blackbox on campus.

*Bloody Poetry*, by playwright Howard Brenton, is described as "a daring exploration of sexuality, philosophy and the cost of liberty within a society which represses its protagonists at every turn". It's showing at the Blackbox on the 7th and 8th December.

The inimitable and irreverent Jimmy Carr stands up at Grand Opera House York, on the 7th and 8th December.

Sitting Room Comedy club presents a night with Paul Tonkinson, Dan Evans, Alfie Moore and MC Tom Taylor in Harrogate. The Barbican presents *Stand up York* on Wednesday 12th December. *Ben Cross*

For reviews of events head to [www.nouse.co.uk/arts](http://www.nouse.co.uk/arts)



# The Movements: Romanticism

Jordan Licht

Romanticism was born out of the social, economic and political whirlwind of the 18th and early 19th Century. It was brought about by the galvanising forces of the Enlightenment, industrialisation, and the French Revolution. These developments sent shock-waves throughout Europe, inspiring a generation of thinkers and creatives. Romanticism captured the widespread feelings of instability and uncertainty about the future, but also the sense of anticipation for a new era of innovation and breaking boundaries. This central notion of Romanticism is visually articulated in Casper David Friedrich's iconic painting *Wanderer above the sea of fog*, through the triumphant pose of the lone figure, standing above the clouds, with his foot on the edge, as if preparing to step up into the mist itself and transcend earthly limitations. This notion of breaking boundaries, heightened emotions, and the feeling of awe at the power of nature, resonating from Friedrich's painting, constitute some of the major themes of Romanticism.

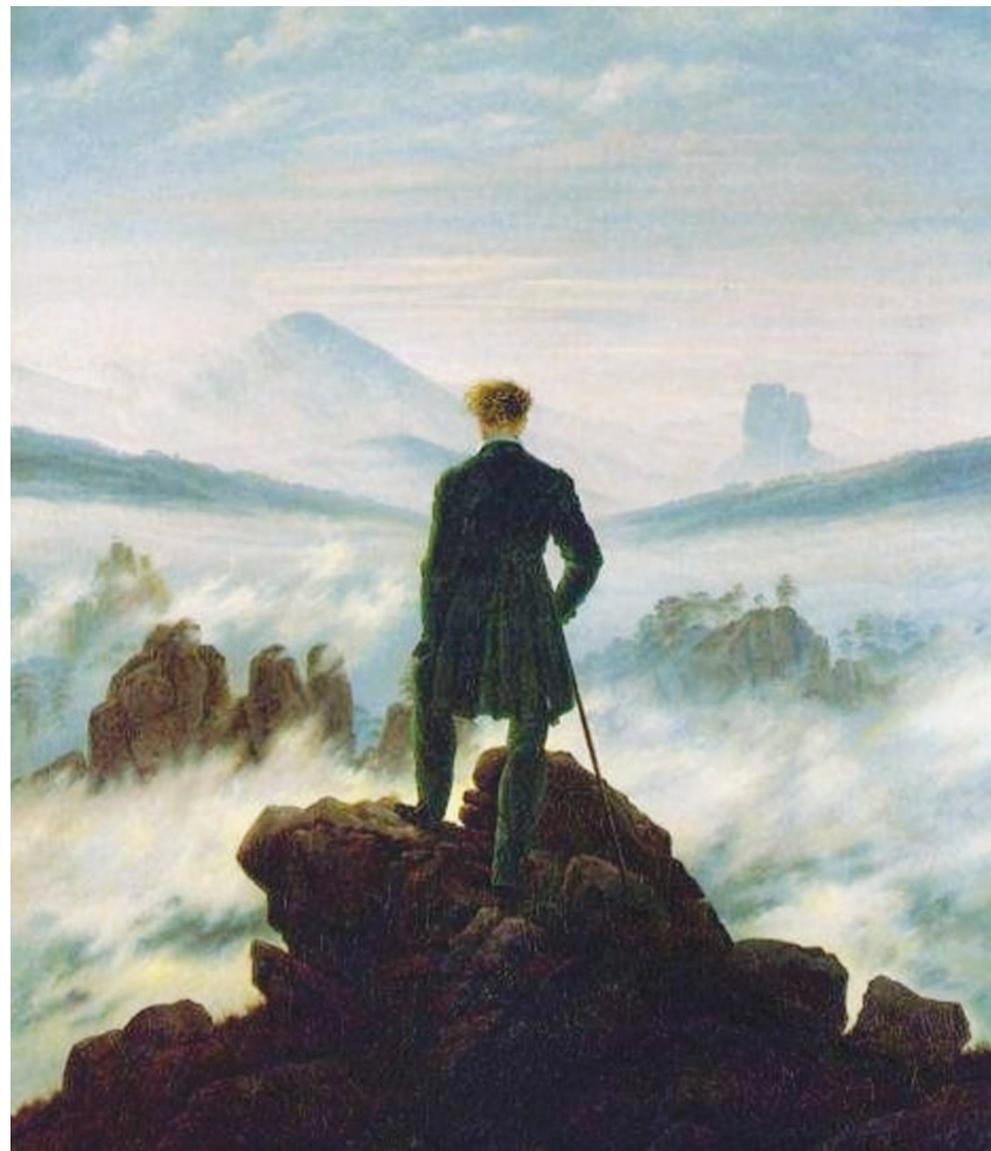
The image of the lone figure in Friedrich's

“The Romantics freed themselves from pre-conceived notions of representation, in favour of their own unique vision.”

painting highlights the key concern of the Romantics: the shift toward individualism. The Romantics freed themselves from pre-conceived notions of representation, in favour of the pursuit of their own unique vision of the world. This was founded upon the imagination, rather than on reason and rationality. As Rüdiger Safranski, philosopher and journalist puts it, “Romanticism is in essence pleasure in the creative power of the imagination... And a transcendence of reality in the direction of the fantastic.” In literature, this notion showed itself through the works of Keats, Wordsworth and Shelley, who focused on self-exploration and individual pursuit.

This cult of the individual was also cultivated by Lord Byron, through his controversial *Byronic hero*: the solitary, alluringly mysterious male figure striding through the mists, defied sense and reason in his supernatural qualities, and highlighted society's fear of the unknown through his exoticism, sex appeal, and by bringing to light the subversive depths of the human unconscious. This exploration of the supernatural, as a rejection of the Enlightenment values of reason and empiricism, was emphasized in works such as Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, and Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto*, and in Francisco Goya's paintings exploring the outer-regions of the imagination.

But by the mid-19th century, Romanticism took a drastic turn away from Friedrich's figure staring into the future with intent. The developments of the Industrial age led the Romantics to look at the future with contempt for modern developments, and instead look to the past for refuge from a society which they saw as morally degenerate. Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward



Casper David Friedrich, “Wanderer above the Sea of Fog”, 1818



J.M.W. Turner, “The Slave Ship”, 1840

Burne-Jones led the Pre-Raphaelites (part of Romantic Movement), depicted Medieval and classical settings, indicating a yearning for the simplicity of the past that were un-touched by the commotion of industrial development.

In literature, this was mirrored in Tennyson's poetry drawing inspiration from mythology and Arthurian legends. Other artists opposing industrialised life and the constraints it imposed, looked to nature, which they saw as being integral to health and happiness. This showed itself in Constable's paintings of idyllic rural life, and at the other extreme, Turner's dramatic landscapes and seascapes. For Turner, nature was primarily a means of expressing human emotion and consciousness.

Similarly, writers such as Wordsworth and Coleridge looked to nature as a means of expressing themes of pain, loss and grief.

Emotion and psychology as central subjects for artistic exploration, form the bedrock of Romanticism. Convoluted and conflicting as Romanticism may seem, this one emerging theme binds the various strands of this chaotic movement together into a semblance of harmony. From the sex appeal of Byron's striding anti-heroes, to the internal turmoil evoked in Turner's tumultuous seascapes, to the feeling of awe at natural phenomena evoked in Friedrich's painting – in all these things, human impulse and emotion is the protagonist.

## Students and the Arts: The Norman Rea Gallery

The Norman Rea Gallery provides a great opportunity for students who are both interested in viewing and curating art.

Founded by the Langwith Provost, the gallery boasts three to four exhibitions a term, including last Monday's 'Miss Hazard', a street artist. We speak to Ally, a Norman Rea curator to glean her insight into the work behind the walls of the Norman Rea: “The gallery was set up by the postgraduate-comprised Langwith Arts Society about fifteen years ago. It used to be the Langwith common room, with beanbags everywhere. After three or four years it became student led, and today we have a committee of about thirty five.”

The gallery is not YUSU affiliated, and has a slightly different recruiting process, with History of Art students forming the majority. Ally agreed that it was an attractive selling-point for prospective students.

“Last year when our year took the gallery over, it was completely History of Art-dominated. We wanted to alter

this and get more people involved, so aimed our recruitment process at students from different departments. We don't have elections like YUSU societies, but interview people to find suitable candidates instead.”

“There is a normal structure to the committee and anyone can put ideas in. We've had a few well-established artists, including a French photographer last year and a guy who's done displays for Selfridges. We've had such a range of work and as a result we hope to attract different groups of people with a changing audience.”

The gallery compiles its funds from a



variety of sources, including sales: at the Hazard exhibition, works ranged from a £25 t-shirt to a £500 painting. It has also benefited from recent success: “Last year we won a Silver award from the Vice-Chancellor. The money injection will enable us to make it as it should be”, Ally gestures towards the crisp white walls. “We've installed new MDF boards over the old walls, which are a much nicer surface to work on”.

The gallery is split into two rooms, one large and one smaller lake-facing corridor. We discussed the direction - with all exhibitions most work is dis-

played on the walls. It can be confusing to know where to begin viewing. Even when there are pieces in the centre, it seems a little slightly haphazard.

“It can be an awkward space to work with, however the limits of the layout do provide a challenge for us to work with, so now we know exactly what works where. Every inch of the walls has been measured again and again, there's a surprising amount of maths. The issue is the space can be booked out for things like Pilates, and it's a corridor between blocks. We can't have things on the floor anytime except for the opening night, only on or against the walls”.

With exhibitions, Ally did concede that many “just come for the free wine”, but thinks that it emulates a professional gallery, where they have open bars.” We suggested an open Courtyard.

As we said farewell, a couple came in and began perusing the pieces. Exhibitions remain for about two weeks, and it was refreshing to see some students actively visiting the gallery, pre-empting the opening night. *Tom Cox*

# Shakespeare Who?

'Staging the World'  
British Museum

Jordan Licht

Shakespeare remains the most published playwright in history, and Britain's biggest cultural contribution to the world. But what place does he inhabit in the modern world? Has England's Golden Boy of literature become solely the pet of the privileged literary elite, or is his legacy more wide-ranging, affecting not just theatre-goers and literature-lovers, but everyone?

*Staging the World* reminds us that Shakespeare and his legacy is woven into the fabric of our modern consciousness. It traces the timeless themes in his plays, including issues of class, immigration, gender, political corruption, and the drive for discovery, emphasizing Shakespeare as not just a chronicler of Elizabethan England, but of all time.

However, the exhibition's claim that 'Shakespeare is 'for everyone', is made redundant by the extortionate price (£12 for a student - yes, I really mean that), which limits 'everyone' to those who can afford to join an exclusive club. But the ache of parting with money is soothed when you think of it as paying to see a performance, which more accurately describes the experience.

The exhibition frames Shakespeare's most acclaimed works against a rich, colourful backdrop of Elizabethan society, involving intriguing historical artefacts to create a dialogue between the writer's work and his age. Another engaging feature is the inclusion of recent interpretations of iconic speeches from Shakespeare's plays, filmed exclusively for the exhibition in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company. These are projected onto the walls, including an incredible performance by Paterson Joseph as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, who brings Shakespeare's malevolent manipulator to life.



PHOTO CREDIT: SWAMIBU

After all, it's Shakespeare's characters who people continue to identify with. Our continued fascination with his creations, ranging from that tragic 'pair of star-cross'd lovers', to Hamlet, the troubled poet, to Richard III, the tyrannical villain, witty and perverse in equal measure, is testament to the notion that Shakespeare's greatest accomplishment was his representation of human nature. The exhibition's inclusion of a 15th Century portrait of Richard III side by side a 'moving video portrait' of the King, acted by Jonjo O'Neill, highlights just how much this mysterious character continues to intrigue actors and audiences alike. This is also shown by the dramatic public response to the discovery of a skeleton under a Leicester car park, which was speculated to be the body of the deformed King. As Dora Thornton, curator says, "people want it to be Richard's, they want to have this contact with this fascinating enigmatic character".

Shakespeare's works have also come to symbolise freedom. In the 1970s, whilst in captivity in Robben Island, a prison off the coast of Cape Town, Sonny Venkatrathnam, the political prisoner, smuggled a copy of Shakespeare's entire works, disguised as a Hindu scripture, on display in the exhibition. Venkatrathnam passed the book around from cell to cell, collecting signatures from the prisoners, who also marked their favourite sections. One of the 37 signatures belongs to Nelson Mandela, who marked out this passage from *Julius Caesar*: "Cowards may die many times before their deaths, the valiant never taste of death but once."

This mantra of hope, gives even greater credence to Ben Jonson, a writer's prediction that Shakespeare is "not of an age, but of all time".

## Boulle's Jewels

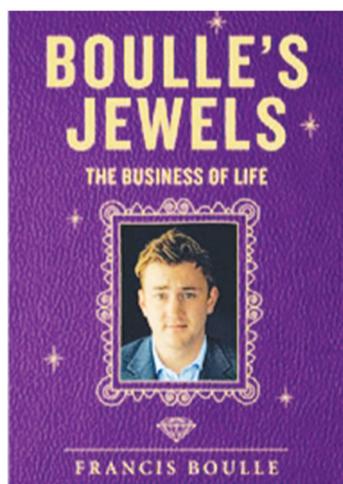
AUTHOR: Francis Boulle  
REVIEW: Poppy Bullard

*Made in Chelsea's* manufactured microcosm has given us scandal, disrepute and decadence, all from the comfort of our homes - with no extra cost. But cast-member Francis Boulle's new venture, topping the bestseller list, comes at a monstrous £6.99. I hear that's the average price of a 50p Pick'n'Mix in Chelsea...

*Boulle's Jewels - The Business of Life*. Catchy enough, and as Boulle stares out from the gaudy purple-and-gold cover, his furrowed brow ekes wisdom and authority... But then the sheen of the matte finish quickly reminds us that that this is a cheaply produced, novelty spin-off. Yes, I suppose this falls under Cardinal Sin #1 - Judging a Book by its Cover. So, apologies, but a book from a man whose job it is to be judged by his cover entirely warrants this thoroughly superficial judgement.

Aesthetics aside, maybe the contents will deliver, as the blurb promises, "philosophies that rival Aristotle" and "thoughts about life that even Confucius would have found enlightening", but this is doubtful. Whilst it's true that Boulle is one of the few cast members of *Made in Chelsea* who seems to have even a semblance of brain matter, achieving this in 143 pages, with large font, and graphics that are the love-child of a badly produced horror film and the cover of a Green Day album, seems ambitious.

It quickly transpires that this little book, whilst written wittily, bypassed the first crucial step in producing non-fiction: defining itself. The emergent mish-mash of cultural facets that "one simply must follow" and Boulle's own personal taste, seem directionless. Each mini-chapter could, in itself,



be pursued as a legitimate literary project, but the titbits that remain provide only a brief insight into potentially substantial ideas. The audience, too, seems to have been looked over. Some chapters appear to be geared at the student population - "Festiboules" for the summer fun, and "iBoules" for his fave choonz - whereas other chapters subtly reference places and names that only a fellow Chelsea-ite could pick up on; it's hard to tell whether the snobbery is inherent, or a deliberate selling tool.

It's not a handy, businessguide, filled with tips for young entrepreneurs, nor is it a useful etiquette book, for the aspiring SW3-dwellers; in fact, it doesn't really seem to be anything at all. I would feel slightly ashamed leaving Boulle's book on my bookshelf, so it shall reside in the loo. And not at the top of the pile, next to *The Sloane Ranger Handbook* (now there's an etiquette book the unashamed middle classes can be proud of), but somewhere near the bottom, next to the 1001 uses for Duct Tape...

## THE REVIEW

### Joseph Anton: A Memoir

AUTHOR: Salman Rushdie  
REVIEW: Greg Clowes

*Joseph Anton* could quite easily be a novel, and a very good novel at that. Compared to some more mundane literary memoirs, this book focuses on the remarkable story of how Salman Rushdie, the British-Indian novelist, survived the *fatwa* issued against him in 1989 by Ayatollah Khomeini, an Iranian Islamic cleric, for his supposedly blasphemous words in *The Satanic Verses*. The *fatwa*, or death warrant, meant Rushdie was placed under extensive protection by the British state, and the prompt adoption of a pseudonym; 'Joseph Anton', a fusion of two of his favourite writers: Joseph Conrad and Anton Chekhov. The memoir details a series of insane events - post-fatwa - that lasted a staggering decade, in a very sane and lucid way.

In one sense, *Joseph Anton* reflects a common theme in Rushdie's own literature: the intersection between the private and personal, with the political and international spheres. The book describes with great precision how nations discussed, sometimes ignored, and eventually fought for Rushdie, his novel, and the values that the whole episode embodied. The Thatcher government was compelled to protect Rushdie and keep him alive, but kept him in a degraded state of virtual imprisonment, choosing to ignore the more serious questions raised by a foreign nation condemning an author in a free state to death for the crime of writing a novel. The way influential individuals, newspapers, publishers, and nations behaved in this period of undoubted physical risk, speaks volumes about their commitment to the principles of free speech, and the utility of the novel as a vehicle for such expression.

It may seem petty to some readers how Rushdie appears to remember and rebuke every newspaper article which condemned him as an 'intentional troublemaker' or 'cynical moneymaker', but this is an important history, which for a long time urgently needed to be put straight, and officially on the record. There are awe-inspiring tales of brave publishers refusing to bow to extremism, and refusing to be intimidated by those who would kill, and did kill those

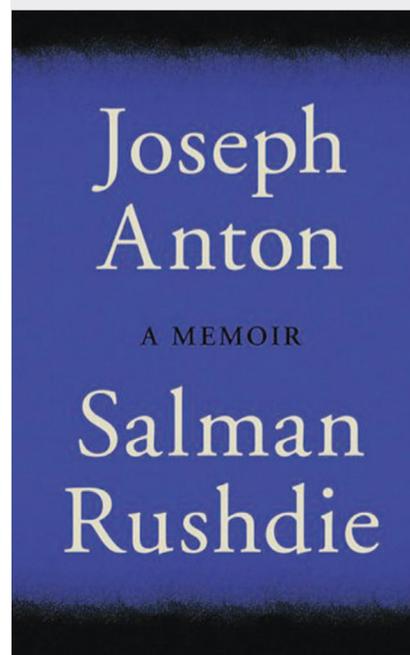


individuals associated with translating and publishing the novel.

As nations juggled this political and diplomatic hot potato, Rushdie, in Martin Amis's memorable phrase 'disappeared into the front pages.' On a personal level, the memoir elucidates how the ordeal fractured Rushdie's identity as an individual. He was thrust into this new and unwanted identity of Joseph Anton (or 'Joe' as the protection officers called him to his great annoyance), and his now shameful and forbidden shell that was the author Salman Rushdie, was left by the wayside. Writing in the third person arguably aids this sense of detachment from a succession of incredibly unreal and rapidly unfolding events. Moreover, there are honest and moving descriptions of how the *fatwa* shaped Rushdie's relationships with friends, family members, but especially, women. The *fatwa* seemed to quicken the disintegration of his second marriage to Marianne, who he depicts as manipulative in the extreme, and bordering on the unhinged. Indeed, whilst Rushdie's rather blasé attitude to infidelity is mildly alarming, the *fatwa* again seemed to drive a wedge between him and his third wife Elizabeth, and any potential emigration to America.

The book helps readers understand the personal ruptures that accompanied the events that were being played out in government offices and spread mercilessly across national newspapers. And yet, despite all this, Rushdie refused to be silenced or self-pitying. As the years progressed, he became far more involved with reaching a diplomatic agreement to end the *fatwa*. He was no longer that political nuisance which could be shut up and hidden away, but a powerful voice in the dark who publicly and eloquently demanded his right to freedom.

The fact that *Joseph Anton* was ever able to be written is, in itself, a success story for freedom of speech: Rushdie, a hitherto condemned man is alive, kicking, writing and even tweeting. Despite the book running some 632 pages, *Joseph Anton* is actually a very concise memoir about a hugely important episode in recent history. It is a story brimming with solidarity, love and friendship in the face of extremist theocratic pretensions. Through no intention of his own, Rushdie has become one of the writers whom we most associate with the struggle for intellectual and literary freedom. *Joseph Anton* demonstrates why he is the most worthy and most ardent defender of that fundamental principle.



FASHION.

# Pastime to profession

Buying is one of fashion's most sought-after jobs. **Nicky Shallcross**, Senior Buyer at Schuh, tells Francesca Butcher about how she got there, and why it's not just about jet-setting and glamour (most of the time anyway).

Nicky has been in love with all things fashion for as long as she could remember. She fondly recalls her earliest memories of her mother and grandmother taking her to charity shops to buy high heels for her dressing-up box (and to stop her from stealing theirs). Her mother was the one who encouraged her to follow her heart, over her head. She tells me how she liked science at school, and until she had glandular fever during her A-levels, she was starting to think of a life 'in a white suit trawling through bins.' Her mother came down and suggested a career as a buyer. Nicky recalls her advice, "you love buying, you love fashion - you should buy for a company!" It was in 1999 that Nicky began her degree in Fashion Marketing and Communications at Nottingham Trent University.

Going to university, Nicky knew that fashion buying was what she wanted to do, and she shared with me how she turned her dream into reality. Schuh is the one of the largest retailers of branded footwear on the British High Street and online. They stock a range of brands from Hush Puppies to Vans, providing 'individual high fashion footwear, sold in a unique and exciting retail environment' since 1981.

Schuh are renowned for scouting talent from within their company, preferring to fill a vacancy with someone already working for them. Nicky tells me that, in her first year (apart from getting very drunk at university) she found a part time job in Schuh. In her second year, she successfully applied for a buying placement in their head offices. During her placement, Nicky's boss was impressed and asked Nicky to leave university and start work right away. "I was so torn", Nicky recalls, "but I decided I had to finish university."

It was a difficult decision for Nicky, but she kept in touch with her boss. She stressed to me the importance of keeping up to date with everything that is happening in the industry which you are planning to go into. "To be a fashion buyer you don't need to know the head of Gucci, but you do need to know the company you want to work for well." Nicky tells me "work experience is key, but your attitude has to be right. You have to be able to watch, listen and learn. It's a hard world, but always be personable and professional."

Nicky graduated with a 2:1, into a job as a buyer's assistant at Schuh. Her success at the company earned her a number of promotions. Just over two years ago, she became a Senior Buyer. I ask her what she does and after some thought she puts it simply: 'I invest Schuh's money in products which makes them profit.' Before I spoke to Nicky, I had an idea of what a buyer did; or I thought I did. Nicky says 'most people hold some common misconceptions of what buyers really do.' "Recently, we had a student in on a work placement, and he was shocked by what we really did. He expected it to be all jet-setting and glamour, and sometimes it's not!"

On a 'nice day', Nicky will be in the office for 8:30 am ready for a day of meetings. In a meeting with a supplier, she can be confronted with a room full of hundreds of shoes to ruffle through and choose what she believes 'fits a trend, or appeals to a Schuh customer'. "A lot of time is spent trawling through paper work too", sales figures must constantly be ad-

dressed, to make sure all stores have enough stock. "Many people say they would like to be a buyer as they think we buy what we like personally. Everyone knows what they like or don't like, so think it's easy - they think it's all fashion shows. A good buyer buys a range of products that sells, whether they like it or not, I've never been to a fashion show!" However, Nicky does admit to a reasonable amount of jet-setting, even without the shows.

"Some days, I'll be at the airport at 5am for a flight, perhaps from the head office in Edinburgh, to London, for a day of meetings and a dinner." With her long list of clients and trade shows, she flies off to New York, Milan and Berlin at least once a year. Nicky mainly focuses on America and Europe, but the design team scouts the entire globe for new trends and clients. She tells me about searching for new trends, and admits they do a lot of people watching. The design team will walk the streets of L.A. to Copenhagen, hunting down the latest fashion craze. We laugh about the advent of the Croc-phenomenon. "Crocs made their

"We're all watching shows like X factor and Fresh Meat. I love Vod, her styling is great. Very Victorian-Goth. Very now."

way to schuh after the design team ventured on a trend-watch to Tokyo and everyone was wearing them."

In conversation with a senior buyer at a top high-street name, I can't help but talk trends. I ask her for the low down on next season's must haves. 'You've got to have a bit of everything on the high street' she admits but next season 'mint green is going to be big! A mint green shoe was one of our strongest selling shoes of the last season, and we'll be buying more of it!' Nicky tells me, 'we maximise what styles have worked with subtle updates but also champion new trends and brands to find the next big thing.' This season, Schuh have in an 'Intergalactic' range with a 'retro futuristic' feel, next season they'll have a range with a similar aesthetic but a bit more technical - 'more mesh and metallics'.

We talk about this season's big hits; we all know the Olympics were huge and 'Women's Sports sales took over Women's Fashion sales for the first time ever! It's suddenly acceptable to wear trainers out on a night out. Adidas and Nike have gone more "fashion" with their trainers. and the sports trend with



a feminine edge has struck gold!" Wedged trainers have been huge this season, and Schuh will be sticking with this casual trend next season too.

"The whole footwear market is having a casual make over", she tells me, "the 90s are back and here to stay." This season, we have seen platforms, creepers and Dr. Martens galore, and

next season will present us with much of the same. "We're so lucky we're Dr. Martens biggest stockers, they have been great sellers recently," Nicky reveals. We briefly speak about the celebrity impact on their sales and trends especially since Rihanna's look is very 90s: "After Rihanna appeared at the 2012 Brit Awards in Timberland boots, they flew off the shelves." Rihanna and Rita Ora "are who we're all watching right now and shows such as X factor, Mad Men and even Fresh Meat...I love Vod in Fresh Meat, her styling is great, very Victorian-Goth, very now."

My time talking to Nicky gave me an insight into her world. It was not all I expected yet I was not disappointed. My expectations were high but despite the mountains of paper work and 5am starts, I still see why this job is desired by many. Trade shows around the world, and meetings that consist of sifting through countless pairs of shoes sound rather appealing. However, it's not all endless glamour and freebies, as Nicky constantly reminded me. "In order to make it as a buyer you have to keep in mind that "it's a hard world and if you don't make the cut you're out."

What shone through most, talking to Nicky, was her passion, her dedication, and most importantly her glowing personality: "Being a buyer is about maintaining good relations with everyone around you. When I interview people what I look for is someone who I can see working with everyone in our office. Work experience is key, and so is academic merit but above all I want someone who wants to learn and is ready to listen." M



BAROQUE  
MAST DRESS.  
KAREN MILLEN. £310

The nights have drawn in, the Christmas lights are on in town, and last minute essays are nearly done. Even if you don't observe a particular religious festival over the holidays, it is that wonderful time of the year when you can start planning for the party season. If you're desperate for a fabulous new outfit that can take you from a posh drinks party with the relatives, to a casual catch-up down the pub with your mates from home - fear not. We've sought out the key catwalk trends that can be found on the High Street at a price that won't break the bank, but won't scrimp on the festive fun.

Ladies, you shouldn't have to rely on the boring LBD to drag you through another round of mulled wine and mince pies. It's a myth that they flatter your figure more than any other well-chosen dress, and they're just plain boring. Take some inspiration from the opulent offerings that Dolce and Gabbana sent down the catwalk and rock the baroque look. Intricate gold detailing exudes sophisticated glamour and can either be dressed up or down at will.

If you've been extra good this year then splash out on this fabulous frock from Karen Millen. Wear with biker boots for the rock chick look, or go for gold in heels and trusty black tights.

River Island has some less pricey options if your last present-buying frenzy left you a bit short.



Gentlemen, take heed from Paul Smith and wear your Christmas knit with (ironic) pride. From nautical to the Nordic, there's a jumper style for everyone out there. Hit up Top Man for some nifty knitwear to wear with your favourite pair of jeans. If you need to smarten it up a notch, Gap does a great range in jewel-tone, brushed cotton trousers. *India Block*



CHINOS. GAP. £39.95

## Chanel No. Zero.

Miranda Larbi

Fragrances can be magical - they can drag up memories that have lain dormant for years, or can stir feelings not yet experienced, in one sniff. Yet how troublesome it must be to advertise scent in print or video when it is the most ephemeral of senses. Perfume adverts appear as two-minute blockbusters - a visual and audible explosion of seductive action, featuring some of the world's most beautiful people. They assure us of our potential sensual and sexual allure and promise the possibility of adventure and romance. We may not be able to smell the product but we can guess at its overall effect.

However, when Chanel released its latest campaign, starring Brad Pitt, it was met with ridicule and confusion. When the house first announced their plans back in May, it was unclear as to whether Pitt was fronting a campaign for a No. 5 scent *pour homme*, or whether he was indeed about to become the first male face of the female fragrance. Their decision to take the latter option has subsequently provided YouTube with hundreds of parodies and piss takes of the most ludicrous fragrance adverts to date.

Chanel No. 5 is possibly the world's most famous perfume of

all time. It speaks of sophistication, of old time glamour'. In recent years, the brand has kept to its roots by using actresses, such as Audrey Tautou, who evoked the notion of the classic starlet, and oozed in old school charm. We know that sex sells - whether it is Blake Lively having a really good time spritzing herself with Gucci Première, or Rosie Huntington-Whiteley naked under a raincoat for Burberry Body. We buy fragrances to feel sensual. A drop of musk behind the ear before going out gives a woman the sense of empowerment, of hidden sexual prowess. Each Chanel advert up until now has focused on the effect that No. 5 has on women - how it makes them feel, what journey it leads them on, who they send crazy with the scent.

Any exciting or empowering message gets lost behind the fug of Pitt's bizarre one-liners. The glamour is gone too: Pitt has the appearance of an incoherent fugitive who hasn't seen a barber in months. With a male lead in place, there is nothing of the brand's original sophistication, beauty or excitement in this recent offering. Many Chanel fans will have been saddened by such a misguided attempt to reinvent something that was perfect just the way it was.

## Topshop stays on top

India Block  
FASHION EDITOR

With brands such as Zara and H&M snapping at its heels, Topshop has had to work hard to remain at the forefront of British fashion lovers' hearts and minds. Their strategy of competitive pricing, huge turnover of key trends and a sprinkling of luxury items is one that has been adopted all over the High Street. Even their penchant for designer collaboration has been relentlessly imitated. But Topshop still has an ace up its embellished sleeve.

Topshop has made some unprecedented moves in the past few years to bridge the gap between the big name fashion houses and their High Street brand. No longer content with simply imitating the looks shown on the catwalk, Topshop now has its own spot at London Fashion Week. This September, the Topshop Space in Bedford Square was the most hyped venue of them all. I was there with the swarm of bloggers and paparazzi snapping furiously away as fashion stars such as Olivia Palermo and Anna Della Russo sauntered through the closely guarded gates. Not only was the great, white circus tent showcasing

Topshop's own high fashion brand Unique, they played host to a cohort of young and super-talented designers. Louise Gray, Michæl van der Ham, Mary Kattrantzou, Meadham Kirchhoff and Peter Pilotto all dazzled

the fashion world's great and good.

By nurturing developing talent Topshop is giving back to the industry it relies on, all the while ensuring that their shops will always be full of collaborations with the latest bright young things.

This unique symbiotic relationship has produced an interesting hybrid of a brand that can cater to all breeds of fashion lovers. It's rare to find a brand that can simultaneously keep fourteen year old girls in neon short shorts and have high flying fashionistas coo over their latest collections. Even though H&M snags some big names for its collaborative work, it's pretty much impossible for the average person to get their hands on it without ninja queuing skills and a platinum credit card. Not so with Topshop, as evidenced by their latest mutual effort with Jordan Askill.

Sculpture and jewelry designer Askill hails from Sydney, Australia, where he was awarded the 1st Prize Grand Marnier Design Award for Fashion Excellence.

He made the move from Down Under to cut his teeth working for Dior Homme in Paris, before launching his own original jewelry collection. Now Topshop has snagged him to produce a dazzling array of shiny things to take pride of place on every girl's Christmas wish list. The capsule collection includes delicate rings, some hefty cuffs adorned with majestic panther heads and an intricate charm bracelet. Askill named his inspirations for the collection as ancient Egypt, endangered species, and 'sentimentality'. It's quite an eclectic mix, to say the least.

However, there's a twist in the tail that brings all those influences together. The panther heads feature a unique take on the traditional charm bracelet model; they hold in their mouths detachable trinkets that can be kept to adorn their original piece, or, as the designer himself suggests, given away to someone who matters to you. They're a sexy, sophisticated take on a friendship bracelet or locket and will make a perfect gift that keeps on giving, so snap them up whilst you can. Let's just hope that Topshop keeps evolving and continues to pick smart collaborations like this one.



## Spend/Save/Steal

### The Trophy Knit

Don't just get any old sweater. Go for the emblazoned kind with retro logos, a tongue-in-cheek slogan, or even a cute motif. It is the season of trophy knits not humble pullovers. They're practical for the cold and a staple trend this winter.



HANDKNIT CROSS JUMPER. UNIQUE. £295.00

If you're going to splash the cash do it at Topshop Unique - not only a worthwhile investment, but also an exclusive look. Daisy Lowe recently sported this statement item, showing us mere mortals how to look effortless and on trend at the same time.

Rachel Thompson

LUCCA STAR JUMPER. URBAN OUTFITTERS. £65.00

Tap into a playful aesthetic, courtesy of Lucca at Urban Outfitters, with this star knit jumper. Think fun and think Wildfox. Their star print knits have been seen on everyone from Alessandro Ambrosio to Miley Cyrus). Keep warm in style this winter and put this jumper on your christmas list.



NAVY DUCK JUMPER. RIVER ISLAND. £38.00

The trophy knit is not just a trend for the girls; this easy and versatile look has been spotted on various male pin-ups. Eddie Redmayne is rarely without his epaulette detail knits. If you don't have the budget of a Burberry model/ Les Mis actor then this is a great bargain.

Rachel Thompson

# The Madness of Marmite



**Flamboyant Foodie,  
Ms Marmite, talks to  
Laura Hughes about  
cooking for therapy  
and gastro porn.**

**“I** was described by an ex-boyfriend as a spoiled brat on acid. Though he did tell me he was envious of my flat, my shrink, breasts and teeth.”

Ms Marmite – love her or hate her, is an eccentric combination of terrifying headmistress and restorative aunt. As I began with my questions, it suddenly dawned on me that perhaps I had bitten off more than I could chew.

Kerstin Rodgers, as she is more formally known, is the mother of the underground restaurant revolution. With one of the top food blogs in the UK and almost 4,000 followers on Twitter, she began hosting her own supper club, The Underground Restaurant, from her eclectic kitchen in London in 2009. This is the sort of lady who makes you want to forage your fork into an oozing banoffee pie, spit out your granola and suck all the meat off the joint of life.

Born and raised in North London, Kerstin’s menus are about more than mere middle class munch. Ms Marmite has cooked for French philosophers, Serbian trade unionists and even the People’s Global Action conference in Belgrade. Her supper club also reserves cheaper seats for the unemployed and those who normally might not be able to eat out. In her time at the stove, Kerstin has catered for a plethora of events, from festivals in fields to squats, one of which was a swimming pool, where she lived with her boyfriend in a tiny changing room.

The look of her supper club is an array of conflicting vintage crockery and French shabby chic. The evening’s menu for the night is written up on a huge mirror, whilst the secret location of her house is only revealed after booking. Ms Marmite’s style of cooking is deliciously experimental and her “philosophy stems from a punk, do it yourself ethic.” As a pescatarian, she does not eat, cook or serve meat. Popular dishes at her restaurant include Squid Ink Tortellini stuffed with Goat Cheese and Cockalekie (without the Cock.)

There’s nothing artificially sweet about Kerstin Rogers.

As women continue to struggle with warped perceptions of their bodies, I wanted to know if Ms Marmite saw our weight-obsessed culture as a feminist issue and thin women as the enemy. Should women beef up for the cause? “I think we should all be accepting of the different shapes and sizes and colours that bodies come in. This is a particular issue for women as they continue to be judged on their appearance, within a very narrow criterion. Thin women, some of whom work endlessly at it, some of whom are genetically fortunate, are not the enemy, but they are bloody lucky. When I’m a fashionable weight, it’s something I have to work at full-time and actually, I’d rather get on with other stuff. Divorce and India are the only ways of losing weight easily.”

I want to know what Ms Marmite thinks of London’s current cupcake craze. Did it represent women’s compromise between labouredly squeezing into the size 8 jeans we’re led to believe we are supposed to fit, whilst simultaneously satisfying that innate ‘female’ desire for something sweet? “Cupcakes are pretty and sweet, just like us gurls. Only kidding. I’m not really a cupcake person, I prefer savoury. To be a proper chef, to start a food business is to challenge the dominant culture which is still very male, in food. To make a few cupcakes and start a blog about it, is conforming to type. That said, I still like girly shit.”

For years, the female sexual appetite has often been both marketed and represented through food. Nigella Lawson and Sophie Dahl have fed this sexualisation of food. Critics have coined this the evolution of ‘gastro porn.’ So is the food people eat and how they eat, reflective of personality, and is it really right to sell sex on a plate? “In my family we have two types: creamy cheerful and savoury miserable. This is about the two types of pasta sauce we eat: my mum and daughter love cream based sauces and they tend to be more optimistic. My dad and I prefer tomatoey, garlicky, oily pasta sauces and we tend to be a bit miz. (But my dad and I are more ambitious, harder working) So maybe it’s true?”



The kitchen where the magic of the secret supper club takes place

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE CREDITED TO KERSTIN RODGERS; MARMITELOVER.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK/P/ABOUT-ME.HTML- PHOTOS

“Nigella and Sophie are both very beautiful and of course, you use whatever capital you have to get ahead. But they both also come from very rich and very connected families. In fact, I have more of an issue with the class distinctions in food.” Kerstin talks of a culinary apartheid. With the strength of a double espresso, Ms Marmite tells me: “You can divide all food telly into toffs or tarts. Rarely do you have working class people talking, writing or making TV about food. In newspapers, the food critic job is a kind of present given to star columnists, whether they know anything about food or not. See Zoe Williams, Grace Dent, Toby Young. All good writers but not particularly good on food.”

Celebrities such as Sophie Dahl, Gwyneth Paltrow and Alex James, are all queuing up to become celebrity chefs. Is this because cooks seem to be the only public figures left that the public trust? “I think celebrity culture has distorted cookery book publishing. Nowadays it’s almost only possible to get a book published if you are on TV. All of these stars have tons of assistants and ghost writers, rarely do they ever write their books.” Ms Marmite suggests that perhaps the public are mis-

guided in placing their trust in these celebrity chefs, and calls for a little more honesty.

“Sophie Dahl is beautiful and maybe she cooks well at home but she had to be sent on an expensive cookery course when they saw how she cooked on the TV series. Gwyneth Paltrow’s book (who I believe can cook well) was ghosted but she won’t admit it. Alex James can’t make cheese, so I’ve been told by cheese ‘insiders’. The ‘slebs’ have such busy schedules they are unable to properly do everything. I think it’s time they admitted how much help they get. Celebrity culture, just like women’s magazines, are all about making us, the general public, feel inadequate.”

For Ms Marmite, cooking is therapy: “feeding is how mothers show their love for their family. Meals are memories, milestones in our lives.” Kerstin dedicates her cookbook to single mothers, and writes that one of the reasons she created The Underground Restaurant was loneliness. I wanted to know if cooking for thirty people in your own home was something that she still found still therapeutic and if it had filled that personal void.

“Cooking is still very therapeutic for me. I can’t think of anything better than *Radio 4* on the radio, cooking on my aga on a Sunday. I dedicated my book to single mothers as their self-esteem is pretty low. Papers like the Daily Mail are always having a go at them, but actually they are the ones that stayed behind and did the job. I’m a feminist. The poorest women and children in Britain tend to be single parent families. We need to support them, not criticise. I’m still single, so I guess starting a supper club hasn’t worked in that respect. I’m not lonely anymore, I’m too busy. But maybe I will be when my daughter goes to university this autumn.”

Orwell famously wrote that “you practically don’t find good English cooking outside a private house. If you want, say, a good, rich slice of Yorkshire pudding you are more likely to get it in the poorest English home than in a restaurant.” The underground restaurant phenomenon is ripe for success, and Kirsten Roger’s own is perfectly seasoned with veritable, honest food. Anomalous maybe, but you eat what Ms Marmite gives you. There’s no sugar coating reality. Ms Marmite is the real deal. **M**




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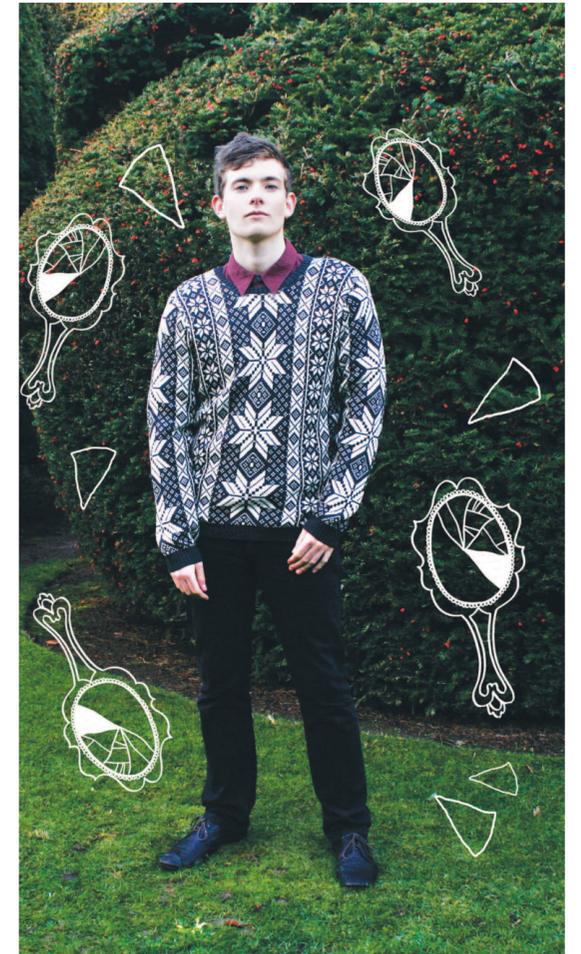
“Divorce and India are the only ways to lose weight.”

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# OF MIRRORS AND SPLINTERS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: INDIA BLOCK  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: LILY GRANT  
 FASHION ASSISTANT: FRANCESCA BUTCHER  
 ILLUSTRATION: INDIA BLOCK  
 FEMALE MODEL: JESS HOLLAND  
 MALE MODEL: ADAM ASHFIELD  
 CLOTHES COURTESY OF TOPSHOP, YORK

From the left: Green knit scarf, £14. Red knit hat, £12. White t-shirt, £10. Demin shearling collar jacket, £50. Woolmix grey rucksack, £32. Fairisle knit jumper, £38. Ox-blood shirt, £32. All Topman. Trousers and shoes, models own.



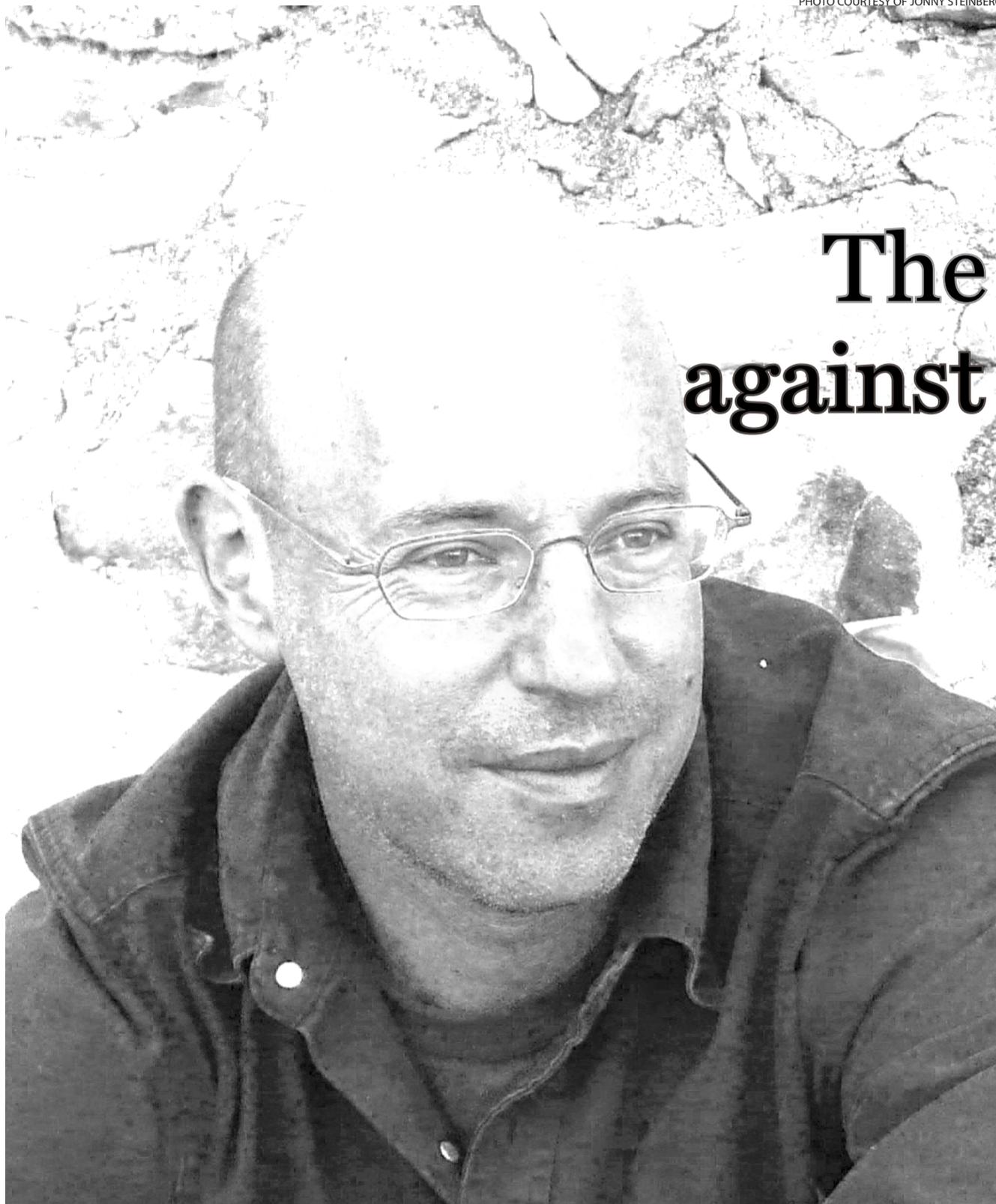
From the left: Mint embellished gown, £79. Faux fur jacket, £98. Crystal spike crown, £12.50. White fur hat, £22. Cream lace insert dress, £46. Cobweb grey jumper, £26. Chiffon top with beaded collar, £40. Faux fur gilet, £55. All Topshop. Jewelry, models own.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A BOY NAMED KAY AND A GIRL NAMED GERDA WHO WERE THE BEST OF FRIENDS. IN THE SUMMER THEY WOULD TEND THEIR ROSE GARDEN TOGETHER; IN WINTER THEY WOULD DRAW NEAR TO THE WARM STOVE AND LISTEN TO KAY'S GRANDMOTHER TELL THEM STORIES OF THE SNOW QUEEN.

ONE DAY, TWO TINY SHARDS OF CURSED MIRROR FLEW INTO KAY'S EYE AND HEART. A MALICIOUS SPIRIT HAD ENCHANTED THIS MIRROR SO THAT WHOEVER LOOKED WOULD ONLY SEE A TWISTED VERSION OF THE WORLD. FROM THAT MOMENT KAY COULD SEE ONLY UGLINESS, HIS HEART FROZE IN HIS CHEST. THE BEAUTIFUL ROSES HE HAD ONCE CHERISHED NOW APPEARED HIDEOUS AND DECAYED.

THAT WINTER, WHEN THE FROST SET IN, THE SNOW QUEEN BLEW IN WITH A SHOWER OF SNOWFLAKES AND SPIRITED KAY AWAY TO HER ICY KINGDOM. NOW GERDA SEARCHES THROUGH THE WINTRY LANDSCAPE FOR HER LOST PLAYMATE, HOPING THAT HER TEARS CAN MELT HIS FROZEN HEART AND BRING HIM BACK TO HER.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JONNY STEINBERG



# The Struggle against Stigma

**Jonny Steinberg talks to Fiona Parker about narrative, biography and personalising an international crisis.**

To encounter the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic of South Africa in 2005, was to encounter shame, despair and most predominantly, denial. To write of these feelings and to write of them in English, a language from which it is almost impossible to scrub clean the patronising tone and pity for Africa, is to meet with difficulty and discomfort. It is perhaps an escape from these feelings, to list the statistics of newly diagnosed cases, deaths and patients receiving treatment.

For Jonny Steinberg, however, this would simply not have been enough. For him, when writing on AIDS, it is important to reveal as much as possible about how the people who live through the epidemic think and continue to live. "The one thing non-fiction can't do is to show what is happening inside another person's head. In a situation like this where culturally and politically, people are so very different from me, I think this is an important discipline."

In 2008, Steinberg's *Three Letter Plague* was published. The book documents Jonny's extensive interviews which focused primarily on a young man from South Africa. The man, who was granted the pseudonym of Sizwe, was not to have known four years before Jonny's visit, that his views would be thought valuable enough to be published for the English speaking world. However, Sizwe held an opinion and stance which Jonny, at first, found almost impossible to understand. He lived in an area where HIV treatment was available to him for free, and had reason to fear that he had contracted the virus, yet he refused to have himself tested. However, the book

itself does not rely upon a positive or negative result, it focuses on why Sizwe decides he does not want to know his status. For Jonny, this does not affect the progression of a novel. "What makes a book progress is not something that happens, but something that unfolds. The meat of the book was not when he would be tested or what the results would be, but why he wouldn't."

Steinberg's interviews with Sizwe took place over the course of two years, and by committing to narrative non-fiction, he removed the possibility of a first person narrative approach. In doing so, he restricted the reader's access to Sizwe's feelings to a point, as all information would have to be channelled through Jonny first. This, however, was a decision which Jonny made in order to provide his text with authenticity when discussing the epidemic:

"It was about authority and credibility, it was about showing the reader the architecture of my discoveries, showing them why I knew what I knew. Taking myself out almost would have been an act of deceit. It would have been a pretence of understanding a world that I didn't quite understand. I needed to show the reader myself going in and understanding."

Jonny's interviews did not solely involve him asking questions which Sizwe would answer. The responses prompted Jonny to ask himself questions, which as a gay man who had experienced HIV test anxieties during his youth, had not yet considered with such depth. This offered an opportunity for a dual narrative of two very different experiences concerning the anxiety surrounding the virus. "Through coding my own past

and looking into experiences in my own history which were similar to what I was experiencing now, I created connections - very qualified connections in many ways. I think that going through his history and what AIDS meant to him was like going through my history and thinking about what AIDS meant to me, at various stages in my life."

Both Jonny and Sizwe shared lives which the fear of contracting HIV had marked. But it would be simplistic to centre on the two men's polarised attitudes to testing as the main difference between them. *Three Letter Plague* enables the reader to view the epidemic in the context of its own cultural bindings. "I don't think that the reader has to understand the whole culture, but I think that the reader has to understand just enough of the culture to understand Sizwe. To approach the culture is very much to approach it through him and really to look at how he has confronted key decisions in his life and what things meant to him, like being a son, and being a lover, and having a household. You know what things mean to him and as you explore all of those things, then incrementally a sense of a culture comes to life and parts of that culture are very different to others. For example, the idea of communicating with the dead - the cultural world that has the idea that the dead are watching us and affecting us in invisible ways is taken for granted."

Beliefs such as these, forced Jonny to fully comprehend the complications which arise when writing in the English language about South African superstitions. "It was quite difficult writing about that world without exoticising it. I was aware



PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMED N

“I think in a strange sort of way Mbeki was reflecting what was going on. He should have been leading rather than reflecting.”



PHOTO CREDITS: WORLD BANK PHOTO COLLECTION

World Aids Day was celebrated the world over on Saturday

that the more exotic he became, the less human he would become and the book would fail. I really wanted the reader to keep him as a human being like themselves. While he was talking about his relationship with the dead, I didn't want them, themselves to believe the same thing that Sizwe did, but I wanted them to see the dead through the eyes of a human being rather than through some exoticised skeletal figure.”

Jonny feared not only that Sizwe's humanity would be lost within the text, but that his person would become entangled within the politics of the book and South Africa's reception of the epidemic as a whole. He felt heavily, the burden of writing about the views of a man who came from a community where very few people read. He was concerned that Sizwe underestimated the power of publication and the risk it carried. “I sometimes feared he didn't fully comprehend the dangers of being written about. I had to install those fears in him. He came from a world where not many people read books so he wasn't in a position to judge what that would mean, so I felt an added burden because of who he was and I had to explain to him what some of the dangers were. I probably exaggerated them and made him more fearful than he would have been, but I think it was my responsibility.”

For a long time, Sizwe did not accept Jonny's offer of a pseudonym but eventually, towards the end of the process, he was persuaded by Jonny to conceal his identity. For Jonny, this provided unexpected benefits. The idea of personal identification with the virus was brought to light through this situation. “In a way the pseudonym was productive because in discussing it, I think that I got to the bottom of some of his deepest fears about being revealed as someone who speaks about AIDS. That helped me understand what AIDS meant to him. So I lost something in not using his real name, but I won quite a lot in understanding what it meant to him to use his real name.”

Although this personal insight into the discourses which were bound to the epidemic in Sizwe's mind was both valuable and innovative, Jonny would not have been faithful to the reader had he not written of the politics and history which were bound to the country's crisis. Thabo Mbeki, the then South African President's denial that HIV caused AIDS and his outspoken fears of Western medical aid infecting healthy Africans with the virus, so that the West could charge Africa for medicine, are discussed. Jonny explores the apparently invisible explanations behind his conduct. “What I knew about Mbeki was that he was an intellectual who lived much of his life abroad, I think what he said resonated so deeply with the peasant culture. There is this whole idea that all medical technology is suspicious because it comes from the outside and it is wielded with mystery and something that is not to be trusted. It is an instrument of power. So it's ironic that this very cerebral, and western educated African intellectual had such a close counterpart in rural wisdom. I think in a strange sort of way he was reflecting on what was going on on the ground and that was his failure, he should have been leading rather than reflecting.”

South Africa's reception of the epidemic seems less important today. The identity of the South Africans was still heavily dominated by their post-Apartheid status. “The black South Africans' experience of AIDS was intimately linked with the experience of being black, and being black was linked to the Apartheid. So yes, I think that the two were inextricably tangled in people's consciousness. I think that you can't understand what AIDS meant to ordinary people without understanding what being black meant to ordinary people. It would be strange if you could disentangle the two.”

World AIDS Day was on 1st December 2012, and we are days away from the fourth anniversary of the book's publication. It would not be outrageous to ask how a text, which was so engaged with a specific moment of South Africa's political history, is as relevant and important to a reader now. For Jonny though, the subject is timeless. “I don't think it's bound to that specific time. It speaks about so many things. It speaks about the relationship between shame and illness and between being black and living in post-Apartheid South Africa. So I don't think it was bound up in that one moment of denialism where we had a president who was questioning whether HIV caused AIDS. I think it's very much about a political culture and about being a young man, and what a sexually transmitted disease is, what it means.” What Jonny reminds us is that AIDS is not restricted by continents. People from all parts of the world have found solidarity with the man behind the name of Sizwe. For Jonny, the focus on the condition, and the portrayal of it through Sizwe, enables the book to not only cross historical but also geographical borders. “I've had quite a lot of letters from readers particularly in the U.S. who are HIV positive who stumbled across the book because they were reading stuff about living with the condition. They really connected with Sizwe and understood what he was going through. So I think there are questions there which leap across cultural boundaries.” It is novels such as Steinberg's which remind us that AIDS is a global problem, cured by neither wealth nor political stability. **M**

1st December 2012 was World Aids Day, to find out more visit - <http://www.worldaidsday.org>

# Kurt Elling: Philosophy and Liberation

The Grammy award winner talks to Isaac BD about jazz, chaos and why musical training's overrated.



It is a bizarre symptom of the celebrity-culture which permeates Western society that artistry is becoming ever more marginalised. Whilst the UK Top 40 is rammed consistently down the throats of a not-too-resistant listenership, it is at once significantly easier and peculiarly more difficult to branch out, to discover those lesser-known musicians who, for whatever reason, are happy to (or, perhaps, forced to) stay on the sidelines. Whilst the advent of online distribution models means that, in theory, anyone can get hold of any record, new or old, the discovery of those slightly more obscure artists is shrouded in layer upon layer of mainstream-indie dichotomy; is alternative still alternative? Or has it become another facet of mainstream pop culture?

Case in point, Kurt Elling: a native Chicagoan who celebrated his 45th birthday days before our interview. A superstar in the Jazz world, but seldom a blip on the radar elsewhere. Having been nominated for ten Grammys, Kurt has been described by *The New York Times* as “the standout male vocalist of our time”, an accolade which, given his propensity to flit between octaves as if they were merely suggestions as to one’s vocal limits, is well-deserved. Kurt has been awarded Male Singer of the Year on eight occasions by the Jazz Journalists Association, topped the *Jazz Times*’ and *Down Beat*’s readers’ polls seven times each and won Critics Award from the latter publication a staggering thirteen times. Consecutively. With a Grammy to his name, and a four-octave vocal range to boot, one might expect a certain level of hubris from one so accomplished, but Elling is far from it, apologising profusely when our first call (over Skype, I’m not made of money) went awry amidst Microsoft’s ineptitude.

The son of a Church choirmaster and High School band instructor, Kurt grew up with choirs. This classical influence has had a clear impact on his singing technique which, unusual for a Jazz musician, shifts easily from the improvisational frenzy of a long scat or vocalese piece to the clear, bright and supported register most commonly associated with the traditional, bel canto style of singing. Indeed, his real interest in Jazz came considerably later and, by the time he was in

college, he was performing weekly spots in a local venue.

We began with a discussion about education, both musical and academic, and the role played by each in his success.

Kurt studied for a masters in Philosophy of Religion, dropping out with only a single credit to gain before graduation. As he puts it, “By day I was reading Kant and Schleiermacher, trying to get a handle on that, and at night I was sitting-in in clubs, and, of course,

ing heavily to the ostensible postponement of a musical career that could easily have started years earlier: “I’m happy that I went to graduate school: I’m happy for the friends I made, the work I did, and the development of my analytical and writing skills.” Certainly, Kurt’s academically-rich, highly-literate background is evidenced in his choice and composition of lyrics. On *Nightmoves*, his 2007 album, Elling sets to a minimalist accompaniment ‘The Waking’, a Theodore Ro-

self: in some ways I’m much more liberated, I’m not constrained by rules that may or may not have been valid musically, and I’ve seen many cases where young people go to conservatories and the music becomes harder and harder for them to hear because they’re focused on the discipline itself.” On the topic of conservatoire education, he points out the tensions between the structure implemented by such an institution and the goals of the Jazz musician, saying that “Jazz is about individuation; it’s the task of making as personal as possible the musical statements that one broadcasts. If you go to conservatories, you’re by definition going into a system of regimented learning. That can—it doesn’t always, but it can—lead to a much less signature and much more corporate sound. You’ll sound like people who went to the school you went to.” Kurt seems to thrive in his freedom to create on his own terms, choosing material, players, lyrical influences and writing based entirely on personal preference, not as a response to a formal training: “That can be soul-crushing; deadlines and regulations and, god-forbid, a uniformed or foolish instructor sends the wrong signal and suddenly you don’t feel that the music within you is worth hearing, or worth performing, or worth working to perfect.”

Does he feel like he’s ‘made it’ yet? “When you’re young, you have an idea in your mind that is much more resonant of and replicative of things that you’ve seen in books, movies, in other people’s lives. That kind of image, even if it works out as mine has, when it comes to the particulars of it...you’ll be surprised. And that’s a good thing, there’s a lot more creativity in confronting chaos than there is in confronting any step-by-step, mathematically-assured plan.” M

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you can’t do both and be effective. Eventually, Saturday night won out over Sunday morning”. As a Philosophy student myself, I was keen to pursue this line of inquiry. We discussed the ways in which Elling’s philosophical training and his ideas about life that have come about as a result thereof have influenced his work: “For my money, it’s much more important to dwell in the questions than to dwell in the answers... I think that, philosophically, that’s a much more humble and appropriate way to go through life: not to continually be asserting your opinion, not to continually be trying to convert other people to your way of thinking.”

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REVERB.

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# In The Spotlight: Bangers & Mash

Rory Foster finds out what's causing all the hype at York's newest club night.

Fibbers is quite a funny little club compared to a lot of York nightlife. It is not so well known for the more commonly spotted "5 rooms; 23 DJs; cheese, indie and old skool party classics all night" that YUSU will hurl at you. Rather, there is one somewhat shadowy yet large floor, made up with a long rectangular cavern, a stage and another chunk round the corner. The venue's website proudly boasts of over 20 years of existence and 5000 gigs since its inception, featuring up-coming performances from the likes of Electric Six, Tinchy Stryder and All the Young. But Fibbers is also known for its eclectic collection of club nights, which has now grown with the first Bangers & Mash (B&M) - a club night focusing on Electronic Dance music's (EMD) deeper side, which took place last Thursday.

It is said that the more you listen to house music, the better it gets. If this is the case, York should be starting to carve a nice little scene for itself. Whilst indie plods along rather steadily, electronic dance music of all types, be it in the form of house, bass, UK funky and other bewildering titles are all on a meteoric rise. Producers ranging from a kid in a garage near Stoke to an L.A. hunk who has been creating tracks exponentially, fuelled only by growing fan bases and the ease of which tracks can be sought out and shared via YouTube channels and blogs.

And so B&M has planted its seeds in this rich vein of EDM ore. For those that have not been to either Leeds' Mint Warehouse or Manchester's WHP of late, Bangers and Mash is very much an opening towards nights such as these. Catering predominantly for Deep House, with elements of garage and electro blitzed in now and again to wake up those not

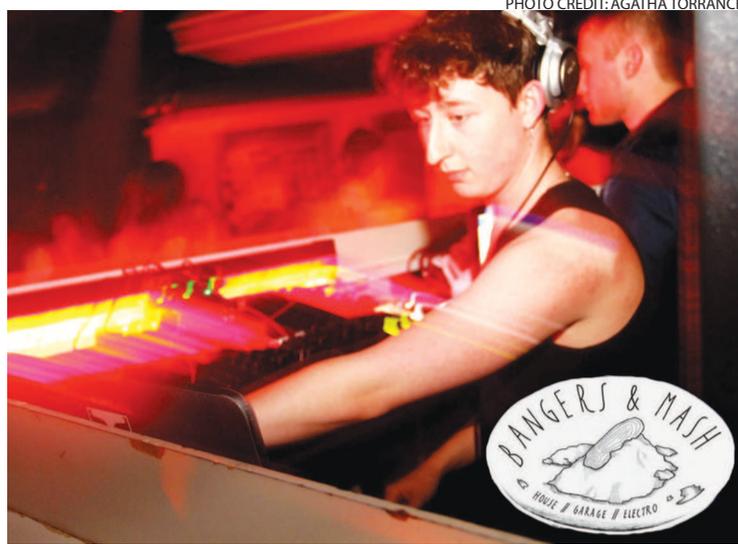


PHOTO CREDIT: AGATHA TORRANCE

quite jacked in to the unyielding 4x4 beat, the night's promoted artists like Julio Bashmore, Disclosure, Four Tet and Craig David.

A team effort consisting of several York students "who just wanted to put on a great night together", they were somewhat surprised by the interest they garnered. Luke Wilson, one of the organisers, told me: "The general feeling at the end of the night was that people didn't want to leave. For me, that was the most important part and is reason enough to do it all over again." Certainly another B&M event is unlikely to fall through from lack of predicted ticket sales - rarely has Fibbers seen such a packed crowd, let alone one that stayed until

**"I cannot forget the endless throbbing bass etched into my eardrums. I'm sure this is the purpose of this night."**

3am. As for inspiration, I'm told they "didn't really form Bangers & Mash on any grand concept"; their want to stop having to get on a train to experience it properly must have been enough.

On the night itself, I have to admit, I may not have had my full wits about me, yet there are several things of note that I have picked up both from nuggets of information clinging to my consciousness and word of mouth afterwards. The first thing I can remember being aware of was the popularity. It was busy with queuing for both pre-bought on-the-door tickets. And once in, the dance floor was packed.

More interesting was the sit down conducted from the

DJ booth during Kink's 'Hand Made' and Julio Bashmore's 'Au Seve' which temporarily caused the dancefloor to erupt into what sounded vaguely like a poorly articulated football chant. Lastly, I cannot forget the endless throbbing bass etched into my eardrums, which I'm sure is the purpose of this night. Overall, a night well spent, as echoed by the organisers: "Thursday was everything we could have asked for as a new night in York".

Fans of E&M sound should not forget the existence of some of the longer-standing York electronic institutions. Breakz, which is also a YUSU society, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year and is home to, if they do say so themselves, "some of the finest music events on campus and in York... drum and bass, dubstep, hip-hop... Breakz provides you with a night of pure musical indulgence." Also a key part of York electronic heritage is Freakin', that

have existed long before this year's freshers even got out of primary school. Like an ever-present guiding hand, they are riding the wave of this resurgence like it was meant to be, and are churning out nights like nothing's happened at all. Also, of relatively recent creation is "Milli Vanilli", with its blend of similar house-y notes injected with some funk and soul to get your feet moving. So if you are perhaps a little weary of hearing the Greece medley for the second time this week, keep an eye out for some of these great nights around York. You won't regret it.

Twitter user? Tweet us your Bangers & Mash thoughts using #M17

## The Playlist: Garage. House. Electronica

### Scuba - Adrenalin

Scuba have veered towards funk and melody after the darker undertones of their past. Paul Rose founded Hotflush, his own record label, under which he's released most of his singles as well as two albums - his most recent being *Triangulation* (2010). He's also moved to Berlin - not a bad spot for house music.

### KiNK - Handmade

I feel I can leave this description to Strahil Velchev himself: "Take the soul and the groove of house and techno, the futurism and detail of experimental electronica and the raw energy of acid". Got that?

### Huxley - Let It Go

A throbbing bassline grinds this track into your eardrums, with a stuttery percussion line that leaves you on adrenaline fuelled edge throughout the 7-minute track.

### Dusky - Flo Jam

This track is anything but boring, with a range of drum beats, taking influence from the garage of the early naughties. Definite reminder of summer raves on the beach.

### Gant - All Night Long

An over-excited drum beat accelerates you through this fun and accessible deep house track.

### Zed Bias - Neighbourhood

Swaying more towards the electronica, or even mainstream, end of the genre, 'Neighbourhood' makes for a strong but accessible dance track.

### Joy Orbison - Big Room House DJ Tool

Joy Orbison (Peter O'Grady) actually made his recording debut on Paul Rose's label. He started his Doldrums label with his *J. Doe*, second single, as well as remixing tracks by Four Tet and Jose James.

## Reviews.



### PASSION PIT o2 ACADEMY, LEEDS Genevieve Heah

Playing songs from *Gossamer*, their latest album, fans were treated to a night of electrifying tunes. In fact, their performance far exceeded my expectations. Besides having the best seats in the house (front row, naturally), the acoustics of the venue and harmony of the instruments intertwined beautifully, bringing euphoria to the ears of those present.

Screams and cheers emerged once the band hit the stage, followed by the first notes of 'Take A Walk', their most well-received hit. The atmosphere was so surreal; the unison of the jumping and fist pumping of the fans, transported one into a world where only Passion Pit's music could take you.

Kudos to Michael Angelakos, lead singer of the band, for having

such strong stage presence too: he frequently paced up and down the stage and roused the crowd by encouraging them to sing along to the songs, keeping fans from both ends of the stage engaged. Occasionally, you would catch him swinging the microphone by the cord in circles, or even standing on the speakers, leaning towards the crowd for a short tease. Displaying a strong passion for making and performing music, the band displayed strong group dynamics that made me enjoy the concert even more. The other band members on various instruments supported the harmonising of songs, and the short interactions with each other throughout the night made their performance spectacular.

Concluding their set with 'Sleepyhead', the single that brought this band to fame, fans demanded more, with persistent shouts for an encore after the boys had left the stage.

If you are one who enjoys a concert with a little rambling from the frontman, Passion Pit's performance would have been a tad bit disappointing from your perspective. But, whilst a lack of interaction with the audience posed a minor let-down (the set instead sounding as if played directly from their album), and my ribs had been left a little bruised from holding my front row spot, I had a near-perfect night.



### 18 MONTHS CALVIN HARRIS COLUMBIA RECORDS Chris Morris

Since the explosion of the digital age, the 'album' concept has never quite been the same; singles, nowadays, are the bread and butter of an average Top 40 artist. Adam Richard Wiles - 'Calvin Harris' to you and I - brings this notion to a brand new level, as six previous singles from the past 18 months make it into this not-so-wittily-named record.

Harris' understanding of chronology notwithstanding, the fact that a host of chart-topping personalities feature constantly throughout solidifies the fact that, although known to dabble in vocals from time to time, he has no intention of easing-up on the torrent of club-cum-radio hits he's known for.

After a short intro, the record begins where it's almost obliged to, with 'Bounce': staple of last year's Club 18-30 summer, impos-

sible not to whistle along to. Jolly good. Continuing on the course of Harris' 'Big Singles 2k11' list, we meander through 'Feel So Close' before arriving at 'We Found Love'.

'Mansion' forms a two minute buffer before the unknown, namely 'Iron' - a dubbed-up, high-tempo piece similar to David Guetta's recent offerings. Through a generic Ellie Goulding collaboration, we arrive at 'Drinking From the Bottle', the generic Tinie Tempah collaboration. Expect this to be Kuda's next Calvin banger.

But beyond 'Sweet Nothing' lies a more experimental side to Harris, within which an odd, jazz-inspired 'buffer' leads into the only variant from an uncompromising formula, featuring Dizzee Rascal. It's grime-house revolving, almost exclusively, around vocalist and not producer.

Normality, regrettably, is resumed as 'Let's Go', 'Awooga' and 'Thinking About You' round off in a format to which we've become accustomed, and it dawns on me that, considering only half of the tracks proper are fresh contributions, the concept of an 'album'—a collection of new material with one lead-single—is unfashionable in a digital world.

In true Greatest Hits fashion, Harris brings a bucket of once-adored songs, yet only a handful of the tentative ones albums are synonymous with; the ones that will not and should not make it to radio. After predictable collaborations and a lack of experimental deviation, *18 Months* forces reflection over optimism.

FILM.

## 2012: A Year in Film

From stunning comebacks to disappointing follow ups, James Tyas and Steven Roberts take a look back on a year in film

### The Comeback: *Skyfall*

Bond number twenty-three resurrects a national treasure, deftly balancing the combat and cool-tempered dialogue we seek from the 007 franchise. Daniel Craig convincingly lays claim to the Bond role and the tasteful locales, with the film exhibiting some of 2012's most resourceful cinematic action. Javier Bardem's sinister turn as Raoul Silva the villain ensures much of the warfare remains psychological. Having new faces take the old parts of Q, M and Money Penny is in keeping with a progressive celebration of the series' fiftieth anniversary, but *Skyfall* respects the Bond films of bygone years: there are still gorgeous women and an Aston Martin. Welcome back.



### The Indie Charmer: *Moonrise Kingdom*

A memorable romantic comedy. The two young runaways and search party of naturally flawed adults are brought to life by a glowing ensemble. Its treatment of pre-teen exploration is commendable, it doesn't patronise and is steeped in a peculiar kind of 1960's childhood imagination involving fantasy literature, vinyl records, and comic-strip fistfights. Wes Anderson's quirky brand is found in crisp rectilinear shots and curt punch-lines, while Benjamin Britten's music makes the images mesmerising. *Moonrise Kingdom* is an island story - New Penzance is enclosed by a dreamlike atmosphere - but the nostalgic multitudes could relate to it, and perhaps like no other film this year.



### The Art House Masterpiece: *Holy Motors*

Following 'Monsieur Oscar' (Denis Lavant) on his surreal journey through the streets of Paris in a stretch limousine, *Holy Motors* is a film like no other. Whilst visually referencing everything from Pixar's *Cars* to *Eyes Without a Face*, the film is one moment tender, and farcical the next, never allowing the audience even a second to settle. Marking Leos Carax's return to film making following a 13-year absence, and highlighting just how sorely he's been missed, *Holy Motors* defies any sort of genre classification and is one of 2012's most exhilarating cinematic experiences.



### The Big Disappointment: *Prometheus*

The joke that circulated Twitter when it was announced that the DVD release of *Prometheus* would include an alternative beginning and ending was that if they had an alternative middle, they would really have something. Marketed as a semi-prequel to Ridley Scott's cherished Alien films, *Prometheus* entered cinemas on an overwhelming wave of hype and expectation that some argued could never possibly be met. In hindsight, the convoluted, directionless plot that isn't half as clever as it thinks it is and the paper-thin characterisation meant that *Prometheus* would be a substandard by anyone's standards. Not even Fassbender could save it.



Walter Salles' adaption of Kerouac's 'unfilmable' novel, *On The Road*, is far better than it has any right to be.

2012 proved to be something of a mixed bag for cinema: after a bumper year for British film in 2011 with the release of *Kill List*, *Submarine*, *Attack The Block* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, 2012 has been a fallow year with attention turning back across the pond. Unlike 2011, outside of the multiplex, there have been no films that have united audience in reverie such as *Senna*, *The Artist* or *Drive*, but honourable mentions go to: *Shame*, *Argo*, *Rust and Bone*, *Lawless* and *Young Adult*.

### Literary Adaption: *On The Road*

Adapting a much-loved novel for the screen is never an easy task: just ask Joe Wright, whose adaption of Anna Karenina left audiences cold this summer. Few novels have as devoted a fan base as Jack Kerouac's beat generation masterpiece *On The Road*. In view of this, Brazilian director Walter Salles' adaption of Kerouac's 'unfilmable' novel is far better than it has any right to be. The beautifully realised, rich period detail and uniformly excellent performances from Kristen Stewart, Sam Riley and especially Garrett Hedlund as charismatic anti-hero Dean Moriarty, made *On The Road* the most satisfying literary adaptations of 2012.

### Seminal Performance: *The Master*

*The Master*, Paul Thomas Anderson's magnum opus has proved to be one of 2012's most divisive films; even those claiming to have liked it were unable to give any entirely convincing reasons as to why. In spite of the split in opinion about the film, there was one thing that was universally agreed upon: the majesty of Joaquin Phoenix's portrayal of de-mobbed naval officer Freddie Quell. Imbuing Quell with a ferocious intensity whilst remaining completely believable, even while simulating sex on a sand-sculpted effigy of a woman, Phoenix's performance is worthy of being ranked alongside De Niro and Pacino in their pomp.

### The Unexpected Triumph: *21 Jump Street*

As Hollywood reboots go, *21 Jump Street* wasn't one of the most promising: based on the late-1980's cop drama of the same name about a group of cops going undercover in a high school. Furthermore, news that it would be starring Channing Tatum, previously known for his roles in the saccharine romcom *Dear John* and identikit sports drama *Fighting* alongside Jonah Hill, didn't augur well. In reality, *21 Jump Street* was one of the sharpest comedies of the year, with Tatum earning his comedic stripes, making up half of the best on-screen odd couples of recent times.

### The Final Chapter: *The Dark Knight Rises*

This finale needed to be an epic. Nolan himself feared facing the gravitas that Bale's Batman had built on his return to the drawing board. The result was something that escapes the confines of the superhero genre in bold terms. The bloody plot is meandering and intelligent - provoking at least one critical parallel with *The Godfather* - before a slick funnelling down to a bomb timer. Bane is viscerally delivered, following Ledger's lead in proving that his individuality should be as big as Batman's, challenging the hero's presence. Sentimentality remains for the second instalment, but the series wasn't tied together until The Dark Knight rose.

## The Star Wars saga: Do we need three more episodes?

**Bilal Mazhar and Peter Smith** debate whether it gives fans a new hope or should be left in a galaxy far, far away

Upon the surprise announcement last month, that Disney had purchased Lucasfilm, makers of *Star Wars*, for an estimated \$4.05bn in order to produce a new series of films, speculation was rife as to who would write and direct the forthcoming films. Currently, we know that Michael Arndt, writer of *Toy Story 3* and *Little Miss Sunshine*, will be writing the third trilogy and the role of Director has been whittled down to two potential suitors. Not everyone has been so positive: There is a split within the core fan-base as to what the impact of the seventh film will be on the prestige already associated with the film.

**Bilal Mazhar:** Damon Lindelof, the co-creator of *Lost* recently said that the new *Star Wars* would be the biggest movie ever. There can be no doubt that *Star Wars episode VII*, which was announced following the acquisition of Lucasfilm by the Walt Disney company, will be a huge success at the box office. However, it must be questioned whether such a film is a necessary add-on to the already legendary franchise? Was *The Return of the Jedi* not a sufficient ending? Balance had been restored to the force. Are we telling viewers that the last six episodes of strife was simply to allow for little more than a temporary suspension in force imbalance? One may argue that the films could be perpetuated by following a path regarding the lives of the main characters involved since the death of Darth Vader. However, it is difficult to inspire the same level of enthusiasm that originated from the two previous trilogies without an overarching demonic styled character who threatens the balance of the universe. *Star Wars* is not *Star Wars* without this fundamental feature.

Lucas was himself opposed to the pro-



Have the likes of Chewbacca and Han Solo had their day?

duction of a seventh, despite the genuine interest and money that would amount from such a venture. He said that 'the story requires Anakin and Luke Skywalker, and when Luke saves the galaxy and redeems his father, that is where the story ends'. Now if we subscribe to Lucas' view, remember this is the man who founded the whole franchise, then doesn't the concept of a seventh installment of *Star Wars* seem entirely redundant?

**Peter Smith:** Has Lucas betrayed his loyal fans by selling his brainchild to Disney? As he sits on the \$4.5 billion fortune he received from the sale of Lucasfilm, some of his fans will see a sell-out of the *Star Wars* concept, arguing that it has now become devoid of its integrity, with the new developments targeting major profit for Disney (which failed dismally with John Carter) rather than producing a film with

the same high regard as the previous *Star Wars* installments.

But hold on a moment here, potentially we are looking at this far too seriously. The vast majority of *Star Wars* viewers are young children, families, and people who, like ourselves, don't take the brand any more seriously than Macaulay Culkin.

*Star Wars* is, in general, a form of escapism which takes us away from the harsh realities of the world, and gives us a three hour whirlwind of experience in the depth of space. As a student, I don't believe that I would have taken great issue with the concept of a new *Star Wars*. Indeed my father and I, used to speculate over this very concept during our numerous cross-country long drives. The narrative could take several lines, it could explore the relationship of Leia and Han Solo, and follow their children's development. Furthermore, it could

look at Luke Skywalker in his new Yoda-esque role. Maybe it would be better if *Star Wars* grounded itself, rather than have a storyline revolving around the movers and shakers of the Jedi world. Perhaps it is time that *Star Wars* shifted to the ordinary Jedi on the street, and we gain an increased perception of the hegemony for which Skywalker now commands (something we perhaps take for granted in previous films in regards to the likes of Yoda).

The film could take endless routes, but what is sure is that most people I know will want to see it. Sure, there may be a few of your comic book convention types that may take issue with the films' perpetuation, but the general public, and certainly Disney's accountants, will not. Even Lucas, who will be involved in the new films, in the role of creative consultant, has said he 'can see both sides of it'. **M**

## Great Expectations

Director: Mike Newell  
Review: Heather Stewart



The household name of Dickens holds a warm place in the hearts of our country. The festive period seems to bring a renewal of these sentiments and we experience a seemingly an endless influx of Dickensian adaptations. So do we really need another version?

Well no, Newell does nothing groundbreaking in adding to the plethora of adaptations, but it is more than enjoyable nonetheless. This version updates and modernises the 1946 black and white film, but fails to shape its own identity.

Unfortunately, as is often the case with profoundly rich novels, the ending was rushed. The film felt truncated; particularly in Lady Havisham's fleeting death, although we are honoured with some unprecedented gore in exchange for the screen time. Characters are omitted, Pip's generosity towards Herbert Pocket largely unexplored, equally his selfishness and ignorance towards Joe – a heart breaking emotional aspect- is underdeveloped.

The film just wasn't emotional or affecting enough. Joe and Pip's relationship was initially too deliberately emphasised, only to



be unforgivingly compromised in the apologetic cowering away from what should be a morally questioning passage.

Bonham Carter offered an assertive, and believable performance in conveying a character whose obsession with revenge breaks the hearts of our protagonists. However, she doesn't instill the fear that Gillian Anderson's harrowing depiction did- and that such a disturbing character ought. Despite this, all of the acting was as good as we might expect from the experienced cast. Even Pip and Estella's love story felt convincing and impelling.

In honesty, if this had been more adventurous it would have been condemned as butchering a literary classic. So if you're in want of a Dickensian fix, an enjoyable plot, and consistently impressive acting, you can happily pass your time viewing this latest adaptation.

## Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Director: Bill Condon  
Review: Hannah Tahry



The last instalment of the *Twilight* franchise is upon us, after a long and anticipated wait by die-hard fans of the previous instalment. I should firstly point out, that although I hold no silly grudge against the *Twilight* series, I'm not its greatest fan. Initially I was sceptical, expecting to watch another hour and a half of Jacob stripping, and Edward assuring Bella for the billionth time that he loves her. Don't get me wrong, these aspects of the franchise are still present, but Bill Condon, the Director has imbued *Breaking Dawn Part 2* with a new finesse, as opposed to the earthy and grungy feel of the previous instalments.

In Part Two, the Cullens, alongside Jacob and a team of new vampires, set out on protecting Renesmee, the newlyweds' daughter against the Volturi, who have mistaken her for a devilish "immortal child." The suspense of the film derives from the question of will they or won't they have to fight? The new characters definitely jazz up the ensemble cast: the most eagerly anticipated new cast-member is Renesmee, well-acted by Mackenzie Foy, though the scenes between her and Jacob were some-



what cringeworthy. The relationship looked nothing if not creepy. The film's greatest asset was the climatic battle sequence, with an awesome twist. These scenes are made incredibly intense, as we fear for our favourite characters' lives, to the extent that my friends and I couldn't help but shout out to the characters on screen (embarrassing, but true).

*Breaking Dawn Part 2* achieves what it sets out to do, bringing a more human and intimate side to the saga. The close-up shots give the film an aesthetic beauty, but also make the love scenes between Bella and Edward more poetic without the cheesiness of previous instalments. Ultimately, the point is to bid farewell and the film achieves this charmingly in the touching final scene. Basically, I lapped it up, leaving with a warm fuzzy feeling, with a touch of melancholic nostalgia for one of the last links to adoles-

FOOD AND  
DRINK.

# Come Dine with York

Five students. One winner. Lucie Parker tells us what they brought to the table.

Our festive themed *Come Dine With Me* proved to be a scrumptious success. Candles and the aroma of mulled wine provided a cosy atmosphere as the guests arrived with their ingredients in hope of achieving culinary victory. Frantically sharing the kitchen, the competitors carefully prepared their meals, chopping and slicing whilst being interrogated on their dishes. With modest replies yet competitive undertones, the air was pregnant with expectation for the evening ahead.

On waiting for Andy Adenmosun to choose suitable attire for the evening, the other four guests started the meal with a beautifully presented bowl of parsnip and hazelnut soup, courtesy of Magnus Malvany. It received contentious reviews, including a quip from Jonjo Lowe for being 'more of a spread than a soup', to which Magnus dryly retorted that he 'was aiming for a porridge-like texture'.

As the wine flowed, it was underdog Amy Goodfellow's chance to showcase her culinary skills. To the surprise of the other guests, she presented delicate brie and cranberry parcels which rested on a rocket and pomegranate salad. Alice Shaw-Ingham said, on arriving wearing a 'santa bikini' over the top of her clothes in true Christmas style, 'I really wasn't expecting Amy's parcels to be edible at all, but they were delicious!'

Jonjo certainly impressed the guests with his chicken and plum sauce served with egg-fried rice. Despite the lack of festivity, this exquisite dish heightened the standards of the competition, with everyone in agreement that 'it was better than a Chinese take-away'. Well you would hope so...

The third main served was Andy's fantastic effort: a shoulder of lamb with mint, rosemary and orange-zest. No doubt the most extravagant dish of the evening, positive comments about the complexity of the flavours and richness of the sauce flooded the table. After another bottle of red wine,



the contenders awaited everybody's favourite course, the dessert.

Alice's 'cookie, coffee and cream delight' inspired friendly laughter throughout the room as she unveiled her interestingly shaped white cake. However, after just one mouthful all the guests agreed that one should never 'judge a book by its cover' due to her pudding

Flavoursome, complicated, and meticulous. **What are your top 3 ingredients to cook with?**

If I said garlic my mum would be upset, she hates it. I always use herbes de Provence with everything, chillies are a great way of adding flavour, and lamb is my favourite meat because it's so tender and rich.

Definitely Beef Wellington, you have to get the beef right without being able to check it.

**To set up the perfect kitchen environment before cooking, what would you wear and what music would you have playing?**

I'd get pretty hot if I cooked in my favourite robe, so I'll go for my long silk gown whilst listening to deep house.

**If you had to cook a nice meal in 30 minutes, what would you cook?**

I'd go for my king prawn stir fry dish - it only takes 15.

**What's the most outrageous animal you've eaten?**

Probably a cow foot, or goat. Both equally disgusting.

**Name your biggest cooking disaster.**

I once cooked an inedible Thai curry which was unbelievably spicy. Noses were dripping, eyes were running, everybody had to give up eating it in the end!

**And finally, any improvements you'd make to your cooking in the future?**

I think simplicity is the sign of a good cook.

*Think you've got what it takes? Email [muse@nouse.co.uk](mailto:muse@nouse.co.uk) to take part in the Nouse Come Dine with Me.*

"This is more of a spread than a soup."  
"Erm, yes. I was aiming for porridge-like texture..."

being 'very, very yummy.'

With stomachs being fit to burst, each of the guests was asked to privately score their opponents out of ten, taking into consideration presentation, creativity and taste. With an outstanding thirty-two out of forty, Andy Adenmosun became the first winner of the *Nouse's Come Dine With Me*. Runner-up was Jonjo Lowe trailing behind by just one point with a score of thirty-one.

**So Andy, having taken Barbican Road by storm with your winning lamb dish, can you sum up your victorious cooking style in 3 words?**

**What are the inspirations behind your cooking?**

I first started experimenting in the kitchen when I was around 12. I loved the fact I was venturing into this unknown world, and testing out combinations of flavours was sparked by this curiosity.

**Your best culinary masterpiece?**

I'd have to say my BBQ's. I do them during the winter as well. There's nothing better than a hot sausage on a cold night!

**What's the hardest dish you've cooked?**

## The Recipe: Andy's Roast lamb

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C for 15 mins. Place the lamb on a flat surface, and pierce it several times on both sides to allow the flavours to penetrate into the meat.

Vigorously rub the lamb in olive oil, sprinkle the black pepper over it then rub the chopped garlic cloves all over the meat and into the insertions.

Pour the lamb stock on the meat and leave it to sit for 5 minutes in order to allow the meat to soak up the stock and infuse the aroma.

Mix the chopped rosemary, dried mint and herbes de provence in a bowl then robustly rub the mixture onto the lamb. Add the zest of half an orange and the juice of a whole

2kg shoulder of lamb  
300ml lamb stock  
Mint, rosemary, herbes de Provence  
Zest & juice 1 orange  
500ml red wine  
2 onions, chopped  
2kg King Edward potatoes  
200g Goose fat  
1 tsp Dried mint

orange to the lamb then generously pour the red wine over the meat. Lastly, cover the lamb in the chopped onions, place foil over it then leave to cook for two and half hours (drain out the juices from the lamb every 45 mins and use as a gravy).

For best results use a roasting dish and place in the middle of the oven.

Peel and chop the potatoes into halves, once done place them into a pot and then add the goose fat, chopped garlic & dried mint. Let the potatoes cook in the goose fat, without adding any water (180°C) for 15 minutes. Once the potatoes reach a fluffy texture place them into a baking tray and let them roast for 1 hour. Place two sprigs of rosemary over the potatoes before roasting for added flavour.

# Singapore: A Republic of Eaters



One of many iconic Singaporean hawker centre, called Lau Pa Sat

Singapore is often labelled a food haven, with good reason. This little red dot is the region's most ethnically diverse country and the food culture is reflective of the eclectic blend of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian population.

Unlike the rest of Southeast Asia, one will be hard-pressed to find street food in Singapore as a health initiative in the mid-80s led the Government to herd street hawkers into clean, well-organised hawker centres. Hawker centres are scattered around the island, within public housing districts where over 85% of the population lives, offering a wide array of no-frills, affordable foods that are often packed with as much satisfaction as dining at a high-end restaurant.

A trip to Singapore is not complete without a trip to the hawker centre, "the hot, humid and frenetic lifeblood of Singapore food culture" according to Max Falkowitz, *seats.com* editor. Hawker centres offer a peek into uniquely Singaporean culture, as tables are 'chopped' - vernacular for reserved - by tissue packs, people decide what to eat based on how long queues are at individual stores and where a meal can be composed of Chinese, Malay, Indian and even French cuisine (with a Singaporean twist).

One of the things I look forward to the most when I'm back home in Singapore are late-night suppers. They could be as simple as a bowl of *tauhuway* (soy beancurd) to a dim-sum feast, a greasy Indian prata and curry to a simple bowl of minced meat noodles - perfect for satisfying that post-clubbing craving. Singapore is a city that never sleeps, and you will always be able to find something to fill yourself up whenever, wherever.

There is nothing like a bowl of freshly made *tauhuway*: layers of slippery custard-jelly soaked in candied syrup. At 50p a bowl, it is my ultimate comfort food, either on its own, topped with sweet dumplings or with eaten fried dough sticks. But its magic doesn't end there, it is one of the few dishes that one is able to get at any time of the day, at the hawker centre for breakfast, the shopping mall as a snack, or at dessert stalls at two in the morning.

As I struggled to come up with a proper description of *tauhuway*, I turned to twitter for help and here are a few of my favourites:

"@jundaloop its deliciousness cannot be described in 140 characters. That is all."

"@josmurftay smooth like Michael Jackson's criminal."

"@yourxlover sweetened soy beancurd des-

sert, SMOOTH AS SILK CAN BE SLURPED."

Moving to the UK has forced me to recreate my favourite dishes within the constraints of my under-equipped student kitchen, and without my grandma. With the help of my internet and after several failed attempts, I am proud to say that I have finally mastered the art of the tauhuway. *Amadea Ng*

### Recipe for Soy beancurd pudding recipe

500ml Vitasoy soymilk

2 Teaspoons of Gelatine/Instant Jelly Powder

15g Coffee-mate creamer

Simmer the soymilk and creamer in a saucepan till its warm and turn the heat off before it starts to boil. Gently stir in the gelatine till it is fully dissolved. Cool the mixture before sieving it till no sediments are left. Pour into prepared containers and let the mixture cool completely. Chill mixture for 4 hours before serving.

Vegan option: use jelly powder instead and omit the creamer. For a super silky-smooth effect, sieve the mixture continually. All ingredients can be found at Chi Yip Supermarket on George Hudson Street.

## Mocking the Cocktail

Bronwyn O'Neill



You'd think that any self-respecting university gentleman with under-developed maturity would leap at the opportunity to quaff drinks whose namesake is inexplicably linked to the male anatomy. But the simple logic of this assumption has failed to take into account an unspeakable force - anti-cocktail peer pressure.

Men in *Evil Eye* unsuccessfully attempt to thwart their salivation over the nostalgically sweet aroma of strawberry and silky decadence of *crème de cacao*. They repress the pitiful pleas of their neglected taste buds in order to appease that unworthy master, barley, that has a tenacious chokehold on these poor students' evening of liquid refreshment.

Why not take up pitchforks in rebellion against this tyrant? Because each citizen is scared that their flatmate is truly loyal to Barley's regime, and will report their illegal conduct to the brotherhood. The price of treachery against the principles of light brown monotony is public ridicule. The crowds hurl tomatoes, lock you in the stocks, evict you from their tenancy, all for a mere cup of that ambrosial nectar - the Pina Colada!

This is obviously a slight exaggeration. But the sad truth remains that a lot of guys are missing out on the joys of cocktails because of the tragic pressure to conform to the masculinity of beer, clinging to its sole charms of affordability and availability in handy six-packs. But realistically, in comparison to a Daiquiri it tastes like urine and contains a laughable alcohol percentage.

So tell me, who's the enduring cinematic epitome of sophistication, bar brawls and sex appeal? James Bond - a respected ambassador for his gender. Hey, what's his favourite drink? Of course that trademark cocktail - shaken not stirred. Does he glance around furtively before ordering his Martini? Does he compromise on flavour? No. Bond's been around, knows what's good, and gets exactly what he wants.

So, next time you're out with the lads, break free from your dull restraints, reinvent the contemporary university male's social conventions! Channel the refinement of Don Draper using the rugged strength of gin, vermouth and whisky. I'm not forcing anyone to embrace the (delightful) triviality of sparklers and pink umbrellas - I'm merely pleading that you expand your horizons to embrace the sultry, and assuredly androgynous, art form.

## The Naked Baker: Pumpkin Pie

Felicia Morizet

Pumpkin pie is the sweet treat of American Thanksgiving, something that us Brits have never really got.

The idea of having something so vegetal for pudding freaks us Brits out slightly, as anyone who's ever baked a courgette cake would attest to. Pumpkin pie may be deep orange, but it's a sweetly spiced, truly scrumptious dessert.

This pie was made as a part of the celebratory autumnal feast, which occurred after the Northeastern Native American tribes helped the Plymouth colonists to survive their first harsh winter in America. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day to be held each November, as a national holiday. For more than two centuries now it has been a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal and to give thanks for what they have. Today, the meal consists of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, pumpkin pie, and vegetables.

This is why with a little love and attention, this old American dish could be a new British favourite. This Thanksgiving classic could be a genuine seasonal hit: autumnal, colourful, and packed with the sweet spices long beloved of British cooks, it's really nothing to be scared of.



### The Recipe

Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl and add the cubes of butter. Rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Slowly stir in just enough of the cold water to bind the dough together.

Wrap the dough in cling film and chill for 10-15 minutes before using. Alternatively buy some premade dough for approximately £3 in any supermarket.

In a large bowl, lightly whisk the eggs and add the remaining ingredients. Pour the mixture into the prepared pie shell. Bake the pie for about 45-55 minutes at 180C or until the filling is set and the crust has browned (the center will still look wet). Place the baked pie on a wire rack to cool.

#### Base:

125g/4oz plain flour  
55g/2oz butter, cubed  
30-45ml/2-3 tbsp cold water

#### Filling:

3 large eggs  
1 - 15 ounce can of pure pumpkin  
10 fl oz/275 ml double cream  
4 oz/110 grams light brown sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger



## Colonial torturers. Student saviours.

York alumnus, ZANU rebel, Torture victim. **Solomon Wekwete** talks to Christina Scott about his extraordinary experiences and how a fellow student and friend delivered him to safety from the hands of his captors.

It's 1961 and Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia, is on the brink of its war for liberation. The country's people are beginning to stand up to the oppression of colonisation. At the forefront of this movement are the Zimbabweans African Nations United (ZANU) and the Zimbabweans African People United (ZAPU) rebels. One such person was Solomon Wekwete, a former University of York student, who was not only imprisoned, but tortured for his involvement with both the ZAPU and ZANU parties. All this was due to Solomon's reluctance to give up the fight to liberate Zimbabwe.

Solomon was born in Rhodesia, in 1934. Growing up under a colonial administration, Solomon was unable to begin his education until the age of 14. This led to him only qualifying as a teacher at the age of 25, a job he kept for 3 years. During the early years of Solomon's life, he experienced the oppression of growing up under a colonial government. He remembers, "The police were marching along the street in front of me and I tried to cross the road between them; I was man-handled. Fortunately there was someone whose child I was teaching, who then pleaded I be released".

It was probably these experiences and the animosity shown towards his peers, which motivated Solomon to enter politics. As he recalls, "the politics started to change and so many people were joining the political parties and, as a young man, I was one of them". During the year Solomon was a member of this group, he attended the weekly Sunday meetings while maintaining his job as a teacher. The party was met with opposition, when, at the height of the party's influence it was banned by the government. But this didn't deter Solomon. A year later he joined another political party where he contin-

ued to be an active member of up until 1960, when the group was forcibly disbanded. Yet again, the government had banned another pro-African political party.

As a result of this activity, Solomon was told by the police he was to be remanded once the school year had come to an end. "I then decided to run away. After finishing the examinations and handing them into the head master, I slipped out of Rhodesia to Zambia." Once in Zambia, Solomon settled into a non-political life working as a salesman for a year, before entering the Republic of the Congo. While in Congo, Solomon received a telegram which would alter the course of his future permanently. "A telegram arrived from home to say my father had died, this was in 1964; I wanted to go home. I tried to get home by going back into Zambia." Upon reaching the border, Solomon met a friend who had become a policeman. He could not encourage Solomon's efforts. "We can allow you back into Rhodesia, but will arrest you once you reach home". At this point in his life, Solomon was becoming accustomed to living a life in which he survived on the borders of government control.

Once again, Solomon was forced to flee Rhodesia, entering Zambia once again. It was upon his second entrance into Zambia that Solomon joined the growing ranks of freedom fighters for Zimbabwe through ZANU. It was at this time that Ian Smith had unilaterally declared independence for Rhodesia, under white minority rule. Once Solomon had established himself within the party, he was able to concentrate on the work he had longed to do in and for Zimbabwe. He looks back on the feelings of liberation and power which came with his enrolment into ZANU. "I was responsible for recruiting people in Zambia, and at one point had recruited 80. I would then

“They would hang me up by my private parts and tie my hands behind my back. They would leave me there.”

get them across the border to Tanzania to our camp Chuniya, where we would provide training.” Solomon continued to take on dangerous roles of responsibility for the sake of his cause. He was also responsible for the distribution of ammunition throughout the ZANU party.

By the year of 1966, the fight for Africa’s independence had become globally recognised. The West was beginning to take notice of the sacrifices people like Solomon were making. He, along with other members of various liberation parties, was offered the opportunity to undertake a one year course at the University of York, involved in training African people for positions in political office. The programme was designed to equip students with skills needed to take over administration, once independence had been gained. During his first stay at York, Solomon was a member of Derwent College. His time at York still brings back fond memories of the course. He explains, “The course covered us to go to Dublin, Scotland, Germany and Belgium.” Once he had completed the programme, unlike other students who chose to stay in the UK, Solomon was told to return home by the leaders of the ZANU party, so that he could continue his work with new recruits.

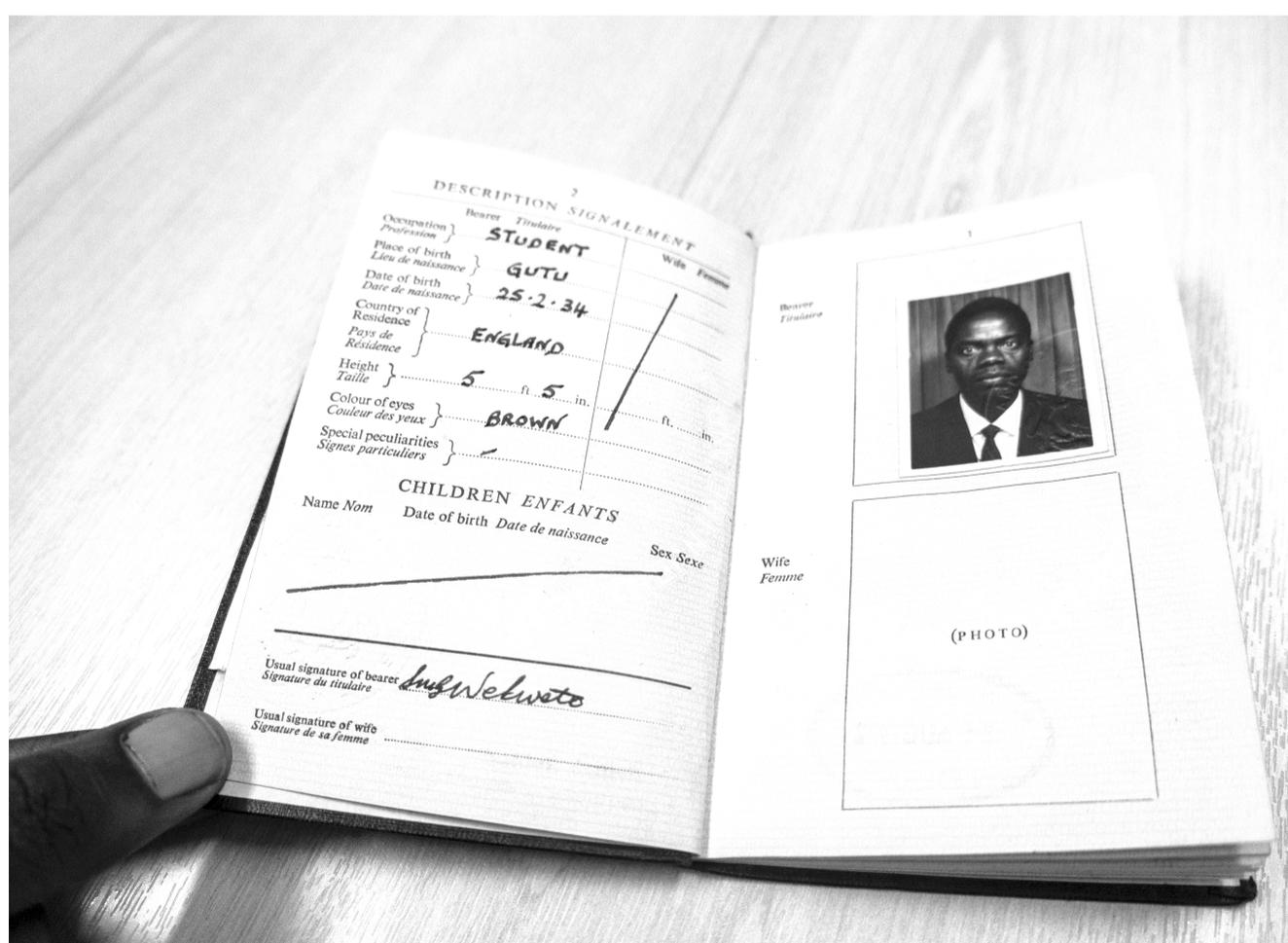
However, upon Solomon’s return, he was to find that the war had intensified, with fighters receiving training in combat from China. It was on one of Solomon’s routine trips, moving people across the borders, that Solomon was stopped and interrogated by two Portuguese men who were working for the colonial government. After an intense interrogation, which lasted three months, Solomon was handed over to the Zimbabwean authorities. Once it was confirmed that Solomon was a ZANU freedom fighter, he was subjected to the same fate as many others who had also been captured: an intense time torture, which was to become a regular occurrence for the next five years of Solomon’s life.

“When I was first captured, I remember spending three days in a dark bathroom with no food or water”. Solomon also recalls the physical pain inflicted upon him. “They would hang me up by my private parts and tie my hands behind my back, they would leave me there...when you fainted, they would pour water on you and try to find out who you were and what you were doing.” It was during these five years that Solomon came across and began some South African Open University (UNISA) courses. Due to his former links in York, he was also able to describe his capture to people abroad. One person in particular was Guy Christiansen, his former associate, who was to become a key lobbyist in getting Solomon released. Guy was able to contact his father-in-law, editor of the British Medical Journal, who went to visit the jail in which Solomon was being held, demanding to see him. During Solomon’s time in jail, talks were occurring between the British and Zimbabwean governments with regards to the proposal of a political reform, which the African leaders opposed. These talks were occurring during the period of Solomon’s imprisonment, when a request was being made for him to be released and permitted to return to York.

This is how he became acquainted with Amanda Sebastian, his lifelong friend and also a former student from the University of York. Through various connections still in place within the alumni circle, Amanda became aware of Solomon’s case, and also became very involved in the lobbying, as well as raising awareness for the release of Solomon. Solomon was only able to gain release due to Amanda funding the scholarship set up by Professor Alan Peacoc.

In 1972, Solomon was released from prison, on the condition that he did not return to the country. Finally, he returned to York. He would remain at the University for 3 years, graduating with a degree in Economics. Once his time in York had come to an end, Solomon moved to London where he met his late wife and lived there until Rhodesia gained its independence in 1980, becoming the Republic of Zimbabwe. Before his return to Zimbabwe, Solomon lived in Mozambique, becoming Chief of Protocol for a party established by exiled leaders and working within the camps. However, Solomon was unable to remain in this position due to his disputes with the ideology imposed upon members by the leaders. “There was a lot of confusion..... things that were happening with ladies and young girls in the camps did not please me”. Upon his return to Zimbabwe, Solomon took up the position of Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, then in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and finally, as Trade Attaché and Representative in Malawi, Tanzania and Mauritius, until 1994, when he retired.

Solomon’s story can easily be compared to that of many other freedom fighters within the era of Africa’s civil wars. However, what distinguishes Solomon is the integrity he still maintains to the true values of the ZANU party. He closes the interview by telling us how he questioned Mugabe. “This may have been a bit out of line, but because of my make up, I did not understand how someone could just get money and rinse it out.....without helping the people”. This leads us to ask an uncomfortable question. What will become of a nation, where the freedom fighters have become the oppressors? **M**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF YORK ALUMNI OFFICE

# CABBIES' CORNER

THIS WEEK, WE ASKED PETER WHETHER HE WAS FEELING ANY CHRISTMAS LOVE FOR YORK STUDENTS. IT APPEARS THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE.



“One student told me that she'd tried to turn on an electric stove with a match. I mean if they're going to be running the country...”

Peter  
Driving cabs for 12 years

## Tea and Troubles.

Dear Sophie,

My name's Harold and I'm a third year. I'm about to start applying for jobs but, before I do, I'm not sure whether to delete my Facebook account or not. It's filled with a lot of vile, slanderous stuff, and it would definitely portray who I really am. Clearly, applying for a job requires me to be someone I'm not - a perfect, employable me. What would you recommend for a professionally ambitious, yet sociable young man?

Dear Harold,

Employers have always been 'interested' in ascertaining via informal means whether someone is appropriate for a job. It's just that the Internet and Facebook mean they can now use social networks that are virtual and thus make it a shed load easier for potential candidates to be vetted.

However, I don't think you should be concerned about making it harder for your employers to vet you via Facebook rather than in an interview, because they will find out what kind of person you are eventually. There is a big difference between showing that you're a normal teenager who likes tequila, and between having a picture of yourself in Nazi fancy dress. If you've got nothing to hide, then you shouldn't be worrying. Although, clearly as you've already mentioned, your profile is far from being as innocent as a Petit Filous advert.

What I would say is that a lot of people are too easily fooled by two things; 1) the amount of control you have over access to the content of your profile, and 2) the fact that once you have signed up to Facebook, complied with their rules of use, and uploaded personal information, there's no going back. What they don't tell you is that nothing is ever deleted from the website, not literally anyway. So information might have disappeared from the face of the website, but there is still a record that the photo existed in the



code of the back of the site, which certain companies can hack into.

And don't think that posting a hefty copyright disclaimer as your status will mitigate you of anyone using your information. Facebook themselves will always be using your information, and keeping a record of exactly what you do because you are one fine specimen of an advertising sample. Unfortunately, you signed away many of your rights when you signed up to Facebook in the first place.

However, that doesn't mean delete it. I would say, Harold, keep it. Prove to your employer exactly what you can do with a healthy working profile, which may be invaluable professionally (depending on what you want to do - I expect Botany is less bothered about networking than journalism, say). Our generation have the power to take control of social networking to let it only do what we need it to.

All my love, Sophie

Need a solution? Send your problems into [muse@nouse.co.uk](mailto:muse@nouse.co.uk)

## THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK

TOM WITHEROW

Do you enjoy being called dude? No, nor me. And yet, the YUSU President feels the need, at every turn, to embrace you with words that perfectly replicate an awkward - you know, the sort that crushes an out-stretched arm, innocently seeking a handshake. But, I don't actually blame Mr Taylor for his undue and utterly excessive over-familiarity because it is rife. Open flickr and it says 'hello' in a different language every time. Open wordpress and it says 'howdy'. 'Howdy'? Who, on this side of Uranus, uses the word 'howdy'? But forget these minor offenders, patient zero of this loathsome virus is Innocent. Quite what made them think that I would want to interact with my smoothie carton, I don't know. Kallum is merely their latest victim. Not so innocent after all...

Doing the rounds of second year house parties, I've noticed something quite remarkable. Gin Is In. Extraordinary. To think the drink more closely associated with local cat women (with lemonade) and tweed-wearing Tory toffs (G&T) is now being taken up by students. Gin now has its own salute (performed by putting your fist to your chin and lifting your elbow towards your unsuspecting target, bellowing 'GIN!'), people seem to know about gin (beyond what faces you at the cigarette counter in Tesco Express), and the Queen drinks gin! (well, according to @Queen\_uk anyway). Who's says Withnail's not relevant any more?

Facebook etiquette really is extraordinary. I had my birthday recently and received the usual bout of posts that accompanies this occasion. Now you would not believe who (...and what - here I refer to 'An Actual Dragon' that sent me a message, I kid you not) crawled out of the woodwork. People who I haven't seen for years, but remain friends with in case of some freak meet-up (perhaps in South-East Mali) were posting a generic 'happy birthday!!!!'. No message, no amusing quip, not even the decency to capitalise what they've written. Would people mind so awfully sending a text, or picking up the phone?

I went to watch Jeremy Paxman speak last week in Physics. I'm not sure what I expected, but I certainly didn't foresee him sitting back in his chair swigging from a glass of wine, politely mocking the poor panelists, who tripped over themselves as often as dear Mr Bump. Let's be honest, he bossed the interview, and he bossed the room. The only opportunity the audience or panel had to take the fight to him ended in a humiliating crawl down from the floor - "I'm sure a lot of people want to speak to you Jeremy", said girl. I don't blame her, I wouldn't take him on.

I get stopped by the police almost every day. And no, I don't look like a drug dealer, nor am I about to complain about Stop-and-Search. I am, in fact, a 'terror of the road' (said officer), an un-exemplary cyclist: I

don't have any lights and don't wear reflective clothing, which, when it gets dark at lunchtime, could be considered inadvisable. I am also down to four gears and half a brake. The police have admittedly been very nice, giving me my 'last' verbal warning each time. Drivers, however, are a different matter. Apparently when you're in a car you can do and say anything you like. I was happily minding my own business on a dark and rainy night (perhaps to the extent that I was completely invisible. I was certainly completely soaked) when a driver came past, wound his window down and shouted "get some f\*\*\*ing lights, you c\*\*t." 'Whoa', I thought, 'what if I was a granny', or 'someone with self-respect'. Somehow, correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think this person would say this if he wasn't bombing past at 40mph... Cyclists of the world unite... You laugh, but Boris ain't doing so badly...

This week a friend of mine, who is in fact a member of York CU, announced her plans to go to Amsterdam. When I went there, I remember being accosted by theatre reps selling tickets to a 'show'. We dutifully paid our money (lest we appear, God forbid, 'gay'), and took a seat about twelve rows back. The MC of this creepy affair (you'd find less leather at a Harley-Davidson convention) came bounding down the aisle seeking volunteers. My friends, grabbed my hand and shoved me in the direction of the predatory lady. By the time the audience had latched onto the fact

that a twelve year-old boy (in their eyes, I was actually 17) was being dragged on stage in front of 200 spectators, it was too late. How the story ends? The experience remains to this day a troubling memory, so I'll just say that it involved a banana, some maracas, and yours truly being placed firmly into the kneeling position. Not ideal.



# Politics



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## Student World

# Johnson expresses concern over student Visa restrictions

BACKBORIS2012

**Ellie Swire**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

BORIS JOHNSON has expressed fresh concern over the negative impact that tighter Visa restrictions could have on the number of foreign students studying in the UK.

Johnson warned that the restrictions could send the “wrong signal” to foreign students and that the UK was at risk of losing students to rival universities in America, Canada and Australia.

Under new legislations, applicants will be required to demonstrate a higher standard of English language before being permitted to study at British colleges and universities. Individuals will also only be allowed to remain in the UK after they graduate on the condition that they hold a skilled job from an accredited employer at graduate-level salary of £20,000 or above.

Johnson, speaking during a six-day visit to India, identified the need to “shift the debate on student visas away from numerical targets and squarely onto policy based on promoting jobs and growth in the UK,” adding that his views were part of a “growing, cross-party consensus on removing students from the Government’s net migration target.”

His comments are in response to the government ruling that foreign students should not be exempt from the overall target to reduce net migration levels.

Speaking on the issue in September, Theresa May, Home Secret-



**Boris Johnson has expressed his desire to ensure that international students are not disadvantaged by rules**

ary, acknowledged that it was important that Britain was still able to attract the “brightest and best” foreign students to its educational institutions, but added that “to say importing more and more immigrants is our best export product is nothing but the counsel of despair.”

Concern regarding the number of foreign students enrolled in

“dubious” courses and remaining in low-paid jobs has fuelled fears that they represent a drain on government resources.

Yet, foreign students are also an important asset to the British economy, contributing close to £2.5bn in fees each year and also when they take up employment.

The most important thing,

Johnson said, was that students were granted academic freedom. “If people are genuine students and genuinely desire to learn and contribute to the economy, there should be a system which allows them to travel from one major centre of learning to another, and that’s what we’re trying to achieve.”

This week, students at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) occupied the main building in support of Gaza. In a press release, ‘SOASOCCUPY’ stated their anger at William Hague’s statement that Hamas were to blame for the escalation of violence seen earlier in November.



POELOO

Kevin Paul, Canadian free education activist, has visited Edinburgh University. He criticised the UK student movement’s ‘sense of defeat’, while encouraging the movement to learn lessons from Quebec’s student protests, where students successfully organised to stop a hike in tuition fees.



SHAKH

The University of Washington has terminated its ties to Adidas, the sports apparel chain, in response to student pressure. Students previously protested and petitioned the university, in response to a \$1.8 million in severance owed to laid off factory workers in Indonesia.



TIM BURGESS

# Violence re-emerging in Congo

**George Wood**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo has, for years, been embroiled in scandals of brutal conflict rooted in genocide, ethnic identity issues and has a history of mass violence.

But the country was yet again on the brink of chaos when rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23), militia group launched a military campaign, capturing Goma, capital of the eastern province of North Kivu. Sultani Makenga, M23 military commander, has since agreed to withdraw troops from Goma and other recently captured towns.

However, whether this promise will be kept remains uncertain, as the M23 fighters continue to hold a firm grip on their positions within the province. Fear remains that DR Congo’s political and ethnic instability, catalysed by the M23, will ignite a regional war.

This instability has ensured persistent conflict since the Second Congo War, which ended in 2003 after 5 years of fighting with a death toll of 5 million. Particularly volatile



UNITED NATIONS PHOTO

**There is a strong possibility of violence emerging once again in Congo**

provinces in DR Congo are North and South Kivu, which border Rwanda and Uganda.

The causes of conflict in DR Congo are complex, dense and ingrained in the historical ethnic hostility between Hutus and Tutsis, a tension that sparked the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Much of the fighting is attributed to sizeable militia groups continuously in combat over control of DR Congo’s rich natural reserves. Operations by both by militia and the National Congolese Army (FARDC) have been criticised by the Human Rights Watch, which involve acts of mass rape, torture, looting, recruit-

ment of child soldiers and arbitrary executions.

The group responsible for the current crisis is M23, a group largely made up of minority Tutsi ethnicity.

The M23 was formed in April out of criticisms towards the Congolese government for not implementing the 23 March 2009 peace deal with the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), another militia group from which many M23 rebels were former members of.

Reasons for rebellion include mistreatment of officers by FARDC, as well as the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda, CNDP general and war criminal. The current intentions of the M23 are unclear, but the major concerns of the M23’s future actions are perhaps aligned with allegations of Rwanda and Uganda supporting the militia group.

While being vehemently denied by both countries and the M23, the possibility of this support could turn the ongoing conflict into a proxy battle for a foothold into DR Congo’s natural resources, once again dragging surrounding countries back into war.

# A Tory-UKIP pact would damage politics

POLITICAL ANALYSIS  
 Rohan Banerjee

If Michael Fabricant wasn't a politician, I think it's safe to say he probably wouldn't be a matchmaker either. Nigel Farage is clearly an Aires and David Cameron is most definitely heterosexual. But that's not the only reason why this pact shouldn't go ahead.

The UK Independence Party (UKIP) grandly announced that it will not even consider such a deal so long as Cameron remains as the Conservative Party leader. Funny as it is that the leader of a party with no MPs is now demanding that the Prime Minister stand aside, Farage has certainly spotted the danger of entering these negotiations.

It is evident that UKIP should not, and cannot be seen to be in cahoots with the Tories. Ahead of the European elections in 2014, UKIP's strategy must be to reach beyond conservatism and appeal to a wider audience – a slice of the Labour vote perhaps or the undecideds who may have concerns about uncapped immigration or the EU.

Remember that foster care couple from Rotherham who were treated so disgracefully and lost their three children simply for being UKIP members? They were actually former Labour supporters.

Any suspicion that the UKIP leader is prepared to sell out for the chance to be Minister for String in a future Conservative government will surely put off a camp Farage can ill afford to alienate.

I don't expect a deal would work well for the Tories either. How would a pact be formulated? Would enough UKIP or Tory members even agree to it? Might there not be a large number of refuseniks who then form dissenting factions on both sides?

To many potential Tory voters, a pact with UKIP would look far from appealing. But not because they harbour any great affection for the EU or anything remotely European. Rather, they may be keen to leave it, they might want someone to renegotiate Britain's terms of membership, or it's possible that they're

“There is a general mood that those in charge have gamed the rules to their own advantage”

just not that interested in Britain's position in the European political sphere. And it's this apathy I'd like to explore.

If there's one thing 2010 taught us, it's that there's been a growing disillusionment with contemporary politics for some time.

Within this, there is a general mood that those in charge have gamed the rules in order to carve up the spoils to their own advantage, and will do so well in advance if they genuinely believe they can get away



The Conservatives must look elsewhere than a pact with UKIP if it wants success at the 2015 general election

with it.

Bereft of an apposite distinction between Britain's major parties, each political compromise is a sign that there isn't really any principality in government any more. In the current political climate, a pre-election deal would do little to dispel any such cynicism. Indeed, it could very well reinforce it to new levels.

Similarly, an electoral truce with the handful of Lib Dems in the government who Cameron might want to save next time round would look just as opportunistic and just as misguided as any arrangement with UKIP.

In my view, instead of preparing pacts for their own convenience, all parties should start with principles and stick to them. Work out

what the country needs, construct an argument and make the case to convince people that you have solid ideals and a sensible plan.

Those in the upper echelons of our main parties have a choice. They can either preserve what has been a long established tradition of British politics, the political party, or risk another diluted, ineffectual and amorphous coalition.

# The Israel-Palestine conflict is changing

Ed Schwitzer  
 POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The latest spate of violence between Israel and Gaza is in many ways just part of the same narrative.

Each side claims it is in the right, and the usual arguments emerge in our media about whether it is right to justify killing civilians as collateral damage, and on the other hand, whether Israel can be expected to negotiate with an internationally acknowledged terrorist organisation which believes in its destruction.

But this time around there are signs of significant changes in the nature of the conflict. On the Israeli side, they have for the first time really been able to test the efficacy of its flagship Iron Dome defence system.

Between this system and the fact that a significant percentage of rockets do not even successfully leave Gaza (let alone hit their targets in Israel), Israeli citizens will hopefully have more of a sense of security. Israel also claims it was able to destroy around 90% of the missiles that Hamas fired into the country.

This is important, the less Israel feels threatened, the more likely it is its population will support conciliatory measures towards Gaza, of which Israel, not to mention the middle east as a whole, is in desper-



After the recent violence, it is has become difficult to predict what will happen, but the nature of it is changing

ate need.

But unfortunately, this is overly optimistic. When the citizens of Gaza look over at their brothers in the West Bank who have renounced violence what do they see? Has Israel gone out of its way to give them concessions? No. The illegal settle-

ments continue to exist and even grow well beyond what the international community would desire. Building has taken place in Arab areas of Jerusalem and the barriers and checkpoints that herd the Palestinian people like animals will not be removed any time soon.

Given this, it is completely understandable why support for Hamas' violent assaults on Israel continues across the world.

It is not clear what Israel believes the Palestinians should do, apart from sit and accept their mistreatment (especially given that

when the Palestinians try to solve the issue diplomatically through the UN, they are faced with a lot of resistance such as US threats to pull its funding from UNESCO).

Hamas has some cause for optimism though. They are increasingly being courted by new and rich sources of support. Much has been made of Egypt's new role in mediating a ceasefire and supporting the interests of the Palestinian people. But less has been aired on the involvement of countries such as Turkey and Qatar (detailed in this week's *Economist*).

With the ongoing crisis in Syria, Iran has been less able to funnel support to Hamas. Furthermore, Hamas has become disillusioned with Iran's support of Assad in Syria, a regime which is oppressing its Sunni population.

As such, Turkey and other Arab nations feel more confident that supporting Hamas no longer strengthens the hand of Iran. At the same time, Hamas are looking for support elsewhere.

This is an important step for Hamas. They will appear more legitimate in the eyes of the international community if they are no longer seen as puppets in Iran's war against the West.

So what now? It's hard to tell, but the rules of the game are certainly changing.

# A Tory-UKIP pact would damage politics

POLITICAL ANALYSIS  
 Rohan Banerjee

If Michael Fabricant wasn't a politician, I think it's safe to say he probably wouldn't be a matchmaker either. Nigel Farage is clearly an Aires and David Cameron is most definitely heterosexual. But that's not the only reason why this pact shouldn't go ahead.

The UK Independence Party (UKIP) grandly announced that it will not even consider such a deal so long as Cameron remains as the Conservative Party leader. Funny as it is that the leader of a party with no MPs is now demanding that the Prime Minister stand aside, Farage has certainly spotted the danger of entering these negotiations.

It is evident that UKIP should not, and cannot be seen to be in cahoots with the Tories. Ahead of the European elections in 2014, UKIP's strategy must be to reach beyond conservatism and appeal to a wider audience – a slice of the Labour vote perhaps or the undecideds who may have concerns about uncapped immigration or the EU.

Remember that foster care couple from Rotherham who were treated so disgracefully and lost their three children simply for being UKIP members? They were actually former Labour supporters.

Any suspicion that the UKIP leader is prepared to sell out for the chance to be Minister for String in a future Conservative government will surely put off a camp Farage can ill afford to alienate.

I don't expect a deal would work well for the Tories either. How would a pact be formulated? Would enough UKIP or Tory members even agree to it? Might there not be a large number of refuseniks who then form dissenting factions on both sides?

To many potential Tory voters, a pact with UKIP would look far from appealing. But not because they harbour any great affection for the EU or anything remotely European. Rather, they may be keen to leave it, they might want someone to renegotiate Britain's terms of membership, or it's possible that they're

“There is a general mood that those in charge have gamed the rules to their own advantage”

just not that interested in Britain's position in the European political sphere. And it's this apathy I'd like to explore.

If there's one thing 2010 taught us, it's that there's been a growing disillusionment with contemporary politics for some time.

Within this, there is a general mood that those in charge have gamed the rules in order to carve up the spoils to their own advantage, and will do so well in advance if they genuinely believe they can get away



The Conservatives must look elsewhere than a pact with UKIP if it wants success at the 2015 general election

with it.

Bereft of an apposite distinction between Britain's major parties, each political compromise is a sign that there isn't really any principality in government any more. In the current political climate, a pre-election deal would do little to dispel any such cynicism. Indeed, it could very well reinforce it to new levels.

Similarly, an electoral truce with the handful of Lib Dems in the government who Cameron might want to save next time round would look just as opportunistic and just as misguided as any arrangement with UKIP.

In my view, instead of preparing pacts for their own convenience, all parties should start with principles and stick to them. Work out

what the country needs, construct an argument and make the case to convince people that you have solid ideals and a sensible plan.

Those in the upper echelons of our main parties have a choice. They can either preserve what has been a long established tradition of British politics, the political party, or risk another diluted, ineffectual and amorphous coalition.

# The Israel-Palestine conflict is changing

Ed Schwitzer  
 POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The latest spate of violence between Israel and Gaza is in many ways just part of the same narrative.

Each side claims it is in the right, and the usual arguments emerge in our media about whether it is right to justify killing civilians as collateral damage, and on the other hand, whether Israel can be expected to negotiate with an internationally acknowledged terrorist organisation which believes in its destruction.

But this time around there are signs of significant changes in the nature of the conflict. On the Israeli side, they have for the first time really been able to test the efficacy of its flagship Iron Dome defence system.

Between this system and the fact that a significant percentage of rockets do not even successfully leave Gaza (let alone hit their targets in Israel), Israeli citizens will hopefully have more of a sense of security. Israel also claims it was able to destroy around 90% of the missiles that Hamas fired into the country.

This is important, the less Israel feels threatened, the more likely it is its population will support conciliatory measures towards Gaza, of which Israel, not to mention the middle east as a whole, is in desper-



After the recent violence, it is has become difficult to predict what will happen, but the nature of it is changing

ate need.

But unfortunately, this is overly optimistic. When the citizens of Gaza look over at their brothers in the West Bank who have renounced violence what do they see? Has Israel gone out of its way to give them concessions? No. The illegal settle-

ments continue to exist and even grow well beyond what the international community would desire. Building has taken place in Arab areas of Jerusalem and the barriers and checkpoints that herd the Palestinian people like animals will not be removed any time soon.

Given this, it is completely understandable why support for Hamas' violent assaults on Israel continues across the world.

It is not clear what Israel believes the Palestinians should do, apart from sit and accept their mistreatment (especially given that

when the Palestinians try to solve the issue diplomatically through the UN, they are faced with a lot of resistance such as US threats to pull its funding from UNESCO).

Hamas has some cause for optimism though. They are increasingly being courted by new and rich sources of support. Much has been made of Egypt's new role in mediating a ceasefire and supporting the interests of the Palestinian people. But less has been aired on the involvement of countries such as Turkey and Qatar (detailed in this week's *Economist*).

With the ongoing crisis in Syria, Iran has been less able to funnel support to Hamas. Furthermore, Hamas has become disillusioned with Iran's support of Assad in Syria, a regime which is oppressing its Sunni population.

As such, Turkey and other Arab nations feel more confident that supporting Hamas no longer strengthens the hand of Iran. At the same time, Hamas are looking for support elsewhere.

This is an important step for Hamas. They will appear more legitimate in the eyes of the international community if they are no longer seen as puppets in Iran's war against the West.

So what now? It's hard to tell, but the rules of the game are certainly changing.

# Eurosceptics winning the battle

Adam Highland  
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The issue of Europe seldom wins elections, but it can lose them. Clashes over the EU tore John Major's Conservatives apart in the 1990s and made the Tories unelectable for a decade. Meanwhile, Labour won three successive elections with a pro-European stance behind which the party united. Now, David Cameron faces the same problem.

Tory backbenchers have already started to kick up a fuss. 81 Tory rebels defied Cameron's wishes last autumn and voted for a referendum on EU membership. Cameron fudged the issue, promising a referendum in the next Parliament, without elaborating on what the considerations would be. This was the only way to placate both wings of the coalition.

Fast-forward a year, and arguments over the EU's next 7 year budget (currently a €120.7bn per year total from all states) have prompted mayhem and politicking. Tory backbenchers unsurprisingly want a cut, in line with austerity measures at home. The Lib Dems and pro-European Tories don't want EU membership to become a big debate, and so are willing to agree to a small increase.

Cameron just wants a solution, but the big surprise was Labour. They also want a cut, which led to the coalition's most significant defeat in the Commons in October, when a nonbinding bill promising a real terms freeze in the EU budget was blocked by Labour and Tory rebels. Talks in Brussels then stalled.

Some believe the EU should be seen as a positive. Certainly, its size gives the UK greater political clout on the world stage. The EU also accounts for roughly half of all UK exports.

However its budget amounts to only 1% of GDP, costing £15 per person. Compared to the 50% of GDP spent on the UK public sector, and the bailouts needed to solve the Eurozone crisis, it's a piffling sum.

Furthermore, European 'tax-payers' get a return. EU cohesion-



Miliband raises Labour's newfound Euroscepticism in an aim to convince voters there will not be an EU exit

fund investments bring greater prosperity to export markets and increase demand for British goods. Non-membership status, similar to that of Switzerland and Norway, would mean the UK still having to adhere to EU standards, without having a say in what these were. Currently, the national veto means it has a big say. It has struck a good balance between freedom and influence.

In light of these advantages, a referendum on membership should not be the vote winner it is turning out to be. It has emerged as a key political battleground, on par with austerity versus stimulus. The largely emotive fight for a freeze has been blown up into an in-out ultimatum.

The parties should be setting out convincing strategies on re-

alistic repatriation of powers and sensible budgetary demands, underpinned by a belief in the EU as a force for good. Instead, in light of recent Labour politicking and Tory in-fighting, voters may be reluctant

“Cameron just wants a solution, but the big surprise was Labour.”

to lend their support to either party lest they accidentally bring about an exit from the EU.

Cameron, taunted by inappropriate World War II rhetoric, such as David Low's 'Very well - alone', has done well to maintain a com-

promising approach. Yet he has not ruled out (or ruled in) a referendum. Perhaps he feels that he can't. Perhaps the real question is whether Miliband will sacrifice further political wins in order to curb Labour's newfound Euroscepticism.

The debate used to be between sceptics (UKIP and the Tory Right) and the status quo (everyone else). Now the split is shifting towards repatriation versus non-membership. Both of these causes jeopardise the UK's relationship with Europe. The 'status quo' voters, for whom Europe is a small consideration, may soon have nowhere to go.

Finally, John Major famously said that it was time for the rebels to put up or shut up. With the lack of political support, the EU may choose to say the same to the UK.



@frasernelson  
Fraser Nelson,  
Editor of the  
Spectator

“Summary of Leveson:  
“Ceci n'est pas une regula-  
tor”. Legislative surrealism.  
#Leveson”

29 Nov



@SophyRidgeSky  
Sophy Ridge,  
Sky News

“Leveson report critical of  
politicians who cosy up to  
media: “they risked becom-  
ing vulnerable to influences”  
#Leveson”

29 Nov



@bbcnickrobinson  
Nick Robinson,  
Politics Editor,  
BBC News

“Press behaviour “outra-  
geous.” Politicians “too close”  
and ignored public concern  
but “no evidence” of Camer-  
on/Murdoch deal. #Leveson”

29 Nov



@suzanne\_moore  
Suzanne Moore,  
Columnist,  
The Guardian

“Brawls breaking out in  
every pub now over Leveson.  
Gangs roaming the street  
asking for beefed up Ofcom.  
Or is this just in N16  
#Leveson”

29 Nov



@BBCNormanS  
Norman Smith,  
BBC News

“Govt sources say if press  
don't come forward with  
plans for regulation “within  
months” - then “the legisla-  
tive stick” is still an option”

29 Nov

Talk and Q & A

**Nouse**  
**Events**

Presents



**George Galloway**

in  
P/X/001

**5pm**  
*Friday 7th December*

# Can the West intervene in Syria?

The West needs to rethink its conceptualisation of interventionism: Hussein Kesvani argues there are other means of effective intervention

These days, the word 'intervention' occupies one of the darkest realms of our consciousness, particularly in relation to the Middle East. Indeed, its tainted legacy, in both Iraq and Afghanistan has reduced intervention to either an action destined to fail, or worse, an ugly form of pseudo-imperialism, designed ultimately to reassert brutal hegemonic structures of power. In our own age, we have also been haunted by a future repetitive of the late 1980s, whereby intervention through the means of directly arming rebel groups, may in turn give rise to hardline, militant Islamists. As we have been warned - by both Arab and Western media outlets, walking down the road of military intervention, in whatever capacity, is too dangerous to bear the risks.

Despite such fears, I feel that the way in which we conceptualise 'intervention' is heavily misconstrued, in such a way that we immediately associate the notion with the darkest parts of recent history.

Yet, on the current stage of international diplomacy, the Western world finds itself in a precarious position, whereby they must reconcile the rights of sovereignty whilst maintaining an ethical foundation built upon principles of human rights and liberties. In the case of Syria, this does not simply relate to the toppling of the Assad regime, or the removal of the ruling family.

Indeed, while the arming of rebels or a direct NATO intervention may be successful in remov-



Doing something different in Syria would prove to the rest of the world that the West is changing its attitude

ing Assad, what will soon be found is that the lack of any coherent oppositional force to allow a transfer of governance will provide the capacity for rampant civil war. And while I certainly agree that direct military intervention, particularly on a ground level, is likely to provide further impetus for perpetuating such tensions, the philosophical basis on which the western world conducts its diplomacy should not be forsaken out of ease or fear.

The West, and in particular the United States, should therefore be

pro-active in forging the conditions to which Syrian society can not only

“The way in which we consider ‘intervention’ is heavily misconstrued”

resolve violence, but also witness the political change so many have

died for.

In this case, the west should be more strategic in its non-military attacks; As Michael Ignatieff wrote in the Financial Times earlier this year, a comprehensive ‘quarantine’ of Syria by the international community would reduce Assad to a perennial outsider on the global stage.

Furthermore, sanctions on commerce that hit the Syrian elite, oddly aloof to the conflict, would also be substantial in weakening the societal foundations Assad depends

on. Finally, however, is that if intervention does take place, it must do so in a way that is removed of political posturing; in this case, the West should not be afraid to work with the Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey as well as the recently established key player, Mr. Mursi of Egypt.

Through a proactive engagement in multilateral diplomacy within the region, the Western world will have the capabilities not only help to remove the neo-imperialist stigma of the past, but they may also find success in moulding a new model of humanitarian intervention removed of romantic politics. To establish an established peace in Syria, our age must fundamentally rethink its conceptualisations of intervention in international affairs.

While maintaining the amiable goals of securing individual rights and security, the west should also consider reconstructing the means to secure these aims through more non-militaristic approaches, through means of targeted sanctions and diplomatic negotiation. Further, they should also be more open to working with key players within the region to ensure that these principles are placed at the forefront of humanitarian ambitions. In this way, ‘intervention’ can therefore be redesigned as a means to assert humanitarian aims reached through diplomatic consensus.

Ultimately, this approach is the most likely to curb a prospective surge in civil violence once Assad’s palace collapses, but it would also do well in repairing relations between the West and the Arab world.

## New Bank of England Governor is a gamble

THE LAST WORD  
Rosie Shields



However this decision to appoint Mark Carney sees the first foreigner to ever lead the bank and with the City having backed the Bank of England’s deputy governor Paul Tucker, Carney may not be the best man for the job. Indeed George

“Only a miracle worker could turn around Britain’s track record”

Osborne has not been known for his brilliant recommendations in the past, with Andy Coulson being one of his less favoured proposals. It also can’t be denied that Carney has a lot of work to do.

The Financial Times spoke earlier in the year of Carney’s like of an ‘open and resilient financial system’ and the need for ‘capitalising on the immense opportunity that emerging market in general and China in particular represent’. This could mean little change for the British economy.

A business-as-usual stance is definitely not what the country

For the past few years the prospects for the economy have been bleak. Yet could this all change with the introduction of Mark Carney as the new Bank of England governor?

Surely it can’t be any worse, right? With what the Guardian are calling ‘years, if not decades, of underachievement’ and ‘a string of catastrophic performances’ for the English economy it seems that Carney can only go up from here.

Of course George Osborne appointed him with good reason. Carney has worked on the Financial Stability Board, been the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada and worked for Goldman Sachs for a grand total of 13 years.

There is no doubt then that he has the experience. In fact many believe that Carney has done wonders for the Canadian economy with inflation below target and a ‘recovery stronger than all bar Germany’, a sharp contrast with the painful recovery of the UK.



Mark Carney has been tasked with bringing the economy out of a trough

needs and with little to promote domestic markets, constrain the city and prevent the next collapse of the financial system the British economy has a real chance of simply stagnating, or even getting worse.

Even The Guardian emphasises that none of Carney’s policies ‘indicate the real economy’. The new brief for this Bank of England governor has undeniably placed emphasis on overseeing the country’s banks and yet this is not seen as one of Mark Carney’s strengths. It has

already been mentioned that he has the experience both in the private and public sector.

Perhaps many experts worry that he simply will not be able to cope with this expanded responsibility. Ann Pettifor, Director of Prime, has been noted as saying that his view that the ‘threats to the economy from the banking system are systemic’ is nothing less than ‘alarming’, a phrase which is certainly not ideal in describing such a key figure in the economy.

Ultimately then should we ourselves be ‘alarmed’ at Osborne’s decision or see it as a welcome change to the running of the country? Perhaps we won’t really know the answer for a few years.

Certainly we at least won’t know until next July when Carney officially takes over the post. Perhaps the real question with the economy is always how much can really be done internally and how much is simple left to external forces. Indeed as a culture perhaps we ask too much of our officials.

Only a miracle worker could turn around Britain’s woeful track record and various deep-rooted problems in a mere five year period, right?

If anyone knows this, Carney does. He speaks of a ‘limit...to what any one individual can do’ and sees England as ‘where the challenge is greatest’, feeling he can only ‘try [his] best’.

Perhaps this is all we can ask for. Yet we can’t help but hope that miracles will happen and really why shouldn’t we? Other countries have managed and with all this experience and key support maybe Carney is just what we need.

# Business



business@nouse.co.uk

## Top Tips for Internships

**Jasbir Norris**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

It's that time of year again when focus on degrees crumble to be replaced by the unavoidable, yet incessant chore of career choices. Be it for insight days, spring weeks, internships or graduate jobs, the dreaded online application form represents a foreboding challenge that mustn't be undertaken lightly. Here are a few tips and hints to help you stay ahead of the competition:

### 1.) Commercial Awareness:

Be it on the initial application form or the pre-interview, you must research your employer, as well as the role you are applying for. Delve further than just the blurb on their Wikipedia page, don't be afraid to include specific details of schemes/programmes that interest you – this will help you stand out from the other applicants.

### 2.) Practise aptitude tests:

This cannot be stressed enough, as most graduate employers use numerical reasoning tests to sift out candidates at an early stage. This tends to be done even before the form is looked at; leaving many candidates frustrated having spent hours providing faultless answers on their applications, only to be unprepared in taking the tests.

### 3.) Apply broadly:

It is unwise to pick and apply to only one company that interests you. The graduate job market is extraordinarily competitive; apply for as many firms in your desired industry as you physically can. Even if you don't get the job/placement at your preferred company, any relevant opportunity will provide you



Taking time out from your degree work to put together a strong application can reap benefits for years to come

with invaluable experience that will increase your employability, and ultimately further your career.

### 4.) Don't lie:

A fundamental distinction exists between stretching the truth and outright lying. Although you may be able to get away with overstating your responsibilities in a part-time job or a role in a committee, there exists a boundary that should not be crossed.

Making up any fact; from GCSE grades to nonexistent work experience, is not advisable. If you are caught (and there's a high chance of it), your application will be rejected instantaneously, no matter what

stage of the process you are in.

### 5.) Start early:

The vast majority of graduate/undergraduate schemes work on a 'first come first serve' basis. Once these companies have filled their quotas you will not be able to apply, even if this falls well within the official deadline. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that you start all applications at the earliest possible opportunity, in order to ensure you have the highest chance of success.

### 6.) Note to freshers:

Try and get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as you can while the workload is easier. You

may not have time in your second/third year, and they provide perfect opportunities to further your employability skills which will prove invaluable on any CV or application form.

### Internships Count:

At the recent Ernst & Young Live event hosted in York, representatives of the firm emphasised that 90% of interns were subsequently offered a graduate job upon completion of their degree. This statistic highlights the crucial importance that employers place on internships and work experience in the current market.

## Can Carney Cope?

**Joshkun Bagdatlioglu**

Following Mark Carney's recent appointment as governor of the Bank of England, optimism is high regarding his future of Britain's economy.

Surprisingly, the labour opposition has not expressed any opposing view to the government's appointment of Carney, suggesting that both parties share a common economic perspective.

This consensus sends a confident message to future investors that Britain will still remain a "safe haven" in years to come.

Politically however, Labour may well end up missing an opportunity. Although Carney is credited with guiding Canada through the financial crisis of 2008 relatively unscathed, it is worth noting the structural distinctions between the British and Canadian economy.

Britain relies far more on the financial services sector, whereas Canada's economy is fuelled by a demand for their natural resources (something Carney can hardly take credit for).

Canada also survived the global crisis due to the existence of stringent financial regulation, brought about by the disastrous financial crisis of the 1990s. It must be noted however, that this action was prompted by the Federal Government, and not Carney.

Some may argue that Carney could end up experiencing a cultural shock when he returns to Britain, given the evolution of the financial industry since he last worked here.

Saying that, Carney has vast experience in dealing with international markets, as seen when he led the G20 Financial Stability Board.

The FSB was able to shock the world into implementing global standards within the financial industry, and the coalition government are confident that he can do the same in transforming the fortunes of Britain's ailing economy.

Let us hope that this uncommon man can shape Britain's financial system into reform, and that his reputation has not merely been built by good fortunes within Canada's economy.

After all he managed to convince the interview panel he can, the first foreigner to attain this role in its 318-year history.

THESEODUKE

## Christmas come early

**Alastair Ellerington**

Last weekend, my flat spent hours in hard work carefully planning, preparing and poring over a tedious project: making our kitchen window look as gaudy, cheesy and utterly sickeningly festive as any good shop window at this time of year.

However, in the true spirit of Christmas, when other flats showed their festive cheer by also putting up decorations, I got competitive and bought tinsel, lights and long-lasting batteries.

Now, aside from questioning my dubious motives and alternative take on 'Christmas spirit', it's probably also worth pointing out to me that it is in fact November, and it was a month away from the day itself when I went shopping for Christmas decorations.

This raises the question, isn't November too early to be thinking about Christmas decorations?

Supermarkets are widely criticised for putting up Christmas stock even before Halloween, and



PAPARUTZI

the unmistakable lack of decorations across the University suggest a common feeling that November and Christmas are incompatible. Advent Calendars start on 1st December, not the penultimate week of November, Christmas scheduling on the telly starts even later on the weekend before, and even then, they'll be up for a few days only - a few mid-December days.

However, there is a reason beyond my sometimes worrying competitive streak that I went Christmas shopping in November.

It is hard to feel 'Christmassy' this far from, well, Christmas, and there's little interest in buying anything Christmas related, including decorations, even when bombarded by early advertising by businesses.

However, as the advent countdown goes on, everyone feels a little bit more like it's Christmas, and so Christmas buying jumps in mid-December.

The Centre for Retail Research reports that sales "jump by an average of 60% to an annual peak in December", and that this year, sales of decorations are expected to rise by 26% to an average of £24.94 per household compared to last year. Think of Oxford Street stampedes, the longer opening hours and the impossibility of shopping on Christmas Eve.

Economists like to say 'choice', and not just because it's a strangely satisfying word to say, but it's useful. Not many feel too thrilled about choosing between Christmas decorations - especially when some re-

mind us of home - but more choice means a greater range of prices.

However, as I write, John Lewis is reporting a record £100m weekly turnover, with sales in the final week in November growing 11pc yearly according to the Telegraph this week. I am aware though that this edition will go to print as

“Isn't November too early to be thinking about Christmas?”

December starts, and if this is too late, I can only offer my apologies and maybe some spare baubles. If it's any consolation though, it is nearer to Christmas, and I'll have been knowing that for all my cheap Christmas lights, the lights of true Christmas are just too far away.

You can bet that I'll still be stockpiling earlier next year though.



# Bison Coffee: David and Goliath

Satnam Shergill  
BUSINESS REPORT-

With the recent rise in the numbers and influence of High Street coffee shops and franchises, smaller independent coffee shops are having to adapt and diversify themselves in order to survive.

Nouse speaks to Bison Coffee, one of York's most well known Independent coffee shops, and finds out how they are dealing with the pressures from the multinational coffee brands and what they intend to do in the future in order to ensure longevity in their business.

Branded coffee shops have increased 7 fold over the past 13 years, showcasing a shift in the consumers' tastes.

Currently, Costa Coffee are the leading brand in the market, with 1,342 stores in the UK and 40.4% of the market share, providing stiff competition to the likes of Bison.

Costa Coffee now has many of its coffee shops built into other stores, pubs and cafes, including University of York's Library Café and The Lounge.

Bison Coffee House, founded by Gavin Burke, lies between the campus and (York city) Town centre on Heslington Road. When asked how Bison differs from big coffee brands, Burke remarks that Bison "provides a service that is standard in any other country", yet is hard to find in the UK.

Bison pride themselves on delivering high quality coffee, vintage goods and furnishings along with holding various events and live music- most recently they hosted an alternative radio show and drafted in a guest chef from a local restaurant to serve brunch.

This is unlike coffee chains, where there is no real feel of community and a culture of coffee, made



Branded coffee shops have increased 7 fold after the past 13 years showcasing a shift in consumers' tastew

fast to take away.

The former Newcastle University student comments that he is able to deal with the pressure from the coffee franchises, "luckily because we have a different feel about the place, you can buy everything, it feels more relaxed."

"I'm more friendly with people, it's a community" Burke also mentions that there is almost a small community spirit amongst the

smaller coffee houses, where they try not to cannibalize each other's trade "because it would be detrimental".

In theory, shops like Bison should struggle to survive among the global companies such as Starbucks, who have billions of dollars of turnover annually, have large departments for each section of their business and benefit from large economies of scale.

Despite all this and the poor economy, Bison have continued to be successful and show no sign of slowing down.

Along with this, Gavin has mentioned his desire to diversify by creating a late night coffee shop, an evening venue and possible opening a hostel.

All of this can only help Bison and other coffee shops successfully compete against the large chains.

## High proof pricing

Itai M P Choto  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

Alcohol has been a well-loved but problematic part of British life for centuries.

In the Government's latest efforts to tackle England's long-standing and complex relationship with booze, Ministers have unveiled plans for minimum alcohol prices in England and Wales, which could spell the end for cheap high-strength alcohol as well as a ban on multi-buy offers in supermarkets and off-licences.

Ministers believe the proposed 45p minimum price for a unit of alcohol will reduce total consumption by 3.3% and cut the number

“Disentangling and distinguishing the relationship between alcohol advertising is difficult”

of crimes by 5,000 and hospital admissions by 24,000 each year, with 700 fewer alcohol-linked deaths annually.

Marketing ploys are rarely used in isolation, but as part of an integrated mix, which includes conventional advertising and is carefully designed to meet the needs of particular consumer groups.

Alcohol marketing in recent years has greatly increased in complexity and innovation. Marketing in conventional media remains significant with increasing expenditure on alcohol advertising. Disentangling and distinguishing the relationship between alcohol advertising and consumption is difficult. Complex and powerful dynamics exist and vested interests cloud the debate.

There might not be evidence that it actually works by any strong form of persuasion or manipulation. This view is subject to immense debate, if it were true; why is it the big supermarkets and most organisations invest heavily in advertising campaigns?

More accurate findings could only be obtained if the industry released comprehensive data on their advertising and promotional activities. Savings on health could be worth over £400 million annually and the reduction in crime saving nearly £13 million. Supermarkets selling cut-price alcohol are set to drive other retailers such as community pubs out of business.

Ed Miliband, Labour leader, voiced his support for community pubs. He said we must be dismayed by the undermining of the smaller businesses with cut price alcohol from supermarkets.

It can be argued that competition is good for the consumer, as it drives down prices and allows for more choice, but should this be at the expense of another sector of the industry?

## Apple: The Road Ahead

Stefan See

The ferocious money-wheel that Apple possesses refuses to stop, though perhaps some oiling is in order.

Having just posted yearly profits of \$41.7bn, it would be easy for Tim Cook, the Apple CEO to rest on his laurels. To give some perspective of just how large that figure is, if you were to combine the profits of Microsoft, Google and Facebook together, you would still fall considerably short.

Currently, Apple continues to dominate in nearly every product category it has entered, and there appears to be no emergence of a serious industry rival. It may be surprising for some to hear then, that Apple is shuffling a little uncomfortably on its (sleek, aluminum-backed) throne.

In October, Apple gave the boot to Scott Forstall, their senior VP of iOS, Apple's mobile operating system.

It is widely accepted within the technology industry that the core reason behind this was his figure-head role in the failure that is Apple Maps, which was touted as one of



the primary selling features of their flagship iPhone 5.

Look back another year, and Siri stands out for the wrong reasons. After all, having to put on an American accent whilst talking to your phone loses its novelty for

those blessed with the gift of anything else to do.

On the face of things, it may seem like Apple has run out of ideas. This is not strictly true, and I should point out that most of those who I know that possess Apple products

continue to be infatuated (even myself, sometimes). What is true, however, is that Apple is becoming stale. A typical monopolist, not wanting to meddle too much with the formula which stuffed their wallets to begin with.

Cook has found himself leading the world's most valuable company at a precarious junction, and it is his job now to put Apple onto the path towards greater success.

So, what does the future hold? Rumours are that Apple will enter the home television industry in the not too-distant future, and this is exactly what needs to happen.

Apple needs to continue to reinvent industries like they have done in the bygone era (yes, tablet computers really did exist before the iPad) through combining phenomenal design with intuitive software.

That is the Apple that people want, and not the tiresome industry Goliath which releases out mildly refreshed products on a regular basis.

For those that don't agree, well, enjoy your 'magical' iPhone 5S next year.

TIZIANO CAVIGLIA

## Business

# ‘Entrepreneurs create jobs’

Founder of the York Entrepreneur Society George Hudson speaks to Tom Williams about a road less taken

Many students in their final year will be anxious for their future, for some the combination of a strong degree mark and host of extra curricular activities will be enough to secure successful employment, others will take the route of future education. George Hudson describes the trials of a third option, starting your own business.

Hudson, a former music student from Vanbrugh, found a passion for entrepreneurship early on and set up the York Entrepreneur Society after realising that other students were also ‘interested in starting up their own businesses’.

His first business venture, The York Proms, was an ambitious plan to put on a ‘popular live music event with 3 stages, over 400 musicians to an audience of 2500’. Hudson remarked that in planning for the concert he got very used to the answer ‘No, It’s too over the top’, but by the week of the event 100 volunteers were signed up, and had completed a successful dress rehearsal the night before.

“You can basically create your dream”

However, despite overcoming problems in preparation for the event, an unpredictable turn of the weather turned potential profit into disaster. ‘Unfortunately weather was not on our side and a spell of Yorkshire flooding cancelled the event two hours before the gates were due to open’.

The flood caught the organisers off guard, who had not taken insurance out on an unexpected mid



summer flood. Hudson described the venture as an ‘expensive ordeal’ though assured that it was an ‘incredible learning experience, trying to put on a concert of that scale.’

Putting bad experiences behind him he was quick to join the 3.3% of self-employed graduates with a new venture. GHspace is a “commercial property for creative and new-media companies”. He created the space as a venue, which would ‘run events’ and conduct ‘entrepreneurial experiments and connect lots of successful entrepreneurs’.

While many students find comfort in steady working hours and the security of a wage, he notes that he started the business because he would make a ‘terrible employee’ as he likes ‘sporadically working some nights all the way through and some days not starting till lunch time’.

On reflection Hudson highlights the harder parts of being self-employed saying ‘you cannot take a day off ever. It’s very hard to switch off because you are ultimately responsible for your customers experience and your employees pay check’, though in his eyes these are necessary burdens and he maintains that ‘you can basically create your dream job.’

His advice for future graduates of York comes from his own mentor US economist, Carl Schramm, who told him that “Entrepreneurs create jobs”. He points out that ‘Running your own business is not for everyone because it really is full-time, but if it’s something you want to do then do it, because ultimately it’s entrepreneurs that create all jobs.’

He says that decisions he regretted in the past often led him to a

‘different path that in the end is actually a lot better than the one you have planned.’

At a time when job prospects are bleaker than they have been previously, Hudson has paved the way for a different approach to a career.

Hudson emphasises the importance of having a mentor, saying he was fortunate enough ‘to have a mentor at School, at Uni and in my post uni teaching positions’, which continue to be his ‘support network’. He credits the careers department for exposing him to the many non academic opportunities at York that allowed him to meet like minded people and fuelled his ambition for entrepreneurship.

It’s Hudsons blend of strong ambition, clear vision and ability to learn from past mistakes that students at York can learn from.

## Made in Mexico



Satnam Shergill

Mexico’s economic woes seem to be behind them with the recent figures being released showing that the Mexican economy is one of the fastest growing in the world.

In 2008, shortly after the financial crisis, the American news source, FORBES forecasted a “Mexican Meltdown”, they, along with other doubters, are seemingly being proved wrong.

Although Mexico was hit hard by the financial crisis, their revival and subsequent drive forward made them stronger than ever as they posted consecutive growth in GDP for the past two years, 3.9% and 5.5% respectively.

Mexico, the third largest country in Latin America, currently accounts for 12.3% of the US’s imports and is predicted to overtake China in 2018 as they benefit from China’s rising wages. Chinas work force have been demanding a slice of the countries wealth, as a result of this companies like FoxConn, who assemble Apple iPads in China, announced a 16%-25% rise in wages in March this year.

This is a visible display of the consistent pressures for wage hikes in China. This places pressure upon other Asian economies such as Thailand and Malaysia who have both recently implemented minimum wage structures.

Oil prices increasing four fold in the past decade has encouraged economies to collaborate with markets closer to their borders/waters; in this sense Mexico has benefitted the most as it borders with largest economy in the world. Imports from China sometimes take up to 3 months grouped with high transportation costs; Mexico on the other hand can transport goods within a matter of days with lower transportation costs.

Net migrations between the two countries is zero, suggesting that Mexicans no longer feel the need to pour into the US as the tide is changing in Mexico as there are more job opportunities with firms like VW and Wal-Mart, better health services with the improved “Universal Health Care” and a falling crime in some places.

Mexico is also dealing well with the competition from its closest competitor in Latin America, Brazil. According to the Economist, Mexico grew faster than Brazil. Other impressive figures coming out of Mexico are that it is the worlds 4th largest manufacturer of cars, behind manufacturing heavyweights Germany, Japan and South Korea (who it is forecasted to overtake).

Despite this it still has serious social issues including its drug cartels war on the government, which has claimed hundreds of lives, being home to murder capital of the world (Ciudad Juarez) and the ever present poverty. The governments stance and future action regarding its countries violence and drugs could prove to be crucial in Mexico’s quest to become one of the worlds leading economies.

## A Catalyst to Success

Slavomir Nedelchev

Apple, Microsoft, Facebook are names that have become an inseparable part of today’s life. Success is one key word that associates all these companies. “What is success, and how is it measured?” is a question we hear way too often. Therefore, this article would take a slightly different approach, focusing on another word that has become immensely popular – entrepreneurship.

Indeed, everyone in the business world hears this word at least a dozen times daily. When the name Steve Jobs is mentioned, people immediately think of it as a great example for the word entrepreneur.

The definitions of the word could vary, however the essence is one and the same – a person who takes risk in the hope of making profit. The stories of people such as Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg inspire a lot of young minds to take the leap of faith and start their own business.

Moreover, the acceptance of



failure, something less talked about in Europe has become synonymous with success in Silicon Valley firms. With the message being, ‘don’t let the fear of failing stop you, but think carefully before investing a lot of resources.’

Having a brilliant idea about something absolutely new is not always mandatory. People shouldn’t be discouraged to look forward into

starting their own business if they don’t have a particular innovative design in mind.

Although having an idea is great, sometimes one has to spend time working in a particular business environment, just selling services which are by no way new, in order to find what people actually demand and would buy. Not having even the slightest notion of what

you would like to do should not put you off of following into the steps of entrepreneurship.

Having customers who would actually buy your product is just as important as having an idea. Even if you come up with the most groundbreaking (in your own mind) product, your business might fail due to little or no demand for the said product.

People often neglect the fact that the University of York has its very own entrepreneurs, some of which have become incredibly successful. The university has tried to promote entrepreneurship by allocating work spaces in the Catalyst and the Ron Cook Hub on Heslington East.

It also offers multiple sources of funding through the careers department to kickstart a venture.

It’s rare approach to supporting entrepreneurship has created a more competent business culture. With these in place, the next Zuckerberg may well come from York.

**Business**

# Businesses of the Future

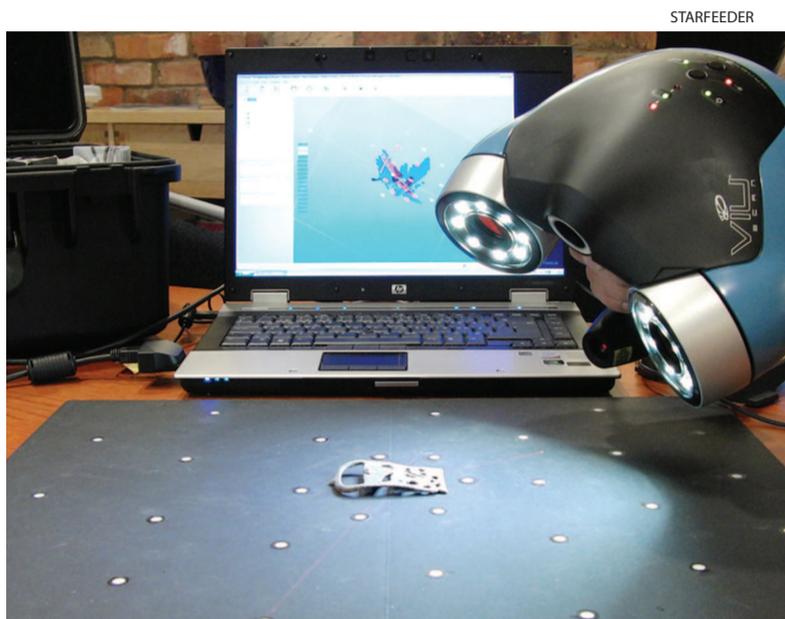
**Tom Williams**  
BUSINESS EDITOR

## 3D Printing Shop

**The Concept:** Creating items in low-cost printers

**Progress:** The science is there but 3D printers are still extremely expensive.

Need a new bike lock? Print it up. That's the reality of the future. Instead of fabricating in a factory and shipping the item wherever it's needed, 3D printers are expected to produce everything from architectural models to mugs to phone chargers. "It hasn't happened at a physical shop" said Jackie Fenn, an analyst at Gartner, but "It's already happening at service bureaus".



## Body Part Maker

**The Concept:** Use degrading polymers and stem cells to create tissue

**Progress:** Testing Viability, awaiting clinical trials from market

In the near future growing skin or tendon or muscles will be profitable business, the possibilities are staggering. For instance, American company Soft Tissue Regeneration is working to heal tears without taking tendons from other parts of the body to surgically repair it.

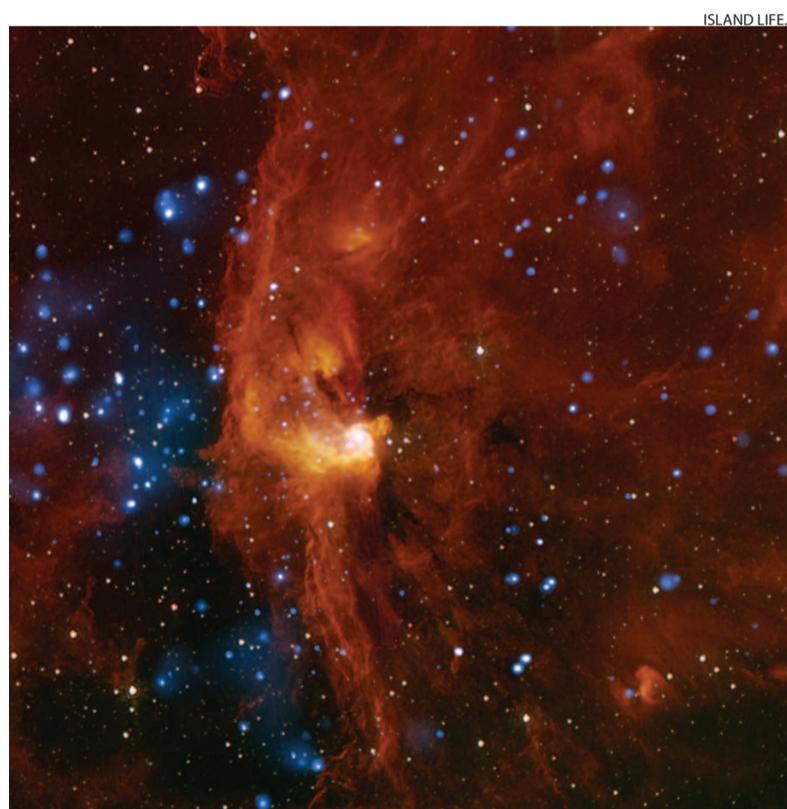
The company uses a degrading polymer placed where a tear occurred and lets stem cells in the blood do the healing. "We use a device that looks like a high-tech shoelace," says

Joseph Reilly, president and chief executive of Soft Tissue Regeneration. "It's braided."

It looks like about a 5-inch shoelace from your sneaker made from very small fibers, like smaller than a human hair. After about 12 months it absorbs into the body."

Though years from market the exciting prospect is being tested by numerous companies and could one day rival drug and insurance companies that currently dominate the health market.

The potential for such a company presents substantial hope for people that have serious injury and has the possibility of eliminating some birth defects that exist today.



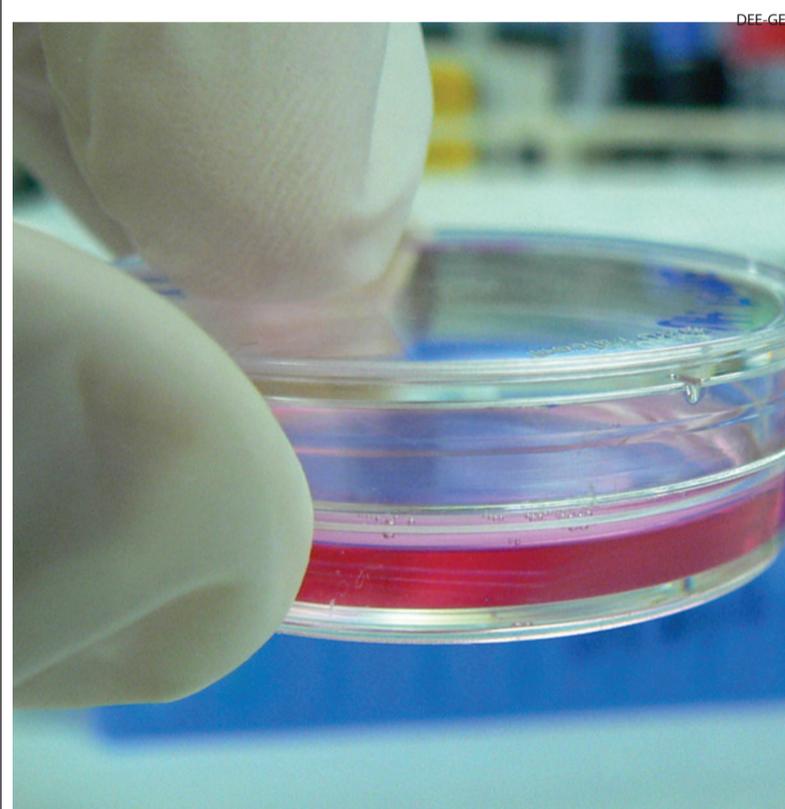
## Asteroid Mining

**The Concept:** Sourcing Resources from Space

**Progress:** The technology is there, the funds is waiting.

Resources on Earth are becoming more as scarce, the value of rare metals and minerals may someday legitimise asteroid mining, especially when you consider that deep sea drilling requires investments of billions of dollars. "It's an area of personal passion," says Peter Diamandis, commercial space pioneer and founder of the X PRIZE Foundation.

"If you realize that everything we hold of value on earth is in near-infinite quantities in space, you realize there will be vast wealth created on the space frontier." resources." Debate has started as to who owns these resources, with some pioneering the idea that they should belong to those first on the scene- much like it is here on Earth.



# Drones: A controversial growth market

**Matthew Wells**

There is much controversy surrounding the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Their presence however is becoming increasingly eminent in modern society.

A recent report published by the UK's Aerospace, Aviation and Defence Knowledge Transfer Network (AAD KTN) suggests that UAV applications could be worth in the region of £260bn.

Needless to say, the government is looking to capitalise on this potential, and so the UK's policy on UAVs is to come under review.

Generally speaking, when people think of UAVs, their first thought tends to be of military use; this of course is what leads to much of the controversy surrounding UAVs. Nevertheless, their use as a military tool is indisputable; back in June, Abu Yahya al-Libi, described as al-Qaeda's number two, was killed by a U.S. UAV strike.

The ethics involved with unmanned drones in warfare have long been debated, though James Arbuthnot, the Conservative chairman of the Defence Select Committee, argues that "an unmanned aerial vehicle is the same as any other platform that fires weapons," saying "the issues that are concerning people are the distance between the person who is controlling the platform and the death that results from it."

Unmanned drones do, however, have many uses outside of the military, as they may be used for search and rescue operations, wildlife monitoring and fire fighting, amongst a host of other possibilities.

In applications such as these, the advantages of UAVs are clear to see; pilots in search and rescue operations are often required to fly into potentially hazardous situations, endangering the lives of both pilot and crew. The introduction of UAVs could eliminate this danger.

One common argument against

the use of drones for such purposes, is the loss of jobs. This however, is not necessarily a valid argument, as pilots would still be required to manually control the aircraft from the ground, in addition, their wide-

spread introduction into civilian applications would undoubtedly create new jobs for data analysts as well as those in the manufacturing and software development industries.

Indeed, each will be loaded

with a combination of Hellfire missiles and laser guided bombs. Obviously, weaponry of this power must be used as accurately as possible; to facilitate this, each drone is also fitted with: radar, infra-red imaging, targeting lasers and TV cameras.

Drones designed for uses outside the military, such a scientific research, may instead be fitted with biological and chemical sensors. This enables the chemical analysis of the air, as well as the detection of airborne micro-organisms, such as viruses.

The UK government may have some difficult decisions to make, at present the UK has 335 UAVs in active service. While drones represent a very effective weapon, public opinion still seems to be against their widespread use.

Their advantages outside of the military, however, are hard to ignore. Controversial though they may be, UAVs look set to become an increasingly common sight in our day to day lives.



# Science



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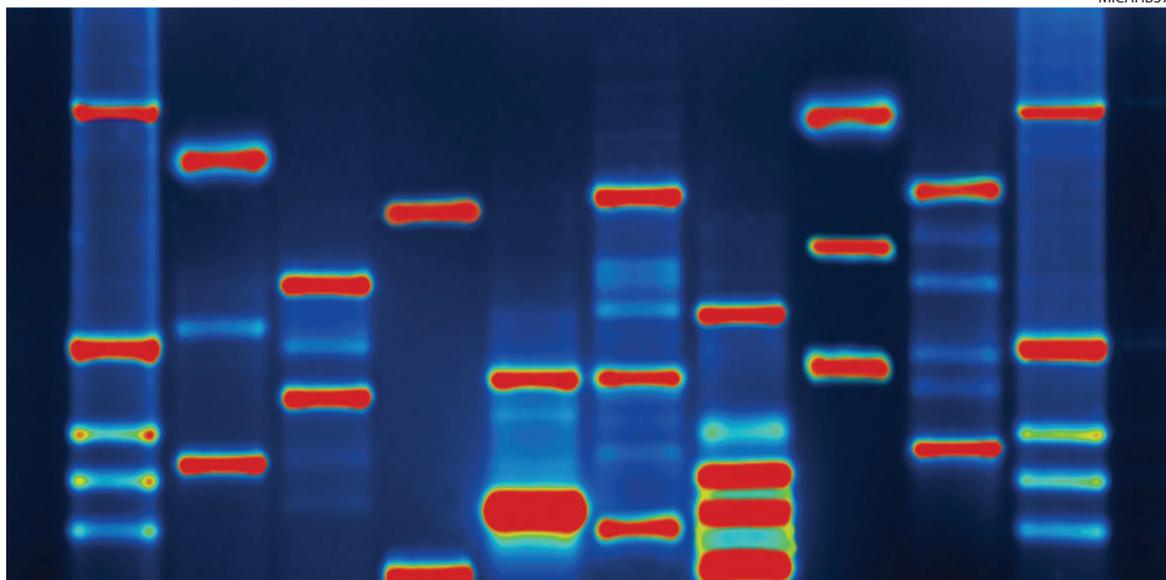
## York CNAP in joint global DNA study

**Matt Ravenhall**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

**I**N AN ever more unpredictable world, the need for a reliable source of food is a problem faced by millions. India, a country where rice is the staple food for more than a billion people, is a striking example of a nation under threat. Research, in part carried out by a team at the Centre of Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP) and York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) is seeking to combat this.

When imagining the typical Indian diet, it is unusual for rice not to enter the picture. The cereal is as ubiquitous as wheat is in the UK. Yet with 45 per cent of Indian rice being dependent on rainfall alone, the impact of a changing environment is an overwhelming one. This is especially true for the millions surviving on subsistence farming, where a flood or drought may mean the loss of a considerable amount of food.

It is this problem which the four year project aims to tackle. By



MICAHB37

**Ancient strains of rice have their DNA sequenced and studied in order to discover useful attributes**

combining the efforts of researchers across the globe, it is hoped that a strain of rice which can produce consistent yields in an inconsistent world can be created.

The work has three main components.

Firstly, in the labs, research-

ers from the University of York and Cornell University in the USA will be determining the genetic and molecular underpinnings of stable crop yield in ancient strains of rice.

It is believed that a full understanding of this will be vital to breeding the best variants possible,

with this information being relayed to researchers in India.

Secondly in India, researchers from the Central Rice Research Institute will be working in the fields to conduct trials with a number of commercial varieties of rice. Each of these varieties carries different

segments of DNA which potentially impact drought resistance.

The data acquired will then be sent to the York and Cornell teams to produce a full understanding of the best variants to breed together.

Finally in York, the team will also be considering the social and economic factors which may prevent the widespread use of any new variants, whilst modelling the impacts that the new varieties will have in light of climate change. Professor Ian Graham, Director of CNAP, notes: "It's important for us to get those varieties out to poorer subsistence farmers. My vision is that we are not just doing work that will feed people but work that will also make them better off and lift them out of poverty."

But it is far too easy to focus only on the end results of this project; what is also being demonstrated is the teamwork necessary for tackling global issues. As Professor Sue Hartley, Director of YESI, states: "This sort of collaborative inter-disciplinary approach is what we need to address key challenges".

## Are humans evolving to be less intelligent?

**Sarah Pryor**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

**A**re humans evolving to be less intelligent? If an Ancient Greek were to appear among us, he would be one of the brightest and sharpest people in the room. This is what a controversial new study in the last few weeks is claiming; that humans are evolving to become less intelligent.

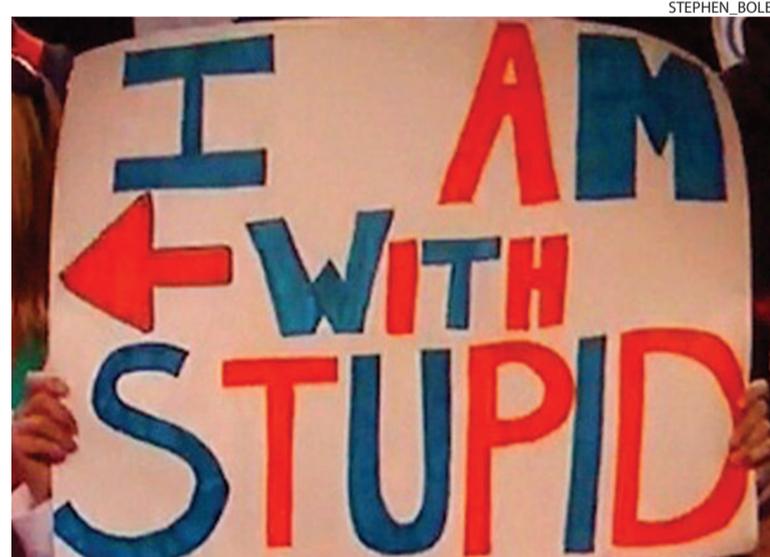
The findings even go so far as to claim that we reached our intellectual peak as long ago as 2000BC. How is this possible you might ask? Shouldn't evolution be causing us to improve as a species?

The answer that Gerald Crabtree, a Developmental Biologist at Stanford University proposes, is that in today's society the selection pressures are far less severe. Thousands of years ago, if man was unable to provide for himself, build shelter, or divine the solution

to a problem, he would die. Today, with the birth of agriculture, cities and modern civilisation, mistakes can be compensated for. This means that the mutations in our DNA which Crabtree claims could be hampering our intelligence, are not being weeded out. Humans no longer need to take on the role of the hunter-gatherer.

Conversely, there are recent publications, such as *Are We Getting Smarter?* by James R. Flynn, which have other ideas. Flynn claims to be able to prove humans have been increasing in intelligence during recent generations using the IQ test as a tool. Scores continue to rise as time passes, however reasons for this could include better access to education and nourishment that our ancestors didn't have.

Furthermore, the different challenges and complexities of the modern world could be argued to better prepare our brains for this



STEPHEN BOLEN

particular type of test.

Obviously, there are reasons other than survival that evolution may have caused intelligence to increase. Intellect can be a prefer-

able characteristic when it comes to mating and in benefiting and belonging to a group.

It must be observed however, that in today's society, intellect is no

longer necessarily the main criteria for a human to be ahead in either of these scenarios. When it comes to sexual selection for example, physical attractiveness or wealth can often, be a more desirable characteristic in a potential mate.

In all of this, it cannot be ignored that society, and the technology we use today is enormously more complex than what our ancestors had to face. The world is constantly advancing, and dealing with this is a problem that brains nowadays must deal with. It could be hard to believe anyone would think our minds had become lazy when one considers what an immensely complicated age we now live in.

So are humans becoming more or less intelligent? With all of these theories flying around, we don't seem to know the answer to that question. Perhaps if the Ancient Greeks were here, they would have cracked it.

### Top Five: Unfortunate Science

**Sara Farish** has a look at some of the less fortunate consequences of scientific discoveries.

### CFCs

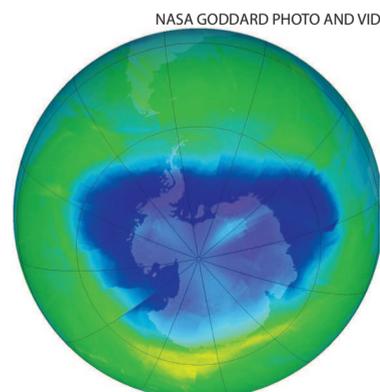
Early refrigerators used to run on chemicals such as ammonia, propane and sulphur dioxide, which are flammable and toxic if leaked. Thus, Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were developed as a safe alternative.

Thomas Midgley first produced the compound whilst working for General Motors where he also developed lead fuel additives. Midgley was awarded several accolades for his work before his untimely death

in 1944.

Midgley died decades before it became known that his second great discovery was breaking down in the upper atmosphere leading to the depletion of the ozone layer around the planet.

The ozone layer absorbs Ultra-Violet B rays and with the ozone hole over Antarctica, there is worry over an increase in skin cancer victims and damage to bottom-of-the-food-chain organisms.



NASA GODDARD PHOTO AND VIDEO

In the 1950s, thalidomide, the drug was developed as a sleeping pill and sedative, but was also found to reduce morning sickness in pregnant women.

It was taken by thousands during the 50s and 60s until it was discovered as the cause of birth defects in over 10,000 babies. It was withdrawn from the market quickly after and has resulted in the pharmaceutical industry having to put their therapies through rigorous testing before they marketing them.

### Thalidomide

# Osborne gets behind science

Eleanor Walton reports on the Chancellor's recent speech at The Royal Society, expressing his support for strong areas of UK's science industry



FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

George Osborne gave a well received speech at The Royal Society in which he supported UK science, in eight particular areas of research focus

Science is moving ever closer to being at the heart of plans for the British economy, if George Osborne's first speech about the field is anything to go by.

Speaking at The Royal Society on Friday the 9th of November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has challenged the scientific community to make Britain a world leader in eight areas of scientific research. He pledged the government's backing to achieve this, but it remains unclear how much of this support will be financial.

His speech was peppered with many examples of British scientific endeavours from these eight focus areas. An example was taken from a Bristol lab where a self-sustaining robot that converts the biomatter of dead flies to electricity to power itself, is currently being created.

He pointed out the positive government initiatives for science. Yet, the only new announcement in the speech was the government's commitment of an average of £240 million annually for the next 5 years to the European space agency for scientific and industrial programmes. Other government incentives he mentioned included the ring-fenced cash budget of £4.6 billion for science and tax cuts and credits for business that conduct research and development. They are also introducing a tax discount for patents. He was careful to high-

light the spending of the research councils throughout, without going into details.

However, this speech seems to be but a sticking plaster over previous criticisms that the funding for science pledged by the coalition is far lower than that seen in coun-

## The Eight Focus Areas:

1. Synthetic biology: harnessing the \$100 billion economy
2. Data revolution and energy efficient computing
3. Regenerative medicine
4. Agricultural science
5. Energy storage and stockpiling of electricity
6. Advanced materials and nano-technology
7. Robotics and autonomous systems
8. To be the global leader in satellites and commercial space applications of space technology.

tries we compete with for scientific business such as Germany, Sweden and South Korea. Many worry that we will not be able to advance sufficiently to be a world leader when so many countries have much better science budgets, facilities and Government support.

Furthermore, the much celebrated ring-fenced budget does not account for inflation. According

to BBC news, Imran Khan, the director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CASE), has highlighted that the ring fence budget neglects the 41% cut to capital expenditure made in the previous year. Capital expenditure accounts for money needed to maintain labs

and facilities, not the day to day running costs. 41% equates to a cut of around £1.7bn. Mr. Osborne has also been accused of picking winners by selecting only eight areas. Some worry that by only championing selected fields, the pool of general science and knowledge will be greatly reduced. If this reduction was significant, it could endanger the

generation of new technologies and advances not yet even dreamed of. However, the areas he highlighted are broad enough that it is unlikely scientific inquiry will be stifled drastically.

Crucially, throughout his speech, the Chancellor came across as well-informed and appreciative of the importance of science and its role in society. The scientific community should find great comfort in this.

We have a Chancellor who seems to understand and respect the scientific community and who has clearly listened to the research councils. The phrase "intellectual inquiry is worthwhile in itself" even passes his lips during his lecture, which will be music to the ears of many science enthusiasts across the country.

Words indicating understanding are all well and good, but without the money to back science in Britain we will fall behind. This must not be allowed to happen. Paul Nurse, president of The Royal Society and host of the speech, jokingly reminded the Chancellor not to "forget to put your money where your mouth is". We must not let George Osborne forget this.

The autumn statement will be very telling as to whether he is able to back us as much as claims he would like too.

## Steam produced using nano-particles

Nikky Farthing  
SCIENCE DEPUTY-EDITOR

Naomi Halas, Professor of Chemistry at Rice University, Texas, and her team recently spent three days in Seattle demonstrating their exciting new research.

"Luckily," she said, "it was sunny." The sun's appearance was extremely welcome since Halas' revolutionary research involves using nanoparticles and sunlight to create steam without reaching the normal boiling temperature of 100°C.

This "solar steam" process is so effective that it can even produce steam from icy cold water. It has an overall energy efficiency of about 24 per cent, but Halas hopes this can be increased when the process is further refined. This is compared to the 15 percent efficiency of photovoltaic cells which, until now, were the most common way of converting sunlight directly into electricity.

Obviously, this process has huge potential for electricity generation, but the Rice team think the first uses will be for sanitation and water generation in developing countries.

Nanoparticles are comparatively cheap to make and, because they essentially act as catalysts, they aren't used up in the process, allowing them to be reused. And, as we saw in the 18th century, if you can commercially generate steam, you can cause an industrial revolution. Halas' project has been funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates foundation in the hope that this is the case.

The process uses nanoparticle beads that are approximately one tenth of the diameter of a human hair. Since they have a diameter which is shorter than the wavelength of visible light, they absorb the light's energy rather than scattering it as larger particles would.

In Halas' new apparatus, steam forms in a vessel of water long before the water becomes warm to the touch. This is achieved because the nanoparticle heats up incredibly quickly and transfers that heat to the thin surface of water surrounding it. This water turns into steam, creating an insulating barrier around the nanoparticle so it is unable to heat any more water. The bubble then rises to the surface and the steam is released enabling the nanoparticle to sink again, repeating the process.

The way in which this process allows the energy to be concentrated on small amounts of water rather than heating the whole volume equally is what makes it so revolutionary.

The process will also allow the more complete distillation of solutions: 99 per cent alcohol solutions can now be collected compared to the previous maximum of 95 per cent.

The research was only released last week and, is a while off being commercially viable. So maybe it isn't time to throw out your kettle just yet, but Halas' apparatus could cause a revolution in the way steam is produced. "We're not changing any of the laws of thermodynamics," Halas said. "We're just boiling water in a radically different way."

## E = mc<sup>2</sup>

Einstein's most famous formula states that; energy equals mass times the speed of light squared – leading to a lot of energy in a very small amount of mass.



NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

This equation helps us understand the source of energy in nuclear reactions.

In the 1940s, money and research were poured into the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs. Though research is now going into using nuclear fusion power as a clean source of energy (York's own physics department is involved with this research), nuclear weapons remain the most devastating weapons ever produced.

## Cane Toad

Sugar crops are a major source of income to Australia, but until the 1935, were almost completely at the mercy of the Cane beetle- a blight to sugar crops. The Cane Toad was introduced from Hawaii as a predator for the beetle. Unfortunately, with no natural predators, the population of cane toads exploded and now numbers 200 million.

The toads are toxic, making them almost impossible for potential predators to eat, and spread

disease known to affect biodiversity. Furthermore, the toads have also failed at killing the beetles they were originally introduced to predate.

FIRELY FOREST.NET



## Sport

## PARK LIFE

Beth Jakubowski  
SPORTS EDITOR

It's 2012, just to inform a few of you who may not have gathered this.

I am of the understanding that the majority of the sporting world has noted this down as well. Apart from perhaps David Campese, who is one of Australian rugby's finest fullbacks, and who made a spectacularly ill-judged tweet last week attacking female rugby reporters.

It stems from the Sydney Morning Herald's appointment of a female journalist as the chief rugby correspondent. The tweet, which was of course hurriedly taken down, read "Why does the smh get a girl to write about rugby. Growden who was a great jornio and now we have someone who has no idea about the game!" Sexism, thy name is David Campese!

“There are still people out there who believe that women do not belong in the world of sports journalism”

In 2012, how can we still have sexism in sports journalism when it is widely recognized that the likes of Gabby Logan and Clare Balding are two of the best sports presenters around, regardless of their gender? Campese made a swift, groveling apology, but as a female sports journalist, I can firmly say that it makes little difference.

The apology does not change the statement. I cannot say whether or not Campese genuinely believes that female journalists as a whole are completely ignorant towards their chosen career, but he has said enough to throw open the doors to the old sexism debate.

I report on rugby every single week, I consider myself well versed in the sport and have never faced any barriers in furthering my journalism career. Of course, being a female sports journalist can feel a little lonely at times. We are few and far between, but I like to think that in this day and age, if I choose this as my career that I will not be hampered in doing so. But what Campese has shown is that there are still people out there who believe that women do not belong in the world of sports journalism.

The coverage of women's sport is clearly still not on par with the men's. However, there are leaps and bounds being made for equality. Women's sport on campus at York University is enormously popular and ever growing.

I would never go as far as say that it is a widely held view, and the reaction to Campese's tweet makes that clear. But with those attitudes still around, it suggests that maybe we still have a long way to go. It also suggests that maybe they will never go away; even in 2012 there are still people who believe men are always superior in the sporting world.

I just have a sneaking suspicion that the likes of Jess Ennis and Ellie Simmonds are going to disagree.

## College sport to build on rowing success

Dan Holland  
SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER THE success of last weekend's college rowing tournament, York Sport are looking at creating similar one-day tournaments next term in place of some of those currently scheduled.

The main plan at present is to introduce an indoor cycling competition that would work in a similar way to the rowing tournament, rather than holding a less popular event such as cross country.

The hope is that these events would be able to replicate the intense atmosphere experienced in the Roger Kirk Centre for the rowing tournament.

Amy Ballard, College Sport Officer, told *Nouse*, "The college one day rowing tournament was great success. We had four rowing machines daisy chained up to a computer with some racing technology on it, so that the rowing machines could be projected onto a screen.

"This enhanced the atmosphere as each college could actually see themselves rowing along! The final mixed relay race was so tense, coming right to the wire between Der-



Derwent in action on their way to winning last weekend's college rowing

went and Halifax.

"The event was inspired by BUCS indoors - an indoor rowing event for universities in Yorkshire; which I competed at in first year and this inspired me to integrate rowing into the college world."

"It's always risky to run a new tournament because you cannot gauge how it will be received, but

luckily all the technology worked and the risk paid off!

"Meg (Phillips, fellow College Sport Officer) and I were so impressed with the turnout across all colleges, a testament to the great work that this year's college sports reps have done."

"We have a few ideas up our sleeves for the rest of the year, such

as a potential indoor cycling tournament to replace some of the less successful one day tournaments such as cross country."

"College sport is the perfect opportunity for everyone to get involved, and despite a few initial blips with regards to fixtures and the sports centre at the beginning of term it has been a successful term for college sport!"

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, added her support for the plans, commenting, "We're looking at rolling that idea out again (indoor competitions).

"I personally think that something like cross country needs to go from the college sport set up, because it's a difficult thing to get people out for."

"If we did something like that again, we could do indoor cycling or something like that."

"It was obviously helped by the fact that Derwent and Halifax were so close."

"It was a fantastic turnout, and great for us as a whole."

"The College Sport Facebook page went up by about 50 likes that night, which was exactly what we wanted."

## Final BUCS hurdle of term for York

Dan Holland  
SPORTS EDITOR

FOR THE majority of York teams, tomorrow marks the final week of BUCS competition before the Christmas break, and an opportunity to end the term on a high should the weather not strike once more.

The men's football firsts face just their third home BUCS match of the campaign so far, as they take on bitter rivals Teesside.

Matt Mawdesley's team sit third in a tight Northern Conference 3B, but can leapfrog their opponents into second with a win, and they could even take top spot if other results go their way.

After consecutive defeats since they last played a BUCS match in York, tomorrow's match on the 3G represents the perfect chance to put themselves in prime position for a promotion charge next term.

The women's football team, meanwhile, will be hoping for a playable pitch on 22 Acres, as they return to action for the first time in

three weeks.

The weather has disrupted what has been a spectacular season so far; they are top of the league with three wins from three, and a resounding goal difference of plus-20 to put an even greater cushion between themselves and closest rivals Newcastle seconds.

Bradford will be no pushovers tomorrow, but on current form there is little reason to suggest that the White Roses will come away with anything less than a win.

Another side who are finding their best form are the women's hockey firsts. They host Leeds seconds tomorrow afternoon, after an encouraging draw in Sheffield last time out.

Sally Dolton's side sit in mid-table with a game in hand on the three teams above them.

One of the day's more intriguing fixtures is set to come on 22 Acres, as the women's lacrosse firsts take on our very own second team.

The form of York's lacrosse teams has undoubtedly been one



The women's football team are set to meet Bradford on 22 Acres tomorrow

of the highlights of this term, and tomorrow presents an interesting challenge for a firsts side that are flying high, sitting second in the Northern Conference 2B.

One side in need of a win are the men's badminton firsts. Having been put to the sword twice by Sheffield in their last two outings, a fixture against Leeds Met thirds presents the perfect opportunity to get back to winning ways.

The visitors are bottom of the league without a point, while York can make up ground on the top two if they win, with Hull and Sheffield playing each other.

This week's BUCS action is not confined to Wednesday, though.

On Sunday, York Centurions may finally get the chance to play their first home BUCS game, after American football was abandoned due to the waterlogged pitches two weeks ago.

They will be looking to build on a positive start to their first ever BUCS campaign.

Meanwhile, Sunday afternoon also sees the men's futsal firsts continue their ascent to the top of the Premier League. They are the University's top-placed side after a superb start to the season that has seen them defeat some of the country's toughest opposition.

Ahead of the last big week of BUCS competition this term, Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, added, "We're currently 44th in the BUCS table but if we hadn't had the delays in games because of the weather I think we would be a lot higher."

"Futsal are doing great, top of the Premiership, that's what I like to see."



York host Leeds seconds on the JLD in Wednesday's women's hockey

Full fixture list &gt;&gt; P30-31

# Riding High

**Beth Jakubowski** speaks to the Riding Club about elitism, gender imbalance and the 'London 2012 effect'

As with many sports at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, Great Britain's riding team absolutely triumphed; in light of this success riding has come to the forefront of British sport.

York's Riding Club is competing in two different BUCS leagues this year, with the focus on both the dressage and the show jumping competitions, incidentally, two events Great Britain medalled in at the 2012 Olympics.

Kate Paxton, Riding Club President, explained to *Nouse* that there are regional and national final spots up for grabs for league winners.

They also, of course, compete against Lancaster at the hotly contended Roses match up. Paxton told us that "for the first time this year, the Riding Club is hoping to compete at Varsity against Hull University".

She also added that "the Riding Club is not just for riders who wish to compete; it is for those who simply love riding as well".

Paxton emphasised that the Riding Club "caters to beginners as well, and happily accept all levels of riders".

Primarily based at Naburn Grange Riding Centre, the club has already seen a huge boost in membership following the success of the Great Britain equestrian teams at the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

They now have nearly 300 people

“The surge in membership of the Riding Club has certainly seen the ambitions of Lord Coe realised”

signed up to their mailing list after what they called a "very successful Freshers' Fair".

Paxton considers the Olympics and Paralympics as major a factor in this. "The Olympics have inspired a great number of people to take up



different sports they wouldn't have otherwise considered".

The increasingly high profile of equestrian sports has engaged a young audience and encouraged many to take up riding.

The success of the likes of high profile riders Charlotte Dujardin, Nick Skelton and Zara Phillips, who was named Sports Personality of the Year in 2006, only adds to the popularity of three day eventing and show jumping.

Great Britain won a total of five equestrian medals this summer, three golds, one silver and a bronze, in dressage, jumping and eventing.

Paxton was keen to add, "It is inspiring to know that whether you compete on the teams or just ride for fun, you belong to the same club and world as those class of sportsmen and women".

The sole aim of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics was to 'Inspire a Generation'.

The surge in membership of the Riding Club has certainly seen the ambitions of Lord Coe realised.

As far as the '2012 effect' goes, the Riding Club appears to have reaped the benefits of this year's sporting successes.

However, while the popularity

surge has been evident, Paxton admits the Riding Club still have issues to address.

She told us one of these issues is the gender imbalance of riders, speaking candidly we were told, "On average the female members outnumber the male members on a 10:1 ratio".

In light of this heavy female dominance in participation, this year, the club are looking into the imbalance.

As a result, Paxton says that this year has seen "their largest intake of male riders. At the top level of the sport men do tend to outnumber

the women".

Incidentally, this does ring true, with male jockeys outnumbering female jockeys, and even in events such as show jumping, there do tend to be larger numbers of male riders.

The other contentious issue the club faces is the old hashed out argument of elitism.

When posed this question, Paxton accepted that riding can be seen as an elitist sport.

She was honest in admitting

“the Riding Club still has one main target on the agenda: to win at Roses”

this was due to the cost of owning and keeping a horse. In the face of such adversity, it was questioned whether or not the club promotes equality.

Paxton was quick to reassure that "you do not have to own your own horse to be a member", further stating that "hats and boots are provided for and they offer discounted lesson prices for being a University club".

As it so happens, they do in fact have members from all corners of the world and from all walks of life.

Having already achieved their aim of having their highest membership level for this academic year, the Riding Club is being more ambitious this year. The club told *Nouse* that they "are aiming to cater to disabled riders and are fundraising for the Riding for the Disabled Association".

The success of the Paralympic athletes has only increased the demand for disabled riding facilities.

With such an ambitious year scheduled, Paxton told us that the Riding Club still has one main target on the agenda: to win at Roses.

Hopefully, with the inspiration of Great Britain's hugely successful riding team behind them, they can achieve this goal as well.

## York Sport Committee restructure

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

PLANS FOR a restructuring of the York Sport Committee are set to be discussed in the coming weeks.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, has outlined initial proposals to add new positions and change the responsibilities of the current officers.

The position of Tournament Secretary, for example, has a hugely varying workload depending on whether Roses is being held in York or Lancaster.

She told *Nouse*, "There's the potential for a York Sport Committee reshuffle.

"I think that some positions have a lot to do, whereas others don't.

"In particular, when we have an away Roses there a certain positions

that have very little work - with something like Roses you either have a really big job or nothing at all."

"I want to make it more representative, for example I'd like to have a more RAG-only position."

"It's only a plan, but I think it's important for us as a Committee to check that we are staying representative."

"As we're changing as a Union, things like that need to change as well."

The proposals will be discussed within the Committee for the first time this week, and would potentially be implemented from the start of the next academic year.

Winter added, "We'll sit down and have a talk, and then it would be voted on and sent through the University."

"I do think it's something that



YUSU

needs to be looked at, and I think a few people would agree with me on that."

"The Communications and College Sport positions, for example, have a lot to do, and we need to narrow down their work and up it for other people; the Treasurer for instance, doesn't play a huge role until the summer term when they have grants to deal with."

## Backing for Disability and LGBT campaigns

YORK SPORT is hoping to set up events this term in support of disabled and LGBT involvement in sport.

Before the end of this term, it is hoped that both sitting volleyball and goalball events will be organised on campus, in conjunction with local clubs.

York Sport are also backing the NUS 'Out in Sport' campaign, which found that almost half of those at college and university who do not participate in any sport find the culture of sport to be alienating.

Only a third of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students at college or university participate in organised team sport and one in seven said that homophobia, biphobia, or transphobia had put them off

participating in sport, while many LGBT students who do take part in sport are not open about their sexuality with teammates or coaches.

York Sport are looking at ways of, for example, providing transgender swimming facilities.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, said, "We're working to encourage more LGBT involvement, and get the message out about our zero tolerance policy. We think it would be a good idea if we could get Club presidents involved in helping to open up the barriers."

"The York Sport Committee and the LGBT Committee are going to meet up so we can discuss, in a matter of fact way, what the problems are and how we are going to move forward."

## Sport

# Goodricke thrash Alcuin in lone football fixture

AGATHA TORRANCE



Sunday's match on the 3G Pitch was on the only one to survive the weather

**Goodricke** 4  
**Alcuin** 0

**Tom Fennelly**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

SUNSHINE AND blue sky illuminated the 3G pitch in a chilling encounter that saw Goodricke easily push aside Alcuin in the only college game this week that did not fall foul of the weather.

Neither team really laid claim to possession in the first half; only

Joe Mann's superb strike from the distance could break the deadlock just before half time. This helped Goodricke find their rhythm as they ran rampant with goals from Mizan Ally, James Gutteridge and Jordan Tosterin.

Although play was pretty open in midfield, both teams did have chances on goal very early on. In the first play of the game, Gutteridge was deemed onside as he broke towards goal but fired his shot straight at David Marshall, the Alcuin keeper. At the other end, Billi-

more connected with Allen's corner but the volley was pinged off the line by a defender.

As the half went on, Goodricke continued to struggle to find the target. Gutteridge and Dave Bullock often found themselves isolated when advancing on goal and they failed to capitalise on chances in good positions. The same can be said for Danny Matthews when attacking the opposing goal.

Goodricke, however, were having the better of the chances and they took a deserved lead just seconds before the whistle blew for half-time. Bullock played a lovely ball from the right-hand side to Joe Mann, who provided the perfect finish as he struck the ball on the half volley into the top corner.

Alcuin had it all to play in the second half, but ultimately they failed to deliver. Goodricke had taken confidence from their goal and their slick passing found rhythm, allowing them to dominate possession and the game as a whole.

Alcuin's best chance of the half came six minutes into the half when some good football allowed Chris Houlgate to put Allen through on goal in the penalty area, but a last ditch tackle from Luke Parker, Goodricke central defender prevented any chance of an equaliser.

The winning team knew they had to double their lead in order to secure victory and they worked hard

in a bid to try and put the game to bed. Their second goal finally came after the hour mark; a succinct and clever touch by Mann on the right wing gave him room to square a low cross along the six yard area for Ally to tuck away neatly.

Ten minutes later, Goodricke missed a golden opportunity to add a third goal. From the right wing, Bullock picked out a fine cross for Chris Osbourne, the onrushing centre-back, but he could only fire his header into the arms of the goalkeeper, when he should have left the ball for the unmarked Mann as Alcuin's defence fell apart. Between them,, they should have added to their goal tally.

Fortunately, Osbourne's miss turned out not to be costly. Just a few minutes later, Goodricke found their third goal. A ball into the middle of the park from substitute Tosterin was chested down by man-of-the-match, Joe Mann, who played the ball into the area for Gutteridge to tuck under the approaching Alcuin keeper.

**Goodricke:** Munro, Hurd, Osbourne, Parker, Thomas (Tosterin), Bullock, Cottingham (Ally), Inness, Gilbanks, Mann, Gutteridge  
**Alcuin:** Marshall, Bentham, Boyd, Kennick, Houlgate, Nazzicone, Burge, Dodgson, Billimore, Allen (Carver), Matthews  
**Man of the match:** Joe Mann

Danny Munro, in the Goodricke goal, was enjoying his debut in goal, and ten minutes from time he was finally forced into his first real save of the game. Alcuin's Harry Billimore flicked a ball over to Houlgate and the keeper rushed off his line to produce a fine save – the shot, however, knocked his spectacles off his face.

Five minutes before the final whistle, Goodricke managed to merit a fourth goal; Sam Bentham, Alcuin centre-back kept Tosterin onside as he was put through on goal and he finished with a strong, solid finish by the near post.

Alcuin could have earned a consolation in the final minute of the game when a flick by Matthews fell nicely for Billimore in a goal-scoring position. His ball did find the net but, unfortunately, it was the netting above the fence of the 3G.

Man of the match and Goodricke captain Joe Mann was pleased with his team's second half performance: "I thought first off we were sloppy passing-wise. But we pulled it back in the second half and we had a great performance at the back".

Chris Boyd, Alcuin's captain, was very humble after the quality that Goodricke produced: "I thought they were really good today. At 2-0 we got back into the game and had quite a lot of possession but they deserved to win 4-0".

# Alcuin win again to seal college netball title

LILY GRANT

**Alcuin** 26  
**Goodricke** 5

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

A CONVINCING victory for Alcuin over Goodricke sealed top spot in this term's college netball league and booked their place to represent the University at Varsity.

Alcuin ultimately ran up a 21-goal margin of victory thanks to their clever movement and deadly shooting.

Grace Clarke, Goal Attack and Charlotte Winter, Goal Shooter, bossed things in the first half for Alcuin, with seven goals apiece at the break.

However, it had been Goodricke who made the more impressive start, as Cav Aggarwal opened the scoring to give her side early hope of an unlikely victory.

Goodricke's optimism, though, was short-lived. Barely a minute later, Clarke and Winter had both scored in quick succession to turn things around and set the tone for the rest of the match. Alcuin's attacking pairing were in fine form

and before long Alcuin were in double figures.

Aggarwal was doing her best to keep Goodricke in with a chance, but already, it seemed the result was in little doubt.

Supported by the tireless work rate and quick passing of their teammates, Clarke and Winter were able to find space to shoot, time and again - and they rarely missed their target.

Goodricke's effort couldn't be faulted but, with Alcuin pressurising them at every opportunity, they found their shooting options limited. 14-3 was the score at half-time, with Alcuin very much on their way to the win they needed to cap an unbeaten campaign.

Olivia Rainey replaced Clarke for the second half, but that did little to curb Alcuin's dominance.

Winter added two more for herself almost immediately after the restart, but Goodricke then proceeded to enjoy a spell of defensive solidity as they kept the rampant Alcuin at bay.

It looked for a few minutes as if the Hes East team would be able to keep their high-flying opposition from racking up the score they



Alcuin's Grace Clarke and Charlotte Winter watch on as they help their side to another victory to cap their season

had threatened to in the first half. However, this changed when Winter was once again deadly accurate and scored five quick fire goals to increase the deficit to 22-3.

Sophie Conroy, Goal Attack, pulled one back for Goodricke, but Winter then increased her personal tally to 17 as Alcuin rediscovered the swift attacking play that had served

them so well in the first half.

Rainey added a 26th Alcuin goal, but Goodricke did at least have the final word as Claire Mayo scored to give Goodricke just their fifth goal of the match.

Megan Knight, Jubilant Alcuin captain, echoed the sentiments of her team at full time, commenting, "It was a great end to our victori-

ous season and we are really looking forward to Varsity now. Hopefully next term we can return victorious again."

Sophie Raine of Goodricke added, "It was a good game and Alcuin played really well. I'm really proud of the girls and we're still getting our team together so there's a lot to be pleased with."

## UPCOMING BUCS FIXTURES

### Wednesday 5 December:

**Badminton:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds Met 3rds - 1pm, Hall; York Men's 3rds vs Durham 2nds - 1pm, Hall; (A) Leeds Men's 3rds vs York 2nds; Teesside Women's 1sts vs York 1sts; Hull Women's 1sts vs York 2nds.

**Basketball:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs Sheffield 1sts - 6pm, Hall; York Men's 2nds vs Newcastle 3rds - 4pm, Hall.

**Fencing:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Durham 3rds - 1pm, Dance Studio; (A) Liverpool Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Man-

chester Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

**Football:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Teesside 1sts - 3pm, 3G; York Men's 3rds vs Teesside 4ths - 1pm, 3G; York Men's 4ths vs Hull 3rds - 5pm, 3G; York Women's 1sts vs Bradford 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Teesside Men's 3rds vs York 2nds.

**Golf:** (H) York Mixed 1sts vs Leeds Met 2nds - 1pm, Fulford Golf Club.

**Hockey:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs Leeds 2nds - 3pm, JLD; York Women's 2nds vs Sheffield 3rds - 1pm, JLD (A) Durham Men's 4ths vs York 1sts; Leeds Met Men's 3rds vs York 2nds; Hull Men's 2nds vs York 3rds.

**Lacrosse:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs York 2nds - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Durham Men's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Netball:** (H) York Women's 2nds vs Leeds Trinity 1sts - 2pm, Tent; (A) Sunderland Women's 1sts vs York 1sts; Sheffield Women's 3rds vs York 3rds.

# Derwent netballers hold James to draw

**Derwent** 7  
**James** 7

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

JAMES COLLEGE needed a very late equaliser to snatch a draw with Derwent in Sunday's college netball encounter.

Sam Hall, Goal Attack, struck in the final minute of the game to rescue a point for her side, who were coming off the back of a narrow defeat by Alcuin, league winners, last week.

James had begun as much the stronger side, though, as Hall quickly put them into a 2-0 lead.

However, Derwent quickly pegged them back and then took the lead through Amy Goodfellow in a remarkable turnaround.

With both sides having enjoyed spells of dominance in the match so far, they now seemed evenly matched and Hall completed a first-half hat-trick to level the scores.

It was an incredibly tight en-

counter and they went in equally-matched at 4-4 at half-time.

Rosie McCluskey, Derwent captain, gave her side an early second half advantage, which was shortly cancelled out by some fantastic James play that culminated in Beth Hampton, Goal Shooter, scoring.

McCluskey was on hand again

to put Derwent back into lead at 6-5, but James once again proved they would be no pushovers as some more slick passing saw Hampton equalise for the second time in quick succession.

In what was a low-scoring match, the respective defences were proving impossible to breach as the

full-time whistle approached. Both teams proved excellent in exerting pressure in the shooting circle.

The performance of Meg Opie, Derwent Goal Defence, was particularly impressive, as she produced a series of crucial interceptions to keep James from picking their way through.

And Derwent got their just rewards for a sterling effort, as McCluskey added their seventh, and seemingly a winning goal.

Hall, though, came to James' rescue once again in a dramatic finale, with a draw undoubtedly a fair result after half an hour of tense and engaging netball.

Shannon Dixon, James captain, said afterwards, "We struggled for the first half, but we did put up a good fight and managed to pull it back and get the draw."

Derwent's McCluskey added, "It was a very close and tough game against a strong James team. I'm really proud of the girls, we've really come on well since the start of the season and we're happy with the result."

**Langwith** 12  
**Vanbrugh** 8

IN THE day's early match, Langwith came out on top against Vanbrugh.

The team in yellow made a lightning start, with Ruby Callister, Goal Attack, firing them into an early 2-0 lead.

They failed to score all the chances they created though, and were made to pay as Vanbrugh came back at them.

Vanbrugh took the lead for the first time shortly before half-time, but 5-5 was the score as the whistle blew for the break.

Langwith again made a positive start and were duly rewarded.

Callister was on top form and epitomised their swift attacking movement, as Langwith opened up a 10-7 lead.

It remained tight until the end, but ultimately Langwith's extra sharpness in attack proved the difference, as they secured a 12-8 victory to finish the term on a high.



Rosie McCluskey takes aim for Derwent during Sunday's college match

PETROC TAYLOR

# Goodricke crowned college badminton champions

**Jamie Summers**  
**Aaron Stennett**

DESPITE SUFFERING a narrow 6-4 defeat to Alcuin, Goodricke won this term's college badminton league by a single point, as Halifax were unable to defeat Wentworth and capitalise on the opportunity afforded to them.

George Baines and Heather Robertson, Goodricke's first pair, beat their Alcuin equivalents, only to lose their other games, most surprisingly to Alexander Roy and Clare Strange, Alcuin third pair. The game was evenly matched, with a few minor service errors making the difference as Alcuin won 21-18.

Dominik Pinnington and Sarah Thomas, Alcuin second pair, defeated Scott Edwards and Meredith Daniel, Goodricke third pair, 23-21 in a lively affair. The Alcuin pair, who were tired from having back-to-back matches, struggled against the powerful smash of Edwards.

Goodricke raced into a lead of 10-3 within minutes, and it was not long before Goodricke found themselves with multiple match points. Alcuin then began an epic comeback, aided by several service errors from Goodricke. This led to a surprisingly tense match, coming to 18-20.

Finally Pinnington and Thomas' resistance would crumble, as Edwards buried a smash deep in the back of the court.

Whilst Goodricke did slip to a narrow defeat, due to other results they had done enough to clinch the

title, leading to scenes of jubilation at the end of the match.

The final day of the league campaign began slowly, as the game between Vanbrugh and Langwith only had pride at stake with both sides out of the race for the title.

Ultimately, the match was decided by a lack of numbers; Langwith could only field 2 pairs and Vanbrugh only 1 pair - meaning they were unable to win regardless of the games themselves.

The match started well for Langwith, as Andrew Grantham captain and Huan Ting Ang combined well to emerge victorious over Victoria Wheeler and Sam Geering of Vanbrugh.

Grantham and Ang did, however, convincingly beat Crystal Wang and Eliot Bryant of Vanbrugh 21-6, before Wang and Bryant were again crushed 21-5 by Al Quassif and Sarah Howarth.

Wheeler and Geering beat Cass Brown and Andrew Grange 21-15, before also emerging victorious 21-18 over Quassif and Haworth of Langwith, while Wong and Bryant won a third game for Vanbrugh, beating Brown and Grange 21-15. Nevertheless, due to the lack of numbers, none of these matches counted towards the totals, meaning Langwith finished their campaign with a 6-0 victory over their opponents.

James edged Derwent 6-4 in a tight badminton match to leapfrog them into fourth place.

Neither Derwent nor James had any serious chance of winning



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

This term's college badminton season came to a close on Sunday

the league, with the teams beginning the day sixth and seventh in the league respectively.

The first game saw Mike Taylor and Clara How, Derwent first pair, defeated by their James opponents despite some coordinated team play.

Despite this, James ran out as 21-19 winners of the match after a hard fought comeback by their pair.

The highlight of the match saw Arjun Bhadhuri and Emily Renwick, Derwent third pair, surprisingly defeat James' first pair in an exciting 21-16 affair. After an evenly

matched first half Derwent began to capitalise on mistakes, attacking loose serves and taking finishing all with aplomb.

With play concluded however, James could be satisfied that on balance they had done just enough to secure the win needed to force their way into fourth place.

The final match of the campaign had huge significance for Wentworth and Halifax; with the postgrads in 4th and their opponents in 2nd, both sides had a realistic chance of taking the title.

The match began well for Wentworth, as Lichi Sun and Xi Ang defeated their challengers 21-11 to take the lead for their side.

This lead was then soon doubled as Amy Haley and Jack Kittiwong won 21-17 over Halifax's Mike Holmes and Ellie Saggars. With momentum behind them, Haley and Kittiwong again won 21-11 in their next match over Nan and Candy, extending the score to 3-0.

The 3-point deficit soon became 4 as Jonny Tam and Eleanor Daly were defeated 21-17 by their postgrad opponents.

And Halifax's ambitions of winning the title evaporated as Wentworth's Fan Sui-ung and Jing defeated Holmes and Saggars 21-19 in a close match. Halifax eventually got their first win of the afternoon soon after, as Tam and Daly crushed Lichi and Ang 21-13 to make it 5-1.

However, the postgrads hadn't finished in their own bid for glory, as Fan and Jing convincingly defeated an off-form Nan and Candy 21-8.

However, cheers on the other courts suggested that their title bid was slipping away, regardless of their own result. Halifax finished the season with a flourish, as a much improved Tam and Daly won an entertaining fixture 21-13 over Kittiwong and Haley, before Holmes and Saggars rounded their campaign off with a 21-12 victory their opponents.

Therefore, Wentworth won the tie 6-4. However, both sides were unsuccessful in their bid for the title, as they finished tied for second place in the table.

**Rugby Union:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Sheffield 2nds - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Men's 3rds vs Sheffield Hallam 3rds - 2pm, 22 Acres (A) Sheffield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Northumbria Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

**Squash:** (A) Sheffield Hallam Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Leeds Men's 3rds vs York 2nds; Durham Women's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Table Tennis:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Durham 1sts - 4pm, Dance Studio.

**Tennis:** (A) Sheffield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Leeds Met 4ths vs York 2nds; Leeds Men's 4ths vs York 3rds.

**Volleyball:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds 1sts - 2pm, Tent; (A) Bradford Men's 1sts vs York 2nds; Sunderland Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

**Saturday 8 December:**

**Fencing:** (A) Birmingham Women's 1sts vs York 1sts; Durham Women's 1sts vs York 1sts; Edinburgh Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

**Sunday 9 December:**

**American Football:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds Met 1sts - 1pm, 22 Acres.

**Futsal:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Sheffield Hallam 1sts - 2pm, Tent.

# Sport

Autumn Term Week Nine  
Tuesday 4 December 2012  
Nouse Est. 1964

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## Riding High

We talk to the Riding Club about feeling the effects of London 2012

>> Page 29

## College Sport

All the action from the weekend's college football, netball and badminton

>> Pages 30-31



# College rugby system comes under review after first term on campus

AGATHA TORRANCE

Dan Holland  
George Barrett

AFTER ITS first term as an official college sport, college rugby is coming under review.

Charlotte Winter, York Sport President, has confirmed that the sport is being reviewed in order to address serious issues that have arisen over the course of this term.

With many colleges struggling to put out full squads on a regular basis, it has been recognised that there needs to be greater publicity for college rugby, as well as resolving problems relating to the provision of pitch-side medical treatment.

Winter told *Nouse*, "College rugby is currently under review, and is being dealt with by the College Sport Officers and the staff they have with them. I have said there needs to be a review; firstly because rugby is a part of our Sport England bid, and secondly because we need to make sure all of the health and safety is okay."

"Initially there were some issues because a member of staff said they were dealing with it, and the College Sport Officers said they were – there was some confusion. They've hopefully got it sorted now."

With rugby chosen as one of the focus sports this year, receiving extra funding and coaching, the low participation from many colleges has become a serious concern for York Sport, as well as the competing teams.

Winter added, "We're looking at new ways of publicising it within the colleges, particularly in Langwith and Goodricke because they have had to merge teams as it is, and we really need them separate because we can't have a college sport work that way."

"It's not fair on the colleges who can put out a squad, or indeed those that can't. We need to work out ways of making it better. The new College Sport Reps can hopefully push a bit more once they come in for January."

"We need to advertise and run it more efficiently, get numbers up for certain colleges, get numbers up for referees and make sure all the health and safety aspects are covered."

"I think we might need one



more pitch on 22 Acres, because one just isn't enough, and that is something that is being looked at by myself and the University."

"Rugby is one of the target sports this year, and while the others are running incredibly well, rugby is one that we're having some issues with in terms of numbers."

Prior to this term, college rugby was not an authorised college sport, and was instead organised by captains and played off-campus at York RI. However, students were often put off the idea of playing college rugby by the costs. Without YUSU funding, matches would cost £2-3 per player and taxis would also have to be paid for.

With no official organising body overseeing the sport, it was left to the players to organise their own medical provisions, which led to a number of players sustaining injuries that were left untreated.

One player, who has asked to remain anonymous, told *Nouse*, "Players would play through concussion and other serious injuries, in fact one guy had concussion five times in a row. It was a massive problem."

While teams were promised that medical staff would be present at all matches now that rugby is played on 22 Acres, the care provisions have remained inconsistent.

In addition, some teams have expressed dissatisfaction at the fact

that matches were organised starting in Week Two, meaning that smaller colleges had little time to integrate freshers into the team and teach them how to play safely.

"Freshers new to rugby can't just start playing a full-contact match after one or two training sessions, there are serious health and safety implications there," one player has said.

"They need to be taught the basic skills in a safe environment, and throwing them into a game straight away is not the right way to go about that."

Added to this, some players have expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of changing facilities

available.

Another player stated, "I don't understand why the pavilion is always locked, it's only a small thing, but if we could use the changing facilities there it would make life a lot easier. Right now we have the choice of getting changed on the side of the pitch, or in our accommodation, which, for those who live off campus, isn't exactly great."

Players from Derwent, among other larger rugby colleges, have expressed their dissatisfaction at having to "loan" players on a weekly basis to depleted opposition, as playing against sides that cannot gel takes away the competitive element of the fixture.

4.12.12

Nouse is printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN96JR, UK  
For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD.

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